

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration
Chair of International Relations (Prof. Dr. Thomas Gehring)

Lecturer: **Dr. Manuel Becker**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 4:15 – 5:15 p.m., dates to be arranged



Summer Term 2022

Seminar (BA):

European Integration

Brexit, refugee crisis, financial and economic shocks – the European Union is at the center of attention of anyone living in Europe. Since its creation, the European Union has emerged as the most advanced regional integration project in the world. For much of its existence, scholars have treated it as an international organization sui generis, but as European integration has widened in scope and deepened in terms of competences, the EU is increasingly being treated as a political system similar to nation states. This course aims to provide students with both empirical knowledge about the EU and a theoretical toolbox to analyze a wide range of EU-specific questions. Therefore, the seminar is separated in four different subfields: We will first discuss the history of European Integration, the EU's political system and its policy-making process to acquire basic empirical knowledge about the EU. We will then get to know the most relevant theoretical accounts, including Neofunctionalism, Liberal Intergovernmentalism and the three Institutionalisms. We will apply these theories in the last two subfields both to the individual EU institutions as well as to current challenges to European Integration.

Date: Tuesdays, 12:00–14:00 c.t.

Room: F21/03.03

ECTS: 6

Eligibility Requirements:

- The working language of this course is English. Presentations and coursework must also be completed in English.
- In order to have sufficient basic knowledge about the European Union, previous participation in the introductory lecture (Einführungsvorlesung) or an equivalent is required.
- Regular attendance and knowledge of the required texts is expected.
- To obtain 6 Credit Points participants will have to give a presentation and write a term paper (4.500 – 5.500 words).
- The presentation will account for 25% and the term paper for 75% of the total grade.

Course Outline

	<i>I. Get to know the EU</i>
26/04/2022	Introduction: What is the EU?
03/05/2022	History of European Integration and the political system of the EU
	<i>II. Theories of European Integration</i>
10/05/2022	Neofunctionalism and Liberal Intergovernmentalism
17/05/2022	The three Institutionalisms
	<i>III. Analyzing selected European institutions</i>
24/05/2022	Executive Politics and the European Commission
31/05/2022	The European Council and the Council of the European Union
14/06/2022	The European Court of Justice as a Driving Force for Integration?
	<i>IV. Current challenges to European Integration</i>
21/06/2022	Euro crisis: Division between north and south?
28/06/2022	Refugee Crisis: Division between west and east?
05/07/2022	Brexit and its consequences for the EU
12/07/2022	COVID-19 as a driver for European integration?
19/07/2022	Growing authoritarianism in the EU
26/07/2022	Term Paper preparation
31/09/2022	Term Paper Deadline