

2023

European Politics and Economy



1Photo by Christian Lue on Unsplash

Course Coordinator:

Dr. Roberta Biasillo

3 July - 14 July

About

This course offers an overview of political and economic aspects that have characterised and shaped the European continent during the 20th and 21st centuries. Over the last century the history of Europe has gone through crises and forms of collaboration, common values and great geographical, economic and cultural diversity. Moreover the history of European political, legal, and economic has been inextricably intertwined with extra-European and global phenomena: from the Marshall plan in the afterwar period to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989; from the emergence of energetic and environmental concerns to the Yugoslav Wars, just to mention a few of them. Moving from a small community to a political arenas counting 27 member states and a complex institutional system, Europe has homed different political cultures and *diversity* is a key-word to understand what Europe has meant and means from a continental and global perspective.

Besides diversity, another key-word that can be associated with Europe is *integration*. In modern time, the idea of Europe as a space with common values and a shared government emerged firstly after World War I and the first multilateral institutions were established after World War II. Over the last 15 years, political, geopolitical, and economic tensions – the eurozone crisis, migration and energy crisis, democratic deficit – have challenged and slowed down the integration process, but they also highlighted its importance.

This course offers a solid foundation for understanding major aspects of European institutes, cooperation initiatives, legal frameworks, and crisis. It looks at the making and unmaking of discourses, such as the equation between Europe and international cooperation and the centrality of values. Each day examines a central issue in connection with the history of the European Union. What was its contribution to peace and security? Did it really create economic growth and prosperity as so often asserted? Ultimately, did it enhances solely processes of democratisation?

Seminars, lectures, and activities take you on a journey into the central tensions in the integration process and the unfinished history of European integration and its multiple scenarios.

Credits: 4.0 ECTS + Certificate of Attendance

Format

This course is designed for face-to-face students-instructors interaction.

The course adopt different teaching methods: lectures and workshops, fieldtrips, self-study, recorder sessions, and collaborative work. It makes use of different media: textual, audio, and visual materials; primary and secondary sources. Students participation is crucial both in terms of individual preparation (e.g. readings) and reflection, engagement in sessions' Q&As, elaboration of a final assignment. This course is interactive, thus participants are invited to ask relevant historical questions, collaborate on assignments and participate in discussions about the literature and the lectures.

Contact people

Dr. Roberta Biasillo

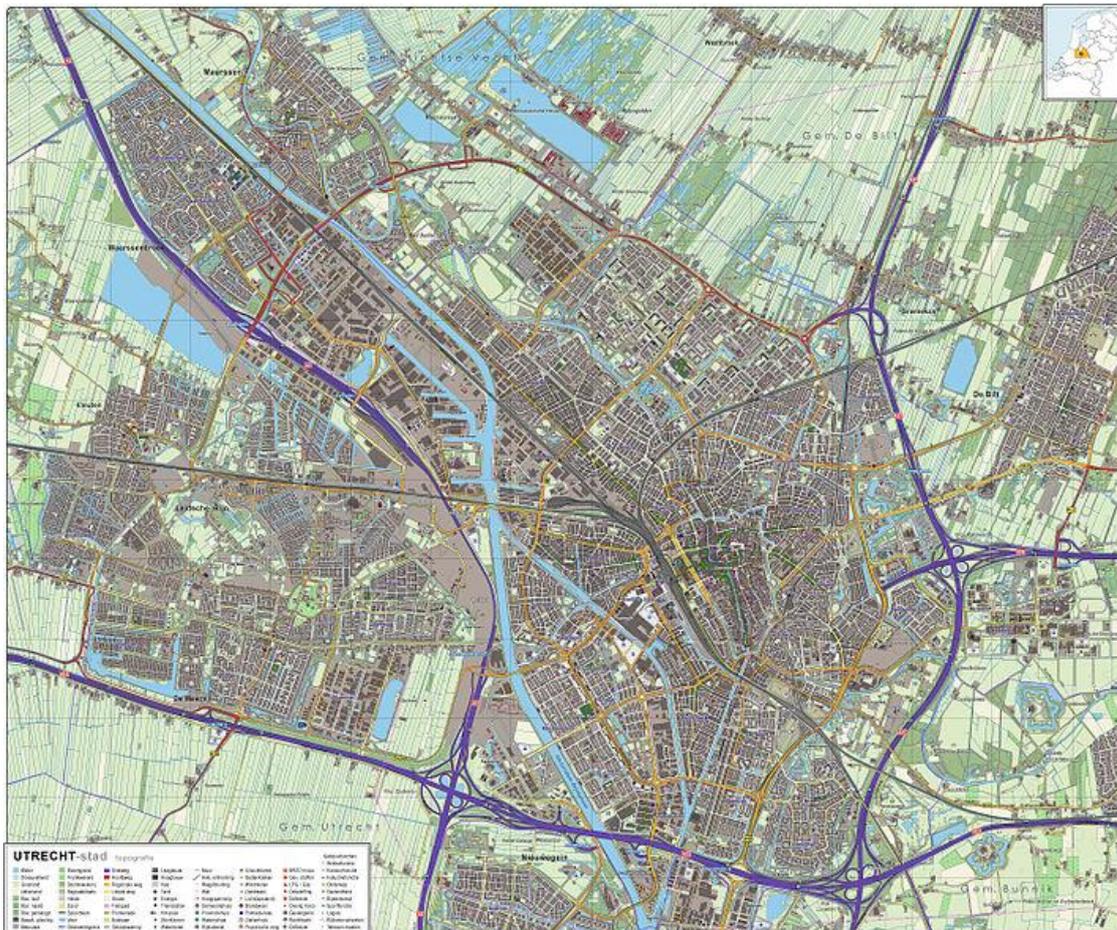
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2 Utrecht city map. Wikimedia Commons

