

European Politics and Economy

Course syllabus 2026



summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Period

6 July–17 July 2026

Credits

4 ECTS + Certificate of attendance

Contact

Course coordinator

Jasmin Palamar

j.palamar@uu.nl

Teaching Assistant

T.B.A.

Utrecht Summer School

<http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl>

summerschool@uu.nl

+31 (0)30 253 44 00

Materials

Koen van Zon, Matthew Broad, Aleksandra Komornicka, Paul Reef, Alessandra Schimmel and Jorrit Steehouder, *The Unfinished History of European Integration* (2nd Edition; London 2024), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003707943>.

More materials will be provided by the course coordinator.

Location

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013 (July 6 – July 10)

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019 (July 13- July 17)

<https://www.uu.nl/en/janskerkhof-2-3a>

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Course description

This course offers an introduction to the political landscape of Europe. Central to the course is the European Union (EU), a political partnership which has become a major player in global politics.

First of all the historical background of the European Union will be discussed. It originated from a long process of political and economic integration that started after the Second World War and culminated in the formation of the EU with the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992. Several lectures will give insight into the various stages of integration, the role of European leaders and the present Euroscepticism and resistance to the European project.

Another theme of the course is the system of governance within the European Union, which consists of the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe); the European Council (representing the collective leadership of the EU through the heads of state or government of each member state); the Council of the European Union (representing national governments); and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

Finally, this summer school will cover essential policies, critical themes, and significant geographical regions. Students will engage in discussions on specific policies, such as sustainability and foreign policy, and explore key themes like the role of interest groups in the European Union.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA (course coordinator) (he/him) is a lecturer within the political history section of Utrecht University. He teaches courses on international governance, genocide, philosophy of historical science and writing skills. He is also particularly interested in the history of political economic thought and why certain ideas prevail over others.

T.B.A. (teaching assistant)

Guest lecturers

Dr. Jorrit Steehouder

T.B.A.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Program overview

| Week 1 | Time | Location | Activity/Theme |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|---|
| Mon, July 6 | 10:00 – 15.00 | JK2-3A - 0.13 | History of the European Union (1945-1968) |
| Tue, July 7 | 10:00 – 15.00 | JK2-3A - 0.13 | History of the European Union (1969-2024) |
| Wed, July 8 | 10.00 – 15.00 | JK2-3A - 0.13 | European Governance and Democracy |
| Thu, July 9 | 09.00 – 17.00 | <i>The Hague</i> | Excursion: House of Europe / Europa experience / Mauritshuis |
| Fri, July 10 | | JK2-3A - 0.13 | European Environmental Governance |
| Week 2 | Time | Location | Activity/Theme |
| Mo, July 13 | | JK2-3A - 0.19 | Euroscepticism |
| Tue, July 14 | 09:00 – 17:00 | <i>T.B.A.</i> | Excursion: T.B.A. |
| Wed, July 15 | 10:00 – 15:00 | JK2-3A - 0.19 | European Geopolitics and -economics Deadline: Portfolio |
| Thu, July 16 | 10:00 – 15.00 | JK2-3A - 0.19 | Assessment: In-class exam |
| Fri, July 17 | 14:00 – 17:30 | JK2-3A - 0.19 | Certificates and closing events + Climbing the famous Dom Tower! |

European Politics and Economy

Daily program

Day 1: Monday, July 6

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00-12:00 | Seminar: Welcome and introduction + What is Europe? What should it be? |
| 12:00-13:00 | Break |
| 13:00-15:00 | Lecture: History of the European Union (1945-1968) |

Preparation

Koen van Zon, Matthew Broad, Aleksandra Komornicka, Paul Reef, Alessandra Schimmel and Jorrit Steehouder, *The Unfinished History of European Integration* (2nd Edition; London 2024), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003707943>:

- Chapter 2: Europe in the Making, 1950-1958
- Chapter 3: The Community under construction, 1958-1969

Lecturer(s)

Jasmin Palamar MA

Dr. Jorrit Steehouder

Assessment

In-class participation.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 2: Tuesday, July 7

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-12:00 | Lecture: History of the European Union (1969-2024) |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | Seminar: Towards a United Europe: Treaties, 1986-2007 |

Preparation

Koen van Zon, Matthew Broad, Aleksandra Komornicka, Paul Reef, Alessandra Schimmel and Jorrit Steehouder, *The Unfinished History of European Integration* (2nd Edition; London 2024), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003707943>:

- Chapter 4: What is Europe for? 1969-1987
- Chapter 5: The era of transformation and treaties, 1987-2007
- [Founding agreements | European Union \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/default/default alt/press/attachment/data/2017/1/1462222/1/1462222.pdf)

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Assessment

In-class participation.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 3: Wednesday, July 8

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00-12:00 | Lecture: Overview of European Institutions Addressing the Democratic Deficit |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | Seminar: The Legislative Procedure and Economic Governance of the European Union with a Focus on the Institutions Involved |

Preparation

- Simon Hix and Bjørn Høyland, *The political system of the European Union* (Basingstoke 2011), pp. 1-19.
- Neill Nugent, *The Government and Politics of the European Union* (Bloomsbury 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.

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Assessment

In-class participation.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 4: Thursday, July 9

Excursion to:

House of Europe / Europa Experience

Korte Vijverberg 5-6

2513 AB the Hague

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 09:00 | Departure from Utrecht to the Hague |
| 10:00-12:00 | Visit to House of Europe |
| 12:00-13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30-15:00 | Visit to Mauritshuis |
| 17:00 | Departure to Utrecht |

Preparation

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Assessment:

Portfolio: Reflection question #1.

