

The European Semester 2017 Texas A&M University – Centre international de formation européenne

Syllabus

General information

Over the past decades, the study of Europe and European integration has become an ever more relevant, challenging and complex issue. The European Union is a crucial element of Europe's political architecture and its dynamic structure affects almost every national political system on the European continent. The provisions in the European Union's treaties cover almost every aspect of public policies in the member states. Moreover, the European Union has evolved into a relevant international actor shaping its political, economic and cultural environment. Therefore, understanding Europe and the European Union and getting familiar with the fundamentals, principles and issues governing Europe and the European Union in a global environment becomes a more and more important issue for young leaders and young high potentials from all around the globe.

The European Semester's curriculum is based on an innovative module structure and provides the participants with a profound and comprehensive introduction into the study of Europe and European integration. The curriculum is composed of five modules which are consistent and are applying to each other:

- **Module 1:** Historical context, political and legal aspects and approaches to the study of European integration
- **Module 2:** Visiting and experiencing Europe and the European Union
- **Module 3:** Policies and policy areas of the European Union
- **Module 4:** Europe and the European Union seen from a Central European perspective
- **Module 5:** Issues, debates and challenges of the European integration process

Duration of the 2017 European Semester program

Beginning: Monday, January 23, 2017

End: Friday, April 28, 2017



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Erasmus+ Programme

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During this 14-week program, the CIFE Berlin campus serves as the home base of the European Semester where the modules 1, 3 and 5 are taught.

Module 2 consists of a one-week-long study trip to Brussels and Luxembourg where the students gain access to the most important European institutions.

Module 4 is taught in Poznan, Poland and in Budapest, Hungary. In Poznan, the students stay for a 4-day program, which is organized in close cooperation with the prestigious Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU). In Budapest, the program is organized in cooperation with the renowned Central European University (CEU) and the students stay there for an additional 7 days.

All courses are taught by internationally renowned faculty from Germany, Poland, Hungary and other European countries. Moreover, the students get first-hand insight into the functioning of the European institutions by getting into contact with decision-makers and representatives of the European Union during their study trips.

Teaching methods

The individual courses consist of lectures, seminars and workshops. The weekly workload is 15 hours (contact hours) in the classroom. The courses are taught in English. The students have direct access to CIFE's ILIAS internet-based learning platform where all the relevant course readings are posted.

Assessment methods

The students have to submit written assignments, give oral presentations and take a written exam on the content of the lectures at the end of the 14-week program.

Credits and certificates

Upon successful completion of the 2017 European Semester, students earn up to 15 hours of transferable credits awarded by CIFE: 9 hours of Political Science, 3 hours of humanities electives and 3 hours of diversity.

Certificates may be provided by CIFE and Texas A&M University for those students wishing to leverage their educational experience with subsequent pursuit of internships and other higher learning opportunities in an international environment.

Module 1: Historical context, political and legal aspects and approaches to the study of European integration

Course 1: Europe and European integration seen from a history, social sciences and humanities perspective

Week 1, January 23 through January 27, 2017, Berlin

The course provides students with an introduction to various academic perspectives on the study of Europe in order to get a more comprehensive understanding of Europe and European Studies. How do issues and approaches to the study of Europe and European integration differ when looked at from the standpoint of different academic disciplines such as history, the social sciences or humanities?

Teaching Faculty:

- PD Dr. Matthias Waechter, CIFE
- Prof. Dr. Frank Baasner, Franco-German Institute, Ludwigsburg
- Dr. Michael Meimeth, CIFE

Course 2: Modern history of Europe and the evolution of European integration

Week 2, January 30 through February 3, 2017, Berlin

The course begins with a general overview of modern European history since 1500. First, the students gain insight into historical factors shaping the modern European integration process. Second, the course focuses on single steps of European integration from the end of World War II through the Treaty of Lisbon.

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Hartmut Marhold, CIFE
- Dr. Helgard Fröhlich, CIFE

Course 3: Visiting and experiencing European history

Week 3, February 6 through February 10, 2017, Berlin

This course deepens and enlarges the basic knowledge acquired by the students in Course 2 "Modern history of Europe and the evolution of European integration". The course is enriched by expeditions through the history of European urbanism and architecture combined with a study trip to Prussian Palaces near Berlin.

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Hartmut Marhold, CIFE
- Dr. Helgard Fröhlich, CIFE

Course 4: **The institutional architecture of the European Union**

Week 4, February 13 through February 17 2017, Berlin

This course focuses on the present institutional architecture of the European Union and its evolution from a historical perspective. Which are the most important actors in the political system of the European Union? How are these institutional actors interconnected? Who does what, when and how regarding the decision-making process? This course provides the students with a better understanding of the European Union as a multi-level system of governance.

