The Political Economy of European Integration I

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 the most hotly contested.

The course focuses on both Western and Eastern Europe; it focuses on countries regarded as very enthusiastic about integration – Spain, Portugal, Germany for example – as well as countries where opposition to integration has become evident – UK, Denmark, Ireland for example.

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 enable students to be familiar with contemporary European diplomacy.

Week 1   Origins of European integration after 1945
Week 2   Why the UK did not join 1945 - 1970
Week 3   1973 Enlargement: UK, Denmark and Ireland
Week 4   Rise and fall of the Eastern European Reformers 1945 - 1970
Week 5   From De Gaulle to Brandt: EU relations with USA, NATO and the USSR
Week 6   From Customs Union to the Werner Report 1957 - 1970
Week 7   1970s crisis and the abandonment of the Werner Plan
Week 8   Delors, German unification and Eastern Europe
Week 9   1980s enlargement: Greece, Spain and Portugal
Week 10  Thatcher: Challenging EU integration in the 1980s

Intended Learning Outcomes

As well as a thorough understanding of the EU’s historical development, this course aims to familiarise students with the most recent issues in EU international relations.