

Faculty of Arts and Social SciencesName minor **European Studies**

Name coordinator – email address coordinator LUANA RUSSO

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Course code: n/a

Full period of this minor: 1-3

ECTS credits in total of this minor: 30

Language of instruction: English

Teaching methods: PBL, Presentations, Work in subgroups, simulations, assignments, research skills

Assessment methods: Paper, Final take home exam, Presentation, Assignment, Written exam, participation

Keywords:

(or a short description why this minor is interesting)

The Minor in European Studies is the ideal programme for you if:

- You are interested in the history, culture, politics, and challenges of contemporary Europe.
- You would like to pursue a career at a European institution, your national government, international (non-) governmental organisations/institutions or in international business.
- You want to complete your education with substantive and practical knowledge about the European Union.

Full course description

n/a

Course objectives

n/a

Prerequisites

n/a

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Course period 1: The Idea of Europe

Course code: MES3000

Course Period: 1

ECTS credits of this course: 9

Full course description

This first course of the Minor European Studies curriculum has an introductory character. It touches on a number of issues which will be dealt with more extensively later on in the programme, but it also calls attention to a fundamental question concerning Europe: Does Europe exist? Does the name “Europe” refer to a political and/or cultural identity of its own? And if so, what are the distinguishing characteristics of this identity, what have been the decisive common experiences that have fostered a sense of European community, and how has it evolved in time?

Course objectives

At the end of this course, you will:

- Have a basic overview of the development of the idea and identity of Europe, which can serve as a broad historical framework for understanding the process of European integration as it has occurred after 1945;
- Be more familiar with specific characteristics of European history, notably in comparison with that of other (non-European) societies;
- Have an understanding of some of the basic theoretical and methodological problems in dealing with this subject matter. You will be introduced to problems concerning the study of identity, especially the social and symbolic construction of community and identity, as well as corresponding notions of representation, invention of tradition, and ‘lieux de mémoire’. They are also made familiar - at a rudimentary level - with some of the most influential (and contested) theories in the historical study of society like Max Weber’s concept of rationality, Norbert Elias’ theory of civilisation, different views on modernisation (Sigmund Freud, Ernest Gellner, Zygmunt Bauman).

Prerequisites

N/A

Course period 1: Back to the Sources

Course code: MES3500

Course Period: 1

ECTS credits of this course: 3

Full course description

This research training offers a first introduction to the ways historians deal with the problems of tracing, selecting and assessing primary sources, especially those related to the (early) history of European integration. During the course, the specific characteristics of the following types of primary sources are discussed: political speeches, archival records and public opinion sources. Each of the three assignments is devoted to a specific problem and a specific category of historical sources: the assignment on political speeches is mainly devoted to the critical analysis of sources. The assignment on archival sources focuses on the problems of

selecting and combining a variety of sources. Finally, the assignment on public opinion sources addresses the problems of representativity and influence.

Course objectives

This training stimulates a critical and methodical attitude towards sources. At the end of this training, you will be able to:

- Differentiate between primary and secondary sources;
- Appreciate the importance of primary sources for the study of historical phenomena;
- Recognise the different characteristics and pitfalls of several types of primary sources.

Prerequisites

N/A

Course period 2: Great Expectations

Course code: MES3001

Course Period: 2

ECTS credits of this course: 9

Full course description

The main aim of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the European Union: its development, its institutional framework and current problems. First, this course introduces the European integration process since the early 1950s. Using the current debate on the future of the Union as our point of departure, this course goes back to the early years of the European Communities and subsequently traces all the major developments in the EU up to the present. Secondly, we investigate the institutions of the European Union, their tasks and the main decision-making mechanisms. Finally, current political challenges of European integration are put up for debate. Throughout the whole course, students, additionally, get familiarized with the main European integration theories.

Course objectives

To provide insight into the historical development, the EU institutions, decision-making processes and current issues of the EU, and to get familiar with integration theories.

Prerequisites

n/a

Course period 2: Negotiation skills

Course code: MES3501

Course Period: 2

ECTS credits of this course: 3

Full course description

In the EU, negotiations are the daily routine. National ministries negotiate with each other to determine their countries' positions; ministers try to defend their national positions in the Council against the European Commission's efforts to secure its own proposals; Members of the European Parliament defend their positions before the Council and the Commission; lobbyists try to influence representatives of various EU institutions, and so on and so forth. The EU's decision making processes involve complex and intensive negotiations, whereby decisions are reached only after 'long and tortuous dialogues'. When focusing on negotiation practices within the context of the EU, it is not only important to realize that they occupy a central place in the decision making processes. It is also crucial to understand that they take place in particular contexts, and consequently, these processes are complex and highly diverse. This seven-week training is organised around three simulation games, which allow you to experience different forms of negotiations, improve your negotiation skills and to better understand the practicalities of decision-making processes in Brussels.

Course objectives

The objectives of this skills training course are threefold: Providing you with a basic introduction to the concepts of negotiation and negotiation theories, including negotiation positions and basic game theory; improving your negotiation skills by applying these concepts in your simulations, and enhancing your ability to design your negotiation strategies based on a given mandate; better understanding of EU decision-making at sub-systemic, systemic and super-systemic levels of policy-making, involving actors across different levels and policy areas.

Prerequisites

n/a

Course period 3: Europe: a critical reflection

Course code: MES3002

Course Period: 3

ECTS credits of this course: 6

Full course description

The concluding course brings the whole minor together and offers you the chance to engage in original research. Equipped with the knowledge gained in the previous courses, you with a fellow student on a comparative research paper. The course book provides you with broadly defined topic areas from the field of European

Studies, so that you can pick a topic of your own choosing. The tutorial meetings structurally accompany the research and writing process, allowing you to discuss different crucial stages of the writing process (abstract, research design, introduction, 1st draft). You will furthermore attend an introduction-writing workshop offered by FASoS' writing coach John Harbord. At a concluding conference, you and your partner present your findings to your peers.

Course objectives

This course trains you in key academic processes:

- electing a topic for research
- developing a research design
- writing a co-authored research paper
- presenting in a conference setting.

Prerequisites

n/a