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Mathias Jopp, Institute of European Politics, Berlin

Course 5: **European law**

Week 5, February 20 through February 24, 2017, Berlin

The course introduces European constitutional law and the legal competences of the European Union. The significance and autonomy of European law and its relationship to the (constitutional) law of the member states is examined. The course also focuses on methods and challenges of implementation of European law in the member states.

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Maria Meng-Papantoni, Pantheon University, Athens

Module 3: Policies and policy areas of the European Union

Course 6: **The European Union in international politics**

Week 6, February 27 through March 3, 2017, Berlin

This course provides the students with the international dimension of European identity. In this context, three role models are discussed: Europe as a great power, Europe as a civilian power and Europe as a normative power. The second part provides the students with an overview of the structures, actors and processes of the European Union's foreign, security and defense policy and the methods and challenges of its implementation. The course is concluded by a visit to the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany.

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Peter Schmidt, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich
- Dr. Michael Meimeth, CIFE

Module 2: Visiting and experiencing Europe and the European Union

Course 7 Study trip to Brussels and Luxembourg

Week 7, March 5 through March 10, 2017, Brussels and Luxembourg

This course module combines visits to the most important European institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg with lectures and briefings given by high-ranking European Union officials and internationally renowned experts. The purpose is to provide the students with first-hand insight into the functioning of the European Union system and get them into contact with European decision-makers.

Module 3: Policies and policy areas of the European Union (continued)

Course 8: The economic dimension of the European Union

Week 8, March 13 through March 17, 2017, Berlin

Students first get an introduction into the history and evolution of the European Single Market. In the second part, the Economic and Monetary Union as an important step of European integration is analyzed. A special emphasis will be put on the analysis of the Eurozone crisis and governance reforms of the Eurozone. The third part of the course addresses topics such as the European Union's role in the global economy, notably in international trade, and the economic consequences of 'Brexit'.

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Joachim Schild, University of Trier

Course 9: **The energy, climate, and environmental policy of the European Union**

Week 9, March 20 through March 24, 2017, Berlin

The first part of this course covers European energy and climate policy. The students will gain insight into the geopolitics of European energy policy, key legislation and actors. In the second half of the course the students will get an introduction into EU environmental and sustainability policy with the EU Sustainable Development Strategy as a central instrument that identifies climate change, the increasing use of renewable energy and the managing of natural resources as top priorities of the EU. The course aims at providing students with a better understanding of the context and constraints that affect the policy-making process and implementation of European energy, climate, and environmental policy.

Teaching Faculty:

- Dr. Severin Fischer, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich
- Sarah Bremm, CIFE
- Gyöngyvér Gyene, Department for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Prime Minister's Office, Budapest

Module 4: Europe and the European Union seen from a Central European perspective

Course 10/
Course 11: **Europe and the European integration process from a Central European perspective**

Week 10-11, March 27 through April 7, 2017, Poznan and Budapest

These courses provide the students with a fascinating perspective on how Poland and Hungary, as two relatively new members of the European Union, see the European Union and the European integration process and how they define their role within the EU framework.

The program in Poznan and Budapest is organized in close cooperation with CIFE's partners at the AMU in Poznan and the CEU in Budapest. The teaching faculty and schedule will be announced in March 2017.

Module 5: Issues, debates and challenges of the European integration process

Course 12: The European Union between deepening and enlargement

Week 12, April 10 through April 13, 2017, Berlin

This course analyzes the basic challenges an enlarged and enlarging European Union is facing as well as the problem of leadership in a Union of 28: What significance does the Franco-German relationship have? Is the "differentiated integration" approach a feasible option for the future of the European Union? Furthermore, the question of how the enlargement process affects the future character of the European Union is discussed - will it evolve into a more federally structured system or do we observe a "rescue of the nation state"?

Teaching Faculty:

- Prof. Dr. Jaroslaw Janczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan
- Dr. Funda Tekin, Institute of European Politics, Berlin

Course 13: European identity and challenges to the political legitimacy of the European Union

Week 13, April 18 through April 21, 2017, Berlin

This course focuses on the "fundamentals" which are of critical importance for the future of the European integration process: what are the cultural values of Europe and is there a common European identity? What are the "European ideals" ("Leitbilder")? What is the basis of political legitimacy in the European Union and to the European Union? What do citizens expect from European integration and is there a European demos or public sphere?

Teaching Faculty:

- Dr. Stefan Seidendorf, Franco-German Institute, Ludwigsburg
- Dr. Michael Oswald, University of Passau

Wrap up, final exam and concluding ceremony of the European Semester

Week 14, April 24 through April 28, 2017

Before taking their final written exam, the students will have the opportunity to repeat the European Semester's course content by themselves as well as by a Q&A session with the European Semester's Academic Director.