

## SYLLABUS: EU Integration Policies towards the Western Balkans

Basic sources of the course	
Academic unit	Department of Political Science, Faculty of Philosophy
Title of the course	<b>EU Integration Policies towards the Western Balkans</b>
Level	MA
Status	Mandatory
Study year	I, Semester 2
Hours per week	3 + 2
ECTS	8
Time/ place	See announcements, usually on Mondays at 17:00-18:30 (lecture) and 18:30-20:00 (exercise); Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Political Science 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 204
Course lecturer	Prof. Asoc. Dr. Arben Hajrullahu
Teaching Assistant	Asis. Mr. Sc. Lundrim Aliu
Contacts	<a href="mailto:arben.hajrullahu@uni-pr.edu">arben.hajrullahu@uni-pr.edu</a> ; <a href="mailto:lundrim.aliu@uni-pr.edu">lundrim.aliu@uni-pr.edu</a>
Course description	<p>The course on EU Integration Policies towards the Western Balkans has been structured with the overall objective to provide students the knowledge necessary to analyse the most essential aspects of the process of European integration and its particular relevance for the Western Balkans. The overall content of the course will provide knowledge on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental principles, institutional framework and decision making of the EU;</li> <li>• Political processes in the EU;</li> <li>• Enlargement and EU neighbourhood policy;</li> <li>• Democratisation and transformation processes in the Western Balkans.</li> </ul>
Course objectives	<p>This course aims at developing a critical understanding of the specificity of EU politics and political transition in the Western Balkans after 1990. Reference is made to EU institutional framework, major policy areas of EU external relations, and their impact in South Eastern Europe (SEE). Moreover, this course aims to help students to deepen their understanding into transition and transformation processes in SEE as well as to develop a critical thinking about policy oriented and practical options of good governance and political transparency in the EU and in SEE, with a particular focus in the Western Balkan region.</p>

Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of the course the students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyse key institutional, political, economic and cultural developments in the EU and in the SEE since the fall of communism;</li> <li>- Employ comparative analysis in their research on EU and transformation, democratization and EU-integration in SEE, focused in the Western Balkans;</li> <li>- Make valid comparisons between different national and international actors and across different policy makers on the basis of empirical evidence.</li> </ul>																		
Assignments	<p>The final grade for the course will be based on:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Participation; Preparation for the course; In-class presentation of a <i>policy brief</i> (*) and its submission by the end of the semester (as power point document)</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final written in class exam</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </table> <p>The grade percentages are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Grade</i></th> <th><i>Percentages</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>58% or less failed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>59 - 65 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>66 – 72 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>73 – 79 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>80 – 86 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>87% or greater</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>(*) In-class presentation and submission of a policy brief</b> (as power point document)</p> <p>The in class presentation can be prepared alone or in a group of maximum two students. In case you decide for a group presentation, it should be clear that every student in the group has contributed actively to the presentation and will take part in the class presentation.</p> <p>Please choose a topic for the presentation of a <i>policy brief</i> related to the class. Topics <b><u>need to be approved</u></b> by the class instructor <b>via e-mail</b>. Make sure that your presentation lasts <b><u>no longer than 10 minutes</u></b> for each student presenting.</p> <p><b>This is your remit:</b>  Assume that you are a member of staff at the Ministry for EU-integration in a given Western Balkan country. You have been asked to brief the foreign minister on a particular issue/problem related to one of the topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achievements and challenges related to rule of law and democratisation in your Western Balkan country of choice;</li> </ul>	Participation; Preparation for the course; In-class presentation of a <i>policy brief</i> (*) and its submission by the end of the semester (as power point document)	50%	Final written in class exam	50%	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentages</i>	5	58% or less failed	6	59 - 65 %	7	66 – 72 %	8	73 – 79 %	9	80 – 86 %	10	87% or greater
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achievements and obstacles on the EU-integration process in your Western Balkan country of choice;</li> <li>- Regional cooperation on the path of the EU-integration.</li> </ul> <p>After you have chosen your topic you will need to include the following elements in your presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An "executive summary" of the problem;</li> <li>2. Supporting information;</li> <li>3. A set of policy options;</li> <li>4. Recommended option/options, and justification for such recommendation/s;</li> <li>5. All sources used.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reading Guidelines:</b></p> <p>When preparing your in-class presentation you may find it useful to check your comprehension of the reading against these study questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the author's purpose in writing this piece?</li> <li>• What are the author's guiding questions?</li> <li>• What concepts does the author emphasize? How are these concepts defined?</li> <li>• What are the author's conclusions? Do they seem logical given the evidence provided? Would you draw different conclusions? Why or why not?</li> <li>• What questions remain unanswered?</li> </ul>
Teaching methodology	Interactive lectures, in-class discussion, in-class presentation and submission of the policy brief, final in class written exam.
<b>Literature</b>	
Basic literature	<p><u>Key Readings:</u></p> <p>Anastasakis, Othon (2005): The Europeanization of the Balkans, by the Brown Journal of World Affairs, Summer/Fall, Volume XII, Issue 1</p> <p>Annually Progress Reports of Freedom House (Freedom in the World 2017), available at:  <a href="https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_FIW_2017_Report_Final.pdf">https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_FIW_2017_Report_Final.pdf</a></p> <p>Annually Reports of the European Commission, Strategy and Reports, available at:  <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/package_en">https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/package_en</a></p> <p>Bieber, Florian (2011): Building Impossible States? State-Building</p>

