

Theory and Politics of European Integration

Winter Semester, 2026/27
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1 Introduction

This course is about using economics to understand the history and developments of the EU since the post 1945 World Economy up to today. The course is in English and meetings are scheduled every fortnight.

1.1. Course objective

This course will focus on different stages of the European economic and political integration. The main focus of the course is the economic analysis, applying both micro- and macroeconomic tools, of policies to understand the European integration process. We cover a broad range of topics, including European history, the effects of trade liberalization on consumers and producers, competition policy, economic growth, monetary and fiscal policy in Europe and optimum currency areas. It will also touch some recent developments in the international policy agenda like sovereign debt crises, Brexit and the euro crisis.

1.2. Grading

To get the grade, you have to pass a final exam. Completing successfully the course, you get awarded 6 ECTS points.

1.3. Course text

The core text is R. Baldwin and C. Wyplosz, *The Economics of European Integration* (7th edition; McGraw Hill, 2022).

2 Course outline

- 19.10.2026 Lecture 1 – History of European Integration
- 02.11.2026 Lecture 2 – European Institutions and Decision Making
- 16.11.2026 Lecture 3 – Microeconomics of Trade and Tariffs and Preferential Trade Liberalization
- 30.11.2026 Lecture 4 – Market Size and Scale Effects Trade and Competition Policies
- 07.12.2026 Lecture 5 – Economic Growth and Capital Market Integration
- 11.01.2026 Lecture 6 – Migration and Labor Markets
- 25.01.2026 Lecture 7 – Optimum Currency Area Theory and the European Monetary Union (EMU)
- 08.02.2026 Lecture 8 – The EURO crisis