Course Content

This two-part course aims to explain and evaluate the origins, development and continued growth of European integration since 1945. It deals with the original intention of France and Germany to banish war from Europe, the importance of economic co-operation culminating in the single currency, the evolution of a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the series of treaties of which the Lisbon Treaty is the most recent and hotly contested.

The course focuses on both Western and Eastern Europe; on countries regarded as enthusiastic about integration such as Spain, Portugal and Germany for example, as well as countries where opposition to integration has become evident: UK, Denmark and Ireland. As well as a thorough understanding of the EU’s historical development, this course aims to cover the most recent issues in EU international relations to familiarise with contemporary European diplomacy.

Weekly Outline

1. Origins of European integration after 1945
2. Why the UK did not join 1945 - 1967
3. 1973 Enlargement: UK, Denmark and Ireland
4. Rise and fall of the Eastern European Reformers 1945 - 1968
5. From Customs Union to Werner Report 1957 – 1970
6. 1970's crisis and abandonment of Werner Plan
7. Rise and fall of the Eastern European Reformers 1968 - 1980
8. Brandt and Ostpolitik: EU Integration opportunity cost?

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should have:

- an appreciation of the EU’s historical development
- an awareness of the most recent issues affecting EU international relations
- an understanding of the immense challenges facing the EU today