Location

Utrecht's ancient city centre features many buildings and structures several dating as far back as the High Middle Ages. It has been the religious centre of the Netherlands since the 8th century. It lost the status of prince-bishopric but remains the main religious centre in the country. Utrecht was the most important city in the Netherlands until the Dutch Golden Age when it was surpassed by Amsterdam as the country's cultural centre and most populous city.

Utrecht is host to Utrecht University, the largest university in the Netherlands, as well as several other institutions of higher education. Due to its central position within the country, it is an important transport hub for both rail and road transport. It has the second-highest number of cultural events in the Netherlands, after Amsterdam.

On-site Education

During the course, you can use several of Utrecht University's computer and printing facilities. You have received your computer login code (SOLIS ID) from the Summer School administration. If this is not the case, send them an e-mail at summerschool@uu.nl or contact them by phone: +31 (0)302534400.

You are recommended to use one of the main computer rooms of the Faculty of Humanities in Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 (KNG 80). The computer rooms are opened from Mondays through Fridays from 08h45 to 17h00. The computer rooms are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

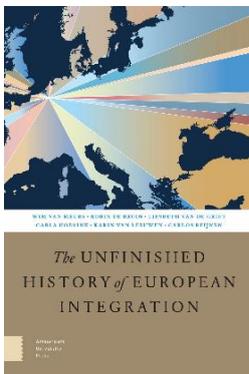
Another option is to use the computers at the University Library (UB) Innercity (Drift 27). Again, use your login code (SOLIS ID) to log in at any of the library computers. You can also use the computers on the standing desks to search catalogues without having to log in. You cannot work on these computers and there are no printing facilities.

Beware: the University Library (UB) Innercity (Drift 27) will be closed in the weekends. On July 10-14 it will close at 6.00 p.m.

Course Materials



Kiran Klaus Patel, *Project Europe: A History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. Pdf-ebook: available in Utrecht University Library with Solid-id.



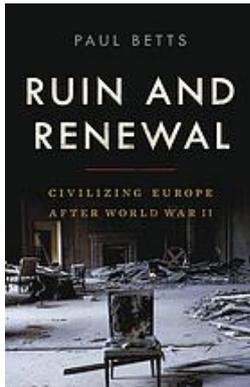
Wim van Meurs, Robin de Bruin, Carla Hoetink, Karin van Leeuwen, Carlos Reijnen, Liesbeth van de Grift, *The Unfinished History of European Integration*, Amsterdam, 2018. Pdf-ebook: available in Utrecht University Library with Solid-id.



Neill Nugent, *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2017.



Rethinking the Future of Europe: A Challenge of Governance, eds. Stefan Schepers and Andrew Kakabadse, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.



Paul Betts, *Ruin and renewal: Civilizing Europe after World War II*, New York: Basic Books, 2020.



Podcast Series – University of Oxford: [European Studies Centre](#).



European
Union

Founding agreements of the [European Union](#).



Greening Europe. Environmental Protection in the Long Twentieth Century – A Handbook, eds. Anna-Katharina Wöbse and Patrick Kupper, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2022.

