

# European Politics and Economy

## Course syllabus 2026



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**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](mailto:j.palamar@uu.nl)

### Teaching assistant

Eve Sapp  
[n.e.sapp@students.uu.nl](mailto:n.e.sapp@students.uu.nl)

### Utrecht Summer School

<http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl>

[summerschool@uu.nl](mailto: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* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; London 2024), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003707943>.

More materials will be provided by the course coordinator (see daily program below).

## Location

Lectures & Group 1: [Janskerkhof 2-3A](#), classroom 013 (July 6 – July 10)

[Janskerkhof 2-3A](#), classroom 019 (July 13 – July 17)

Group 2: [Janskerkhof 2-3A](#), classroom 115 (July 6 – July 17).

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# 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, 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.

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## 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.

**Eve Sapp (teaching assistant)** (she/her) is a bachelor student of History in the Foundations of Europe track at Utrecht University. Her academic interests include intellectual history, continental philosophy, and cultural heritage. Prior to pursuing a degree at Utrecht University, she was a tour leader in cities such as Brussels, Geneva, and the Hague.

## Guest lecturers

**Dr. Jorrit Steehouder** (he/him) is Assistant Professor in the History of International Relations and European Integration at Utrecht University. His further research interests, besides European integration, include the history of diplomacy, Europe's social-economic history and European governments-in-exile.

**Dr. Jan Pieter Beetz** (he/him) is Assistant Professor in Political Theory and European Integration at the Utrecht University School of Governance. His research focuses primarily on the possibility of a secure, free and democratic Europe in the 21st century. His research focuses on alternative theories of democracy beyond the state and their application to the EU; legitimate responses to democratic backsliding in member states; and the possibility of a democratic defence union in Europe

**Amber Striekwold MA** (she/her) is a PhD-candidate at Utrecht University. She studies the evolution and circulation of ideas and practices in the Netherlands on alternative agro-food systems, focusing on meat production and consumption. She wrote her MA-thesis on the political ideas of the Dutch Alternative Food movement of the 1970s.

# European Politics and Economy

**Dr. Hans Vollaard** (he/him) is Associate Professor in Political Science at the Utrecht University School of Governance. His current research focus is on representative democracy in municipalities, provinces and water boards. In addition, he studies the internationalisation and Europeanization of sub-national governments. He also researched the regulation of cross-border healthcare in the European Union, European disintegration, Euroscepticism in the Netherlands, and Dutch Christian parties.

**Daniel Koelewijn BA** (he/him) works for the Dutch government and is an expert in European Studies. He has in-depth knowledge of EU institutions, EU's role on the global stage, and (Eastern-) European history. His work experience in Bulgaria, Ethiopia, and Kazakhstan has expanded his practical expertise in international affairs.

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## Program overview

Week 1	Time	Location	Activity/Theme
Mon, July 6	10:00 – 15:00	JK2-3A - 0.13 / 1.15	History of the European Union (1945-1968)
Tue, July 7	10:00 – 15:00	JK2-3A - 0.13 / 1.15	History of the European Union (1969-2025) + (Grand Opening USS 17.00)
Wed, July 8	10.00 – 15.00	JK2-3A - 0.13 / 1.15	European Governance and Politics
Thu, July 9	09.00 – 17.00	<i>The Hague</i>	<b>Excursion:</b> Europa Experience + Mauritshuis
Fri, July 10	10.00 – 15.00	JK2-3A - 0.13 / 1.15	European Ecological Governance
Week 2	Time	Location	Activity/Theme
Mo, July 13	10.00 – 15.00	JK2-3A - 0.19 / 1.15	Euro-scepticism
Tue, July 14	09:00 – 17:00	<i>Amsterdam</i>	<b>Excursion:</b> Canal Tour + Wereldmuseum
Wed, July 15	10:00 – 15:00	JK2-3A - 0.19	European External Relations: Balkans
Thu, July 16	10:00 – 15:00	JK2-3A - 0.19 / 1.15	<b>Assessment:</b> In-class exam <b>Deadline:</b> Portfolio
Fri, July 17	14:00 – 17:30	JK2-3A - 0.19 / 1.15	Certificates and closing events + Climbing the famous Dom Tower! + Drinks at Café Hofman