European Politics and Economy

Day 5: Friday, July 10

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00-12:00 | Lecture: Sustainability Policies and European Developments in Environmental Governance |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | Seminar: Cases of Environmental Protection and Degradations |

Preparation

Brigitte Leucht, Katja Seidel and Laurent Warlouzet eds., *Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the present* (London 2023).

- Chapter 11: A citizens' Europe? Consumer and environmental policies, pp. 203-212 (Introduction, 1. Key issues and actors & 2. Origins and development of environmental policy); 218-219 (Conclusion).

Anna-Katharina Wöbse and Patrick Kupper, *Greening Europe: Environmental Protection in the Long Twentieth Century – A Handbook* (Berlin 2022).

- Chapter 16: Europeanizing Biodiversity: International Organizations as Environmental Actors, pp. 419-424 (1. Introduction & 2. International Organizations and Nature Conservation); 431-441 (5. The Council of Europe: Habitats and Biodiversity, 6. The Greening of the European Communities & 7. International Organizations and Concepts as Agents).

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar

Assessment

In-class participation.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 6: Monday, July 13

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-12:00 | Lecture: Euroscepticism and The European Parliament Elections, 2024 |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | Seminar: Regional Difference in Euroscepticism |

Preparation

Brigitte Leucht, Katja Seidel and Laurent Warlouzet eds., *Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the present* (London 2023).

- Chapter 18: Integrating or breaking up Europe? Euroscepticism and opposition to Europe, pp. 333-334 (Introduction); 343-349 (3. Crisis Europe and the rising tide of Euroscepticism, 2000-2020s); 349-351 (Conclusion)

Documentary: *Inside Europe: Ten Years of Turmoil* (2019)

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar

Assessment

In-class participation.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 7: Tuesday, July 14

Excursion to:

Transnational Institute

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 09:00 | Departure from Utrecht to Amsterdam |
| 10:30-12:00 | Visit to the Transnational Institute |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | Canal Boat Tour |
| 17:00 | Departure to Utrecht |

Preparation

- Sabine Saurugger, 'Interest Groups and Democracy in the European Union', *West European Politics* 31:6 (2008) 1274-1291.

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Assessment:

Portfolio: Reflection question #2.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 8: Wednesday, July 15

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00-12:00 | Lecture: Economic Security Meets Austerity: European Strategic Autonomy at the Brink |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | Assessment: Finalize Portfolio |

Preparation

- Matthias Matthijs and Sophie Meunier, 'Europe's Geoeconomic Revolution: How the EU Learned to Wield Its Real Power', *Foreign Affairs* (August 22, 2023).
- Anu Bradford, 'How the EU became a Regulatory Power', in: *The Brussels Effect: How the European Union Rules the World* (Oxford 2019).

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Assessment:

Portfolio: Reflection question #3.

European Politics and Economy

Day 9: Thursday, July 16

Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019

Timetable

10:00-15:00

Assessment: In-class exam

Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Assessment

Group presentation.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Day 10: Friday, July 17

Janskerkhof 2-3A. classroom 019

Timetable

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 14:00-15:00 | Presentation of Certificates |
| 15:30-16:30 | Climbing the Dom Tower |
| 16:30-17:30 | Drinks at café Lebowski |

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht

European Politics and Economy

Assessment

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

1. In-class participation: 30%
2. Portfolio: 30%
3. In-class exam: 40%

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

Portfolio

Students are requested to submit a portfolio for assessment. The Word file must be uploaded in the assessment folder in the teams group. Doublecheck that your name and surname appear in your submission file. If you have problems uploading the Word file, send the file to the course coordinator directly Jasmin Palamar (j.palamar@uu.nl).

In the portfolio you will reflect on your learning experience during the summer school. The deadline for the portfolio is **Wednesday, 15 July, 3 p.m.** The portfolio includes three reflection questions, each requiring a response of approximately 250 words (the entire portfolio should be approximately 750 words in total):

1. How does the literature on interest groups relate to their functioning and constraints within the European Union? In your answer, include insights from our visits during our Amsterdam excursion, as well as the assigned reading for that day.¹
2. List three key insights from the excursion to The Hague, and explain why each of them was significant.
3. Reflect on the entire Summer School in European Politics and Economy by answering the following questions:
 - a. What have you learned?
 - b. What would you like to explore further?
 - c. What did you enjoy the most and the least?

¹ Sabine Saurugger, 'Interest Groups and Democracy in the European Union', *West European Politics* 31:6 (2008) 1274-1291.

European Politics and Economy

In-class exam

Description will follow.

Attendance and grading system

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 the course coordinator, Jasmin Palamar (j.palamar@uu.nl), as soon as possible. Make-up assignments are expected for all unexcused 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:

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 9.0-10.0 | Excellent |
| 8.0-8.9 | Very good |
| 7.5-7.9 | Good |
| 7.0-7.4 | Very satisfactory |
| 6.5-6.9 | Satisfactory |
| 6.0-6.4 | Sufficient |
| 5.5-5.9 | Acceptable; minimum pass |
| 5.0-5.4 | Insufficient; fail |
| 4.0-4.9 | Unsatisfactory |
| 3.0-3.9 | Very unsatisfactory |
| 2.0-2.9 | Bad |
| 0.0-1.9 | Very bad |

European Politics and Economy

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.

summerschool
UTRECHT



Universiteit Utrecht