Programme

WEEK 1

Monday, 3 July – Europe: Past, Present, and Future Perspectives

Morning

10:00-12:00 | Welcome and Introduction to the course.

Lecture #1: Roberta Biasillo (UU), “The European Idea and Project”

Reading

Kiran Patel, Prologue. In *Project Europe: A History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-12.

Optional: Stefan Schepers, New Governance for New Challenges in the European Union, in *Rethinking the Future of Europe: A Challenge of Governance*, eds. Stefan Schepers and Andrew Kakabadse, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 77-117.

12:00-12:15 | Informal exchange and coffee break

Afternoon

14:00-14:45 | Preparation: Listen to the podcast “What Europe for our grandchildren?” (The keynote lecture from the Oxford European Reunion in Paris, 6-8 May 2011 on the European Union and its future.)

15:00-15:45 | **Working Group #1: European Union Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow**

Work Groups #1: Design and present your slides based on the podcast “What Europe for our grandchildren?”

The class will be divided into groups. Each group listen to the podcast and focusses on a specific section of the lecture. Each group is provided with a grid to fill out and based on the information inserted in the grid, every group is asked to produce 2-3 slides (visual + text) and report to the whole class.

Self-Reflection

15:45-16:00 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #1

Write three short paragraphs on “What I learned today”, “What I would like to explore more”, “Assessment of the day: what I liked the most and the least”



Tuesday, 4 July – A Europe of Peace and Democracy?

Morning

10:00-11:00 | [Online Lecture #2: Jorrit Steehouder \(UU\): “Europe before the Europe of integration” \(1918-1945\)](#)

11:00-12:00 | Workshop on cartoons on European history

Afternoon

13:00-15:00 | [Seminar #1: Roberta Biasillo \(UU\): Europe & Democracy: A Complicated Relationship \(1920s-2020s\)](#)

Working Group #2: Read the paper/chapter and the expression “democratic deficit” in relation to the UE.

15:15-16:30 | [Online lecture #3: Kiran Klaus Patel](#)

It provides a fresh and provocative interpretation of the history of European integration. The presentation looks back at the myths and realities of integration and challenges conventional wisdoms of Europhiles and Euro-sceptics alike.

Readings

Kiran Patel, Europe and European Integration. In *Project Europe: A History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 13-49.

Self-Reflection

16:30-16:45 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #2

Wednesday, 5 July – Common Values and State Interests

Morning

10:00-12:00 | [Working Group #3: Europe and right-wing nationalism: A country-by-country guide](#)

BBC Dossier on Nationalism in Europe. Read the introduction. Select a country and prepare 2-3 slides about the rise of nationalism in it.

Afternoon

13:00-15:00 | [Seminar #2: Roberta Biasillo \(UU\): Common Values](#)

Readings

Kiran Patel, Values and Norms, In *Project Europe: A History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 146-175.

Self-Reflection

15:00-15:15 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #3



Thursday, 6 July – Towards a Greener Europe

Morning

10:00-12:00 | **Lecture #4 (Lecturer TBD): Sustainability Policies and European Developments in Environmental Governance**

Readings

Elke Seefried, Developing Europe: The Formation of Sustainability Concepts and Activities, in *Greening Europe. Environmental Protection in the Long Twentieth Century – A Handbook*, eds. Anna-Katharina Wöbse and Patrick Kupper, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2022, pp. 389-417.

Afternoon

13:00-15:00 | **Seminar #3: Roberta Biasillo (UU): Cases of Environmental Protections and Degradations**

Self-Reflection

15:00-15:15 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #3

Friday, 7 July – Europe outside Europe: Expansionism, colonialism, and imperialism

Morning

10:00-11:00 | **Lecture #5, Roberta Biasillo (UU): “European Colonialism since 1700 and after WWII”**

Readings

Paul Betts, Empire Reclaimed, in *Ruin and renewal: Civilizing Europe after World War II*, New York: Basic Books, 2020, pp. 223-266.

11:15-12:15 **Working Group #5: Postcolonial debate in Europe – The case of Belgium-Congo**

Self-Reflection

12:15-12:30 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #5

WEEK 2

Monday, 10 July – European Crisis

Morning 10:00-12:00 | Inside Europe Ten Years of Turmoil S01E02 Going for Broke (2019) Documentary

Europe's leaders and top advisers reveal how the near bankruptcy of Greece threatened the euro itself – and how they battled against the clock to save the single currency.

