Content:

This graduate/undergraduate seminar will be introduced by a historical review of the European Union’s development, its main institutions and policies. Then an analysis of the main features of the European Union's external relations will become the primary focus. Special attention will be given to the expanded external role of the European Commission, the exclusive trade competences, the external impact of some of the most important common policies (agriculture, competition, environment, transport), the development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (including the position of the High Representative of the CFSP), and the role of the euro as an international currency. As part of the external dimension of the EU, three special components will be explored: enlargement plans to the rest of Europe, the nature of the "internal" relations and policies of selected member states with the European Union as entity, as well as their autonomous foreign policies, and the international profile and legal personality of the EU.

The seminar will then deal with EU’s relations with the “EU Neighborhood”, the Mediterranean, the United States, and other industrialized states. The EU's practice of North-South relations, development aid, and cooperation, such as the Lomé/Cotonou Convention will follow. A brief historical review of the relations between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean will serve as an introduction to the main features of the current links between the EU (and some selected member states) and Latin America. A comparison of regional integration architectures in the rest of the world, with special attention to the European Union experience as hypothetical model for inter-American integration, will simultaneously complete this exploration of the link to the Western hemisphere link. More importantly, how the above topics have affected the relations with the United States will be taken into account during all the discussions.

At all times, references will be made to the corresponding treaties and EU legislation. Meetings will be conducted in a lecture/seminar format, supplemented by frequent presentations by guest speakers. The expected work to be developed will be student-oriented. Participants will be able to specialize in some of the topics and geographical dimensions and de-emphasize others.

Requirements

- Five mini-papers/reports (50%; 10 points each), 500-700 words. The format is an essay, with an attractive title, developing an angle of the “central focus” of each of the units, and/or one of the “subtopics”, using a balanced minimum number of sources: (1) basic information from EU pamphlets or web; (2) a news item (30-day term) to proof current value of the subject chosen; (3) a chapter of one of the basic books or an advanced reading as in (4); (4) an advanced scholarly reading (chapter of book or academic article published in a academic journal), or a policy/analytical paper extracted from a institute, center, think-tank (such as our own www.miami.edu/eucenter, publications). Note: one source is strongly expected (obligatory?) to be published in a language other than English. Suggestions on topics will be given, but in principle participants should take the initiative. Models will be provided.
• One major paper (30%), 15-20 pages, or special project (approved by instructor). Number of sources: a minimum of 10, double in the categories of the minipapers. To be due around May 4, or alternate.
• Objective testing (20 points, 20%). First part: March 22; second part and make-up for better grade of first part: day of the official exam, or alternate.

Priority books:


