



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

### Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

**September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026**

<b>Course title:</b>	The Political System of the EU and its Politics
<b>Date:</b>	September 29 – October 29, 2025
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Lecturer:</b>	Jan Battke
<b>Contact hours:</b>	25 (incl. exam and wrap-up) + study trip to Berlin (5 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 Council, 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)
<b>1</b> (= 90 minutes)	Monday, September 29: 10:15 – 11:45	<b>Introduction to the course</b> “How we conduct it here”	-
<b>2</b>	Wednesday, October 1 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	<b>What is “Regional Integration”?</b>	<i>Blair 2012: Chapter 1</i>
<b>3</b>	Wednesday, October 1 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	<b>What or where is Europe and who are the Europeans?</b>	<i>McCormick 2020: Ch. 3</i>

4	Thursday, October 2: 13:15 – 14:45	<b>What or where is Europe and who are the Europeans?</b> <b>(Continued)</b>	<i>Same as session before</i>
5	Monday, October 6: 10:15 – 11:45	<b>A short history of the EU</b> <b>(And Germany's role in it)</b>	<i>Kenealy et al. 2018: Ch. 2</i>
6	Wednesday, October 8 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	<b>Street Survey in Tübingen</b>	-
7	Wednesday, October 8 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	<b>Street Survey Results and Discussion</b>	-
	Monday, October 13 – Friday, October 17	<b>Study Trip: Berlin (5 days)</b> <b>- Separate Schedule available -</b>	
8	Monday, October 20: 10:15 – 11:45	<b>The EU as a political system</b>	<i>Hix&amp;Hoyland 2022: Ch. 1</i>
9	Wednesday, October 22 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	<b>The European Commission</b> <b>(The Executive)</b>	<i>Kenealy et al. 2018: Ch. 3</i>
10	Wednesday, October 22 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	<b>The Councils and the European Parliament</b> <b>(Legislature)</b>	<i>Same as session before</i>
11	Monday, October 27: 10:15 – 11:45	<b>Germany, the EU and current challenges</b>  <b>Preparation for final exam</b>	-
12	Wednesday, October 29 (I): 10:00 – 11:00	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	-
13	Wednesday, October 29 (II): 11:30 – 12:15	<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, especially in Germany, at the same time.

## PREREQUISITES

The course does not require any special knowledge. The course is designed for undergraduate students 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 (67%) and active participation in class as well as during study trips (33%). Active participation 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.

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

## 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.