The screening will be followed by a discussion.

Afternoon

13:00-15:00 | **Lecture #6: (Lecturer TBD): Financial Shocks of the EU**

Self-Reflection 15:00-15:15 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #6

Tuesday, 11 July – Excursion (more info will follow)

One day in Den Haag: Europe House & Mauritshuis.

The Europe House in The Hague is the home of the Representation of the European Commission and the European Parliament Information Office in the Netherlands.

The Mauritshuis is located in the centre of The Hague, the historical and political heart of the Netherlands. A small world-class museum with a formidable collection of Dutch and Flemish paintings from the 17th century; the golden age of this type of art.

Wednesday, 12 July – European Institutions and Actors

Morning

10:00-12:00 | **Lecture #6: David Moloney (Leicester University) "Overview of European institutions addressing the democratic deficit"**

Readings Neill Nugent, *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2017, pp. 129 (first paragraph) and 161 (concluding remarks) for the Commission; 163 (first paragraph) for the Council of the European Union; 183 (first paragraph) and 200 (concluding remarks) for the European Council; 225 (concluding remarks) for the European Parliament; the European Central Bank: 257-260.

Afternoon (in-person and online)

13:00-15:00 | The legislative procedure and economic governance of the EU – focus on the institutions involved.

Self-Reflection 15:15-15:30 | Diary of the Summer School: Day #8

Thursday, 13 July – Final Assignment: Major European Agreements

Morning

10:00-12:00 | Individual Work: Choose one of the European treaties from this [list](#). Read, Comment, Make connections with two or more aspects you learned during the course, and start thinking how to present it.

Afternoon

13:00-16:00 | Work with other students that have chosen your same treaty and prepare a 15 mins presentation.

Friday, 15 July – Wrapping-up Session

Morning

10:00-13:00 | Group-presentations followed by ceremony and saying goodbye.

Assessment

There will be three assessments that test the acquisition of knowledge, your engagement with the school and your ability to reflect individually and in group.

1. Diary of the School: 30%
2. In-class participation: 20%
3. Final exam: 50%

You need an average grade of at least 5,5 to pass the course.

Attendance and Grading Criteria

Note that full attendance is expected in all lectures, seminar sessions, and excursions. Students who are absent beyond their fault (illness, accident, etc.) should submit a medical certificate to Roberta Biasillo as soon as possible. Make-up assignments are expected for all unexcused absences. Ten percentage points will be subtracted for all uncompensated absences. Students who fail more than two make-up assignments will be dropped from this course.

Your grades will be numerical grades according to the Dutch grading system. Dutch grades range from 0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent). At Utrecht University, a 5,5 is the lowest passing grade, though note that this might be different at other (Dutch) institutions. Also note that grade inflation has not affected the Dutch grading system as much as it has some American institutions. Grades of 9 and higher are rarely given, the most common grades are between 6 and 8. The Utrecht University student registration system (Osiris) that will produce your transcript will round off all grades to whole numerals for 5 and lower, and half numbers for 5.5 and higher. On course work and examinations, however, it is customary to receive a grade that has not been rounded off. Plusses and minuses are sometimes used, and count for one-fourth of a point, for instance: 8- = 7,75. Meaning of numerical grades:

9.00-10.00	Excellent
8.00-8.99	Very good
7.50-7.99	Good
7.00-7.49	Very satisfactory
6.50-6.99	Satisfactory
6.00-6.49	Sufficient
5.50-5.99	Acceptable; minimum pass
5.00-5.49	Insufficient; fail
4.00-4.99	Unsatisfactory
3.00-3.99	Very unsatisfactory
2.00-2.99	Bad
0.00-1.99	Very bad

Note that conversion of grades that you have received in the Netherlands to grades at your home institution is the responsibility of your home institution, not Utrecht University. This chart should be used as an indication; no rights can be drawn from it.

Assignments – Information

Students are requested to submit two files for assessment. Files must be uploaded in the assignment folder in the teams group. Doublecheck that your name and surname appear in your submission files.

If you have problem uploading the files, send the files to the student assistance.

You are requested to upload the following:

1. Diary of the school – Your learning experience during 5 days of the summer school.
2. Final assignment. Each student should submit a text (500 word description + 500 word reflection) on the selected treaty of the European Union. The text can be prepared individually or in pairs. Students need to prepare one-two slides on the selected treaty.