

# The European Union: Ideas, Challenges and Perspectives

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5 ECTS

## Course description

The European Union is one of the largest and most successful transnational projects of our times. While the necessity of the European states being united in peace and welfare was a clear objective of the after-war generation, today citizens are often not aware of the historical development and the achievements reached by the alliance.

This course aims at providing students with a basic understanding of the European Union, its development, the challenges the Union faces and the perspectives that lie ahead. In order to discuss these, we will first get to know the ideas the founding fathers developed. We will then focus on the historical development of the Union and the different institutions that accompanied this development. During course work a special focus lies on the influences of the European Union in the students daily life e.g. ERASMUS+, subventions, free movement of labour etc. In order to understand the challenges and perspectives the European Union is confronted with right now, students will compare the European transnational project with alliances forged in other parts of the world like Unasur, League of Arab States, NATO etc. and discuss recent developments in foreign policy.

## Topics covered

1. The European idea
2. Historical overview of the EU
3. European institutions
4. Differences to other Transnational Cooperations
5. Overview of European Foreign policy
6. Working for EU and its institutions

## Learning Objectives

Students will

- acquire knowledge on the historical development and the functioning of the European Union and its institutions.
- be encouraged to reflect about consequences, benefits and possible difficulties the European Union faces on different levels such as: politically, socially, economically, and personally.
- develop their ability to communicate and collaborate in international teams.
- be able to get an impression of one of the organizations of the EU by visiting it and getting into contact to a delegate/representative.

## Assessment

Attendance of all classes is mandatory as well as a presentation and a paper.