# European Politics and Economy

## Daily program

Day 1: Monday, July 6

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013 / classroom 115*

### Timetable

10:00-12:00	<u>Seminar</u> : Welcome and introduction + What is Europe?
12:00-13:00	Break
13:00-15:00	<u>Lecture</u> : History of the European Union (1945-1968) by <b>Dr. Jorrit Steehouder</b>

### Preparation

- Koen van Zon, Matthew Broad, Aleksandra Komornicka, Paul Reef, Alessandra Schimmel and Jorrit Steehouder, *The Unfinished History of European Integration* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; London 2024):
  - Chapter 2: Europe in the Making, 1950-1958
  - Chapter 3: The Community under construction, 1958-1969

Optional, but recommended:

- Introduction
- Chapter 1: Many roads to Europe, 1919-1950.

### Lecturer(s)

Dr. Jorrit Steehouder (Lecture)  
Jasmin Palamar MA (Group 1)  
Eve Sapp (Group 2)

### Assessment

In-class participation.

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# European Politics and Economy

Day 2: Tuesday, July 7

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013 / classroom 115*

## Timetable

10:00-12:00	<u>Lecture</u> : History of the European Union (1969-2024) by Jasmin Palamar MA
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	<u>Seminar</u> : 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* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; London 2024):
  - 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/e0604000-1234-4123-9876-543210987654/attachment_data/data/founding-agreements-1957-2017.pdf)

## Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA (Group 1)

Eve Sapp (Group 2)

## Assessment

In-class participation.

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# European Politics and Economy

Day 3: Wednesday, July 8

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013 / classroom 115*

## Timetable

10:00-12:00	<u>Lecture</u> : Overview of European Institutions Addressing the Democratic Deficit by <b>Dr. Jan Pieter Beetz</b>
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	<u>Seminar</u> : The Legislative Procedure and Economic Governance of the European Union

## Preparation

- 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.
- Derek Beach and Uwe Pütter, 'More Power for Brussels or Renationalization?', pp. 19-35, in: Hubert Zimmermann and Andreas Dür (eds.), *Key Controversies in European Integration* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition; 2021).

## Lecturers

Dr. Jan Pieter Beetz (Lecture)

Jasmin Palamar MA (Group 1)

Eve Sapp (Group 2)

## Assessment

In-class participation.

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# European Politics and Economy

Day 4: Thursday, July 9

EXCURSION DAY

Europa Experience

[Grote Marktstraat 25](#)

2511 BJ, The Hague

Departure (09.00)

[Janskerkhof](#) (square)

Utrecht

## Timetable

09:00	Departure from Utrecht to the Hague
10:00-14:45	Visit to Europa Experience
12:00-13:30	Lunch
12:30-15:30	Visit to Mauritshuis
17:00	Departure to Utrecht

## Preparation

- The bus departs at 09:00 o' clock (9:00 AM), be there on time.
- Bring your passport.
- Read Portfolio Question #1.
- Read the text for Friday, as you won't have time on this day to prepare it!

## Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA (Group 1)

Eve Sapp (Group 2)

## Assessment:

Portfolio: Question #1.

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# European Politics and Economy

Day 5: Friday, July 10

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 013 / classroom 115*

## Timetable

10:00-12:00	<u>Lecture</u> : European Ecological Governance and the Common Agricultural Policy by Amber Striekwold MA
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	<u>Seminar</u> : Governance, Protection and Degradation of Ecology

## Preparation

- Brigitte Leucht and Jan-Henrik Meyer, '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), in: Brigitte Leucht, Katja Seidel and Laurent Warlouzet eds., *Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the present* (London 2023).
- 60 Years of the CAP – Timeline for Development of the Common Agricultural Policy (see .pdf in Teams folder)
- Timeline - History of the CAP:  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/the-common-agricultural-policy-explained/timeline-history-of-cap/>.

