



## Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

### Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

<b>Course title:</b>	The Political System of the EU and its Politics
<b>Date:</b>	September 9 – 24, 2024
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Lecturer:</b>	Jan Battke
<b>Contact hours:</b>	25 (incl. exam and wrap-up) + study trip: Berlin (4 days)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the aftermath of the Second World War, for the first time in European history, former enemies created a political union in order to coordinate their economic and political activities. Among them was Germany, the nation responsible for the unparalleled destruction that the war brought to the Old Continent and beyond (again), and the nation whose people planned and carried out the worst crime and horror the world has ever seen: The Holocaust.

Over the past decades, what is today known as the European Union (EU) gradually led to the emergence of a supranational political system with Germany as one of its core members. Although today the European Union still is not a “real” state, it is not only made up of 27 sovereign European nations but also of the EU’s very own institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament (EP), and the European Court of Justice, which all possess unique powers to shape the lives of more than 440 million citizens in Europe every day.

This course will introduce students to the history and the political system of the EU – its institutional set up and how it works in general. Furthermore, classes will discuss the significant role Germany has played and plays in Europe and how Germany’s path through the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from a nation divided to a reunified country, shaped not only the legacy of a nation but that of an entire continent. Current issues and challenges – including Russia’s war against Ukraine, Brexit, migration, and right-wing populism – regarding both Germany and the EU, will be covered as well.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading (tba)
1 (= 90 minutes)	Monday, September 9 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	<b>Introduction to the course</b> “How we conduct it here”	-
2	Monday, September 9 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	<b>What is “Regional Integration”?</b>	<i>Blair 2012: Chapter 1</i>
3	Tuesday, September 10 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	<b>A short history of the EU</b> (And Germany’s role in it)	<i>Kenealy et al. 2018: Ch. 2</i>

4	Tuesday, September 10 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	<b>A short history of the EU (And Germany's role in it) (Continued)</b>	<i>Same as session before</i>
5	Wednesday, September 11: 13:30 – 15:00	<b>The EU as a political system</b>	<i>Hix&amp;Hoyland 2022: Ch. 1</i>
6	Monday, September 16 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	<b>The Councils (Legislature 1)</b>	<i>Kenealy et al. 2018: Ch. 3</i>
7	Monday, September 16 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	<b>The European Parliament (Legislature 2)</b>	<i>Same as session before</i>
8	Tuesday, September 17 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	<b>The European Commission (The Executive)</b>	<i>Same as session before</i>
9	Tuesday, September 17 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	<b>Decision-Making in the EU: The Ordinary Legislative Procedure</b>	<i>Same as session before</i>
10	Wednesday, September 18: 13:30 – 15:00	<b>Germany, the EU and current challenges</b>	-
	Thursday, September 19 – Sunday, September 22	<b>Study Trip: Berlin (4 days)</b>	
11	Monday, September 23: 15:30 – 17:00	<b>Discussion session: Knowledge transfer AND Preparation for final exam (+ Course Evaluation)</b>	-
12	Tuesday, September 24 (I): 10:00 – 11:00	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	-
13	Tuesday, September 24 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	<b>Course Wrap-up</b>	-

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By familiarizing themselves with how the EU works today, at the end of the course students will have basic knowledge about processes of regional integration which they can not only apply to Europe and its different policy fields alone, but to other world regions as well. They will be able to identify and understand the dynamics of transnational policy-making and how the coordination of economic and political endeavors among nation states generally impacts the lives of citizens in many countries, also in Germany, at the same time.

## PREREQUISITES

The course does not require any special knowledge. The course is designed for undergraduate students from Doshisha University with various academic backgrounds who are generally interested

in Germany, Europe and the European Union. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course and during study trips are required.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

Each course concludes with a written exam at the end of the program. The grade of each course will be calculated by the result of the written exam (70%) and active participation in class as well as during study trips (30%). Active participation in class as well as during field work includes: attendance, asking questions, taking part in discussions, showing interest, giving presentations.

## **READING (REQUIRED)**

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

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

Kenealy, Daniel, John Peterson and Richard Corbett (eds.) (2018): *The European Union: How Does It Work?*, 5<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. Among his publications is *Abels, Gabriele and Jan Battke (eds.) (2019): Regional Governance in the EU. Regions and the Future of Europe, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.*