Course Information

Name: International Relations and Politics in the European Union - Peace, conflicts and Human Rights
Teaching Institution: Maastricht University
Location: Maastricht, The Netherlands
Dates: 5th – 28th January 2011
Duration: 3 weeks
Course contact hours: 39 hours of academic classes and seminars plus additional professional visits
Pre-requisites: 1 year of study in a degree related to International Relations, International Studies, Politics, History or Law

Instructor Information
The professor teaching this course is Mr. Matt Heckman LLM from the Zuyd University for Applied Sciences.

Matt Heckman has been teaching European law and European economic integration for 22 years at various universities inside the Netherlands. He was Director of International Affairs for 14 years at a Dutch University and is currently teaching at various graduate programs (both MBA and MA) in the Netherlands, Finland, UK and the USA. Presently he is the academic coordinator of an MBA-programme. He studied at the University of Maastricht, the University of Lancaster and the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. He holds a bachelor degree and a master degree in International and European Law and gained working experience working for the Commission of the EU.

Students will also learn in-situ from professionals during site visits and seminars.

Course Descriptions and Learning Outcomes

The International Relations and Politics course program will give students an in-depth look at the European legal and political landscape. The course contains academic classes around these themes, as well as field trips to a number of relevant institutions.
Academic classes (39 hours)
There will be at least 39 hours of academic classes and seminars across the 3 weeks of the course. Classes will cover the following topics:

- History of economic integration in Europe
- The institutional-framework
- The common market
- The four basic freedoms
- The EU competition policy
- The EMU
- The enlargement process of the EU
- Common policies: common commercial policy, trade-relations EU with the Triad countries and trade-relations with emerging markets
- The sources of EU law; competences of the EC and EU
- The supremacy of EU law and the principles of direct effect, indirect effect and state liability
- Enforcement actions against Member-States and Judicial review
- International and European Human Rights Law: overview and cases
- Multinational Enterprises and Human rights: EU and UN perspective
- EU Common Foreign and Security Policy; cases and analysis
- Cooperation between EU Member-States in the field of Justice and Safety
- The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights
- Coercive and peaceful settlement in Europe
- The Future of European Integration: EU on the way to a political union?

Professional Visits (12 hours)
There will be approximately 12 hours of sites visits and on-site seminars/discussions as part of the program.

It will include visits to institution such as:
- The International Court of Justice in the Hague
- The Peace Palace in the Hague
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague
- European Parliament in Brussels
- NATO Headquarters in Brussels

Cultural Activities
The course includes a number of cultural activities, both inside and outside of Maastricht, designed to give participants an appreciation for Dutch culture and attitudes, and the regional context within which the country interacts.

Learning outcomes
Course aim: To develop participants’ awareness and understanding of the legal and political landscape of the European Union and of the issues relating to conflicts, displacements and human rights.
On completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Describe the current European legal and political landscape
- Summarise aspects of the history of the European Union
- Analyse the current key issues the European Union is facing today
- Compare the institutions that have jurisdiction over European legal and human rights issues
- Reflect on these institutions strengths and weaknesses
- Evaluate the role and future of diplomacy within the European Union
- Compare and contrast cultural differences between Europe and Australia

By the conclusion of the program students should also be able to:

- Understand the economic and political logic behind the EU integration.
- Review the EU’s legal system and main legal principles guiding the economic integration, and describe the legislative processes
- Understand the political and economic framework of the decision-making inside the EU.
- Understand the various forms of market-integration in-depth.
- Understand the choice and benefits of the Economic and Monetary Union-concept.
- Address the current challenges facing the EU, including the accession of new Member-States.
- Understand the underlying principles of the Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Address the finer details of the EU policy in the field of Justice and Home affairs
- Understand the functioning of the Council of Europe and the legal protection offered by the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Course requirements (assessment)**

Students are required to undertake the following assessment.

End of program test – 30%
Final assignment (3000 words) – 70%
Australian universities may choose to request additional assessment from students, such as submitting a reflective journal, in order to approve credit transfer.

**Materials**

2011 textbook: European Union Law in a global context Trevor C. Hartley
(Please note that the text is likely to change for the 2012 course)

Contents


European Union Law in a Global Context is a comprehensive introduction to European law in its international context. Trevor Hartley provides an explanation of the basic principles of each topic covered. He examines the institutions of the EU and the law-making process; the European Court and international adjudication; EU law (and international law) in national courts; human rights, especially under EU law and the ECHR; the international relations of the EU: remedies under EU law; and the elements of the free movement of goods, persons and services. The coverage of the practical application of EU law in British courts will meet the requirements of those intending to become practitioners, and the inclusion of extracts from leading cases, as well as from the EC treaties and other instruments, ensures that everything the reader will need is contained in a single volume.

The book will be used alongside the class notes. Students should use the book as supporting material.

The book should be studied in combination with the notes made in class. The exam will be based on both.

**Additional Literature**

Students are expected to read the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times on a daily basis. Both are available at the Maastricht University Business School.
The following websites are highly recommended:

EU portal site: http://europa.eu with information on topics like:

- European history: http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm
- European institutions: http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm


BBC News on Europe: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/default.stm


European Magazine “Café Babel”: http://www.cafebabel.com/eng/

Students will also be expected to follow EU news and developments on a daily basis.

**Attendance**
Students are required to attend all lectures, presentations, visits, practical and cultural activities that are scheduled as part of the program.

The attendance rules for this course are specified in the CES Regulations on Education and Examinations 2009-2010 document, under paragraph 3. It is the responsibility of the student to carefully read this document and comply with all rules and regulations.

**Class participation**
Students will be required to participate in discussions during lectures, seminars and visits.

**Academic honesty**
Students will be required to comply with Maastricht University’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic integrity.

**Grading**
The course will be assessed against the standardised ECTS grading system (A – F).
Those obtaining passing grades are divided into five subgroups: the best 10% are awarded an A-grade, the next 25% a B-grade, the following 30% a C-grade, the following 25% a D-grade and the final 10% an E-grade.
Those who do not achieve a performance sufficient to allow a passing grade are divided into two subgroups: FX (Fail – some more work required before credit can be awarded) and F (Fail – considerable further work is required).
Students will receive a transcript from Maastricht stating their results. The official transcript will usually be available 4-6 weeks after the conclusion of the final program assessment.

**Available Support Services**
The program is fully supported by Maastricht’s international office and students will have access to both academic and pastoral support. Students will have access to campus computing and library facilities to assist them with completing the program’s required assessment.

**Contact Information**
For further information regarding this syllabus, please contact the Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas:

- **info@aimoverseas.com.au**
- **Phone:** (02) 9029 0429
## Draft Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 January</td>
<td>Arrival day, Check-in and grocery shop tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6 January</td>
<td>Opening ceremony and orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 7 January</td>
<td>Day off</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8 January</td>
<td>Day off</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9 January</td>
<td>Orientation and Maastricht excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 January</td>
<td>3 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 January</td>
<td>Brussels (included overnight stay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 14 January</td>
<td>Brussels &amp; Bruges (included overnight stay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 15 January</td>
<td>Bruges and return to Maastricht</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 January</td>
<td>The Hague (included overnight stay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 21 January</td>
<td>The Hague &amp; Amsterdam (incl. overnight stay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 22 January</td>
<td>Amsterdam and return to Maastricht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23 January</td>
<td>3 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24 January</td>
<td>3 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 January</td>
<td>3 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 January</td>
<td>3 hours of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27 January</td>
<td>Exam and closing ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 28 January</td>
<td>Check out of the Guesthouse</td>
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* Course schedule is subject to change