## Lecturers

Amber Striekwold MA (Lecture)  
Jasmin Palamar MA (Group 1)  
Eve Sapp (Group 2)

## Assessment

In-class participation.

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# European Politics and Economy

Day 6: Monday, July 13

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019 / classroom 115*

## Timetable

10:00-12:00	Lecture: Euroscepticism? by Dr. Hans Vollaard
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	Seminar: Regional Difference in Euroscepticism

## Preparation

- Koen van Zon, Matthew Broad, Aleksandra Komornicka, Paul Reef, Alessandra Schimmel and Jorrit Steehouder, *The Unfinished History of European Integration* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; London 2024):
  - Chapter 6: From crises to new directions? Contemporary European integration, 2007–2024
- Patrick Bijsmans, 'Euroscepticism, a Multifaceted Phenomenon' (2020), in: Erin Hannah (ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* (New York 2016 - ).

## Lecturers

Dr. Hans Vollaard

Jasmin Palamar

Eve Sapp

## Assessment

In-class participation.

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# European Politics and Economy

Day 7: Tuesday, July 14

EXCURSION DAY

Wereldmuseum

[Linnaeusstraat 2](#)

1092 CK, Amsterdam

Departure

[Janskerkhof](#) (square)

Utrecht

## Timetable

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

## Preparation

- Peo Hansen and Stefan Jonsson, 'Eurafrica incognita: The colonial origins of the European Union', *History of the Present* 7.1 (2017) 1-32.

## Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Eve Sapp

## Assessment:

Portfolio: Question #2.

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Day 8: Wednesday, July 15

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019 / classroom 115*

## Timetable

10:00-12:00	<u>Lecture</u> : European External Relations: the Balkans by Daniël Koelewijn
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	<u>Seminar</u> : European External Relations

## Preparation

- Aleksandar Vasović, 'Tiny Montenegro vies to be EU's next member but hurdles remain', *Reuters.com* (June 4, 2026).

## Lecturers

Daniël Koelewijn

Jasmin Palamar MA

Eve Sapp

## Assessment:

Portfolio: Question #3.

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Day 9: Thursday, July 16

*Janskerkhof 2-3A, classroom 019*

## Timetable

10:00-12:00	Assessment: In-class exam
12:00-13:00	
13:00-15:00	Assessment: Finalize + Hand-in Portfolio

## Lecturers

Jasmin Palamar MA

Eve Sapp

## Assessment

In-class exam

Portfolio

# 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 Hofman

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# 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 respective Teams group (1 or 2).

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 or teaching assistant directly ([j.palamar@uu.nl](mailto:j.palamar@uu.nl) / [n.e.sapp@students.uu.nl](mailto:n.e.sapp@students.uu.nl)).

In the portfolio you will reflect on your learning experience during the Summer School. The deadline for the portfolio is **Thursday, 16 July, 15.00 o' clock / 3 PM**. The portfolio includes three questions, and three reflection questions, each requiring a response of approximately 150-250 words (the entire portfolio should be approximately 600-1000 words in total):

1. T.B.D.
2. T.B.D.
3. T.B.D.
4. 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?

## In-class exam

Description will be given during the course.

# European Politics and Economy

## Attendance and grading system

Note that full attendance is expected in all lectures, seminar sessions, and excursions. Students who miss more than lectures, seminars or excursions will be dropped from this course. Students who are absent due to circumstances beyond their control (illness, accident, etc.) should notify the course coordinator Jasmin Palamar ([j.palamar@uu.nl](mailto:j.palamar@uu.nl)) and if applicable, the teaching assistant Eve Sapp ([n.e.sapp@students.uu.nl](mailto:n.e.sapp@students.uu.nl)), as soon as possible.

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

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.