



HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Description

The course covers the contributions of the founding fathers (e.g. Jean Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer) to the birth of the European integration.

It analyses the subsequent steps leading to the deepening and widening of the European Communities, now European Union.

The second part of the program offers an introduction to the work and decision making of the European Council, European Parliament, Council of Ministers, Commission and the Court of Justice.

The concluding part of the course evaluates the historical roots as well as the consequences of Brexit.

The future of the EU and the different scenarios offered by the 2017 Rome Declaration and the White Paper of the European Commission will be discussed too.

These following topics shall be covered during the course:

- History of European integration (spiritual roots, ECSC, EEC, EURATOM, Merger Treaty, EC, EU – TEU, TFEU)
- Enlargement of the EU
- Institutions and their decision making (European Council, European Parliament (EP), Council of Ministers, The European Commission, European Court of Justice, European Central Bank, Court of Auditors + OLAF, European Public Prosecutor's Office)
- Competences of the EU (Exclusive, shared and supporting)
- Principle of subsidiarity and proportionality
- Legal base provisions (Art 114 TFEU, Art 352 TFEU, special provisions, enhanced cooperation – Article 329 TFEU)
- Legal Acts of the Union (primary and secondary sources (regulation, directive, decision etc.)
- The nature of EU law: supremacy, direct effect, indirect effect, liability for damages of the Member States
- The general principles of EU law: fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination
- The prohibition of discrimination on grounds of nationality (EU-Languages)
- New challenges – Immigration, Brexit, COVID-19



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Reading materials

- Treaty on the European Union (TEU)
- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) – Articles 223-309, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012A/TXT&from=EN>
- 'The ABC of EU law' by Prof. Klaus-Dieter Borchardt (2018)
- a reader will be uploaded on Neptun plus the slides of the lectures

Assessment

- Written exam (3-4 essay type questions)
- active participation during the course will be appreciated and taken into account