	<p>Strategies and EU Membership in the Western Balkans, <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i>, 63:10: 1783-1802</p> <p>Cohen, J. Lenard, and Lampe, R. John (2011): <i>Embracing Democracy in the Western Balkans: From Post-Conflict Struggles Towards European Integration</i></p> <p>Helen Wallace, William Wallace, Mark A. Pollack (2011): <i>Policy-Making in the European Union</i></p> <p>Kostovicova, Denisa, and Bojicic-Dželilovic Vesna (2006): <i>Europeanizing the Balkans: Rethinking the Post-communist and Post-conflict Transition</i>, <i>Ethnopolitics</i>, 5:3, pp. 223-241</p> <p>Krastev, Ivan (2002): <i>The Balkans: Democracy without choices</i>, <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 13. No. 3, pp. 39-53</p> <p>Lantschner Emma, Marko Joseph, Petričušić Antonija (2008 eds.): <i>European Integration and its Effects on Minority Protection in South Eastern Europe</i>, Baden-Baden, pp. 359-379</p> <p>Simon Hix (2011): <i>The political system of European Union</i></p> <p>Vachudova, Milada Anna (2006): <i>Democratization in Postcommunist Europe: Illiberal Regimes and the Leverage of International Actors</i>, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Center for European Studies Working Paper Series #139</p>
Additional literature	<p>Berthold Rittberger, Frank Schimmelfennig (eds, 2007): <i>The Constitutionalization of the European Union</i></p> <p>Catherine Moury, Luís de Sousa (eds, 2009): <i>Institutional Challenges in Post-Constitutional Europe Governing Change</i></p> <p>Haggard, Stephan and Kaufman R. Robert (1995): <i>The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions</i></p> <p>Ole Elgström, Michael Smith, Thomas Poguntke (eds, 2007): <i>The European Union's Roles in International Politics Concepts and Analysis</i></p> <p>William Walters, Jens Henrik Haahr (2006): <i>Governing Europe, Discourse, Governmentality and European Integration</i></p>

Some online sources:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html</a> (Eur-Lex, access to EU law)</li> <li>• <a href="http://europa.eu">http://europa.eu</a> (European Union's server)</li> <li>• <a href="http://eiop.or.at/erpa/">http://eiop.or.at/erpa/</a> (European research papers Archive)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.euractiv.com">http://www.euractiv.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.europeanvoice.com/">http://www.europeanvoice.com/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.cer.org.uk">http://www.cer.org.uk</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ceps.eu/">https://www.ceps.eu/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.iue.it/">http://www.iue.it/</a></li> </ul>	
Course Schedule:	
Week	Course topics
<i>First week:</i>	Introduction, aims and objectives of the course - <i>Brain storming – what is your interest and goal in studying EU and SEE</i>
<i>Second week:</i>	Introduction to key concepts, principles and theories
<i>Third week:</i>	Fundamental principles, institutional framework and decision making of the EU
<i>Fourth week:</i>	Political processes in the EU
<i>Fifth week:</i>	Enlargement and EU neighbourhood policy
<i>Sixth week:</i>	Democratisation and transformation processes in SEE
<i>Seventh week:</i>	Political system and transformative processes in SEE Democratisation deficits, political antagonisms, and economic problems
<i>Eighth week:</i>	Overview of political and economic developments States, non-state, formal and informal stakeholders
<i>Ninth week:</i>	In class presentation
<i>Tenth week:</i>	In class presentation
<i>Eleventh week:</i>	In class presentation
<i>Twelfth week:</i>	In class presentation
<i>Thirteenth week:</i>	In class presentation
<i>Fourteenth week:</i>	Summary and final discussions
<i>Fifteenth week:</i>	Final written in class exam
Academic Policy:	
<i>Plagiarism will be sanctioned according to the Statute of the University.</i>	