



**Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES) Winter School on  
Culture and Diversity**

**STUDY TRACK A**

***Europe, Diversity, and the Question of Identity***

**January 7 – February 4, 2025**

<b>Course title:</b>	The EU in Constant Crisis? A Story of Identities and Rights
<b>Date / Room:</b>	January 13–16, 2025 / Room: Tba.
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Lecturer:</b>	Jan Battke
<b>Contact hours:</b>	16 + study trip + field work

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This first of three Study Track A courses focuses on the historical, political, and societal dynamics of European Integration and how these processes of regional integration and collective identity formation are linked to and shape some of the most urgent challenges / crises Europe and the EU face today: Brexit, Euroscepticism, populism, political fragmentation and radicalization.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading (required)</b>
<b>1</b> (= 90 minutes)	Monday, January 13 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	<b>What is regional integration, what is the EU (and what comes with it)?</b>	<i>Blair 2012: Chapter 1</i> <i>Usherwood&amp;Pinder 2018: Ch. 1</i>
<b>2</b>	Monday, January 13 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	<b>What or where is Europe and who are the Europeans? (I)</b>	<i>McCormick 2020: Ch. 3</i>
<b>3</b>	Monday, January 13 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	<b>What or where is Europe and who are the Europeans? (II)</b>	<i>See above</i>
<b>4</b>	Tuesday, January 14 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	<b>The EU as a political system and its institutions in a nutshell</b>	<i>Hix&amp;Hoyland 2022: Ch. 1</i>

5	Tuesday, January 14 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	<b>Public opinion – What do Europeans think about the EU?</b>	<i>Hix&amp;Hoyland 2022: Ch. 5</i>
	Tuesday, January 14 (III): After class	<b>Field Work / Street Survey in Tübingen</b>	
6	Wednesday, January 15 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	<b>Europe's many crises – Any solutions? (+ discussion of street survey results)</b>	<i>Riddervold et al. 2021: Ch. 1: pp. 3-21</i>
7	Wednesday, January 15 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	<b>Group work and presentations</b>	-
8	Wednesday, January 15 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	<b>Summary, Discussion and Evaluation</b>	-
	Thursday, January 16: All Day	<b>Study Trip to Strasbourg</b>	

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to provide an informed understanding of contemporary Europe and the challenges it faces regarding a multitude of recent developments in politics and society, such as populism, political fragmentation, radicalization, and Euroscepticism. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with theoretical and empirical approaches to understand these processes, including an informed understanding of the role that (collective) identities play in contemporary Europe.

## PREREQUISITES

The course is designed for undergraduate students from all academic disciplines and with a strong general interest in Europe and the EU. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

The grade of the course will be based on students' performance in carrying out the street survey, completing an in-class group exam (including a presentation) and active participation during class sessions in general.

## READING

Blair, Alasdair 2012: *The European Union. A Beginner's Guide*, Oxford: Oneworld Publications, Chapter 1.

Hix, Simon/Høyland, Bjørn (2022): *The Political System of the European Union*, 4th Edition, London: Bloomsbury Academic.

McCormick, John (2020): European Union Politics, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/unitueeb/detail.action?docID=627395>

Riddervold, Marianne et al. (2021): European Union Crisis: An Introduction, in: Riddervold, Marianne et al. (eds.): The Palgrave Handbook of EU Crises, Springer International Publishing AG. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/unitueeb/detail.action?docID=6434480>

Usherwood, Simon and John Pinder (2018): The European Union. A Very Short Introduction, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## **INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER**

**Jan Battke** is the academic coordinator of the Tübingen International and European Studies (T-IES) program at Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen. He studied political science and sociology in Tübingen and at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA. He earned his MA from the University of Tübingen, worked as a post-graduate researcher at the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt University, Berlin, and was a visiting scholar at Duke University, USA, and at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, USA. His main area of interest is the European Union and its decision-making process, with a focus on interest group politics, patterns of political participation and the role of the regions. His most recent publication is *Abels, Gabriele and Jan Battke (eds.) (2019): Regional Governance in the EU. Regions and the Future of Europe, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.*