

European integration 4SK102, Autumn semester 2026

Welcome to the course European integration 4SK102!

In this course we will study and problematise theoretical and political discussions on political matters concerning European integration (within the EU and also in other parts of Europe). Issues concerning the future of Europe and European integration will be linked to historical experiences. Some politically salient issues (for instance democratic backsliding and the refugee crisis/crisis of migration governance will be discussed more in depth). You will also have the opportunity to dwell deeper into issues of your own choosing for your final assignment. Details about course objectives and learning outcomes are available in the official course syllabus (kursplan). The purpose of this study guide is to explain various practical aspects of the course. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Kind regards,

Helena Ekelund, Diana Morina, and Anna Seliverstova

Communication

Information related to the course as well as additional course material (including lecture slides) will be provided in the Moodle room throughout the course. Students are expected to follow this information. Please make sure to familiarise yourself with the Moodle room as soon as possible.

Teachers and contact details:

The course convenor is Helena Ekelund (helena.ekelund@lnu.se). Diana Morina (diana.morina@lnu.se) and Anna Seliverstova (anna.seliverstova@lnu.se) are also teaching on the course. If you wish to speak to us in person, the best time to do so is in connection with classes. Otherwise, the best way to contact us is via e-mail. We normally reply promptly, but you cannot expect replies at evenings or weekends, and you may have to wait two working days for a reply. If you wish to speak to us individually outside of class, please make an appointment in advance.

Methods of teaching:

Classes take the form of lectures and seminars. The lectures provide an overview of the topic and guidance through the course literature. In the seminars, we will explore topics in more depth. As the seminars are also part of the examination, physical attendance at seminars is **compulsory**.

Examinations:

The examination consists of the following parts, all of which must be completed in order to complete the course:

A) Three seminars:

There are three seminars with associated assignments. The seminars are marked pass or fail.

Information about what to prepare for the seminars will be posted on Moodle at least one week before the seminar in question. To pass the seminars, students must show evidence of having prepared in accordance with the instructions, and participate actively in a constructive way.

B) Final written assignment in the form of a mini research paper that is also presented orally:

For the final assignment, students are to develop a mini research paper on a topic of their choosing. The paper must be related to European integration, and at least one of the theoretical perspectives covered on the course must be applied. The paper can be written individually or in pairs. The paper should also be presented orally. The length of paper should be around 2000 words (if written by one student) and around 3000 words (if written by two students). More detailed instructions for the final assignment will be posted separately on Moodle. These instructions will also be presented in class. The mark for the final assignment (including oral presentation) determines the final mark for the course (on condition that all seminars have been marked 'pass'). **The final written assignment is due 3 November at 13:00, and the oral presentation takes place 5 November.**

Re-examinations:

Students who fail to attend a seminar, or whose performance does not meet the requirement for passing mark, will have to complete a compensation task. Any such tasks will be announced after the seminar in question has taken place, and the exact nature of the tasks (verbal and/or written) may depend on how many students are affected. **The re-take deadline for the final written assignment will be 15 December at 13:00 with oral presentation to follow 17 December.**

Marking scale:

The course is marked on the A-F scale. When assessing the final assignment emphasis is placed on the scientific approach. We consider analytical depth, scientific communication and reflection. To pass, the knowledge objectives of the course (as outlined in the official syllabus) must be clearly reflected. The higher the mark, the higher demands on degree of precision and detail, degree of independence and originality in handling the topic, clarity of structure, clarity of written communication including economy of expression, and accuracy of referencing.

Assignment mark	Definition
A	Excellent: outstanding work with only minor errors
B	Very good: above average work, with some weaknesses
C	Good: generally sound work but with some notable weaknesses
D	Satisfactory: fair, but with significant shortcomings
E	Sufficient: performance meets minimum criteria
Fx	Fail: more work required before credit can be awarded
F	Fail: new examination is required

Use of AI:

Using a generative AI to improve your text in different ways and to express your ideas more clearly is allowed. This includes proofreading text for spelling and grammar and getting feedback on clarity and style. However, you are responsible for everything that is included in your text, whereby you cannot use an AI to generate a text in its entirety and submit it as your own. You need to be able to provide sources for all information and understand all content, including vocabulary. See also the document "Generative AI and GPT" posted on Moodle.

Extensions and other special arrangements for examinations:

Students who have a Linnaeus University issued certificate detailing special educational needs due to disability and/or specific learning difficulties (such as dyslexia) may be given reasonable adjustments to their examinations. If this applies to you, please contact the course convenor well in advance of examinations as adjustments are by prior agreement only. Any other extensions are at the discretion of the course convenor.

Course literature:

There are two main books:

Bache, Ian; Bulmer, Simon; George, Stephen; Parker, Owen and Charlotte Burns (latest edition). Politics in the European Union. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rhinard, Mark; Nugent, Neill and William E Paterson (latest edition). Crises and Challenges for the European Union. Directions. London: Bloomsbury.

These books are supplemented by other material (articles, books and so on). Some are obligatory and some are recommended. A selection of articles is available on Moodle, but students are free to choose also others and must also locate their own material for the final assignment.

Overview of taught sessions

Any changes due to unforeseen circumstances will be announced on Moodle. HE = Helena Ekelund, DM = Diana Morina, AS = Anna Seliverstova

Date & Time	Topic	Activity	Preparation	Teacher
3 Sep. 10:15-13:00	Introduction to the course + Historical overview of European integration	Information about the course and its delivery and first lecture	Parker et al: Part Two	HE
9 Sep. 10:15-12:00	EU institutions, law and policymaking	Lecture	Parker et al: Part Three + chapter 17; Rhinard et al. chapter 14	HE
9 Sep 13:00-15:00	EU institutions and policymaking	Seminar, role play (compulsory)	See separate instructions on Moodle.	HE
16 Sep. 13:15-15:00	Theorising European integration and governance, part 1	Lecture	Parker et al: Part One; Rhinard et al. chapter 2	HE
17 Sep. 10:15-12:00	Theorising European integration and governance, part 2	Lecture	Parker et al: Part One; Rhinard et al. chapter 2	HE
23 Sep. See Moodle	Application and discussion of theoretical perspectives	Seminar 2 (compulsory)	See separate instructions on Moodle.	HE
29 Sep. 10:15-12:00	Democratic backsliding	Lecture	Rhinard et al. chapter 11; Additional reading to be announced on Moodle nearer the time.	AS
14 Oct. 13:15-15:00	The refugee crisis	Lecture	Rhinard et al. chapter 7; Additional reading to be announced on Moodle nearer the time.	DM
22 Oct. 10:15-12:00	Crises and challenges to European integration	Seminar 3 (compulsory)	See separate instructions on Moodle.	HE
5 Nov. See Moodle	Final assignment	Verbal presentations of final assignment	See separate instructions on Moodle	HE