



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

GUÍA DOCENTE

2024 - 2025

FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Estudios regionales: Europa
Código	E000010701
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	6,0 ECTS
Carácter	Básico
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Responsable	Marta Molina Urosa
Descriptor	This course provides an in-depth exploration of the European reality from a multidisciplinary perspective, focusing on Europe's history, politics and international presence. Students will analyse the evolution of the conceptualisation of Europe, the impact of historical events such as the World Wars and the Cold War on the European identity, and the ongoing process of European integration through the European Union. The course will also address contemporary issues offering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Europe today. Through lectures, readings, discussions, in-class activities and a simulation game, students will gain critical insights into the complexities of the European region and its role in the global context.

Datos del profesorado

DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura

Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación

The aim is to provide students with a general overview of the main issues that defined the course of European history during the 20th century (and first decades in 21st century!) This includes the study of conflicts between European great powers and states, main actors' internal political developments, cultural issues, analysis of the mentalities and the ideologies that shaped the continent during last century.

Essay writing will allow the student to explore themes in more depth.

The student will become familiar with changing geo-political pattern of Europe nation-states and empires; the causes and effects of wars; the main political movements; changes in living standards; integration process; and the range of experiences that Europeans have lived through. The student will be able to read a complex historical text.

Course seminars will be thematic in organisation. Students will prepare for seminars by reading set texts in advance. Discussion of these texts will form the basis of seminar discussion.

Students will be penalised for late submissions unless granted an extension in advance causes for requesting extensions are illness or a serious personal problem.

How to succeed in this course

The course emphasizes reading, debating, and writing skills that are sometimes unfamiliar, but essential. There are no notes available, but all materials needed would be available. The readings are only the beginning, as they are a springboard in many lectures. You should be



taking notes on the readings and deepening your knowledge of the historical issues through more reading.

At the end of the course, students will have a sophisticated understanding of contemporary European political issues and can place them within the broader context of 20th/21st century history.

Prerrequisitos

none

Competencias - Objetivos

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

TOPIC 1 - INTRODUCTION. CONCEPTUALISATION OF EUROPE

PART 1: What is Europe? How can Europe be defined? What elements define Europe?

- Main ideas on Europe's conceptualisation.
- Introduction to geopolitics.
- Factors defining Europe.

PART 2: What is not Europe? The European 'otherness'

- Ingroup/Outgroup.
- Unbounding/Rebounding.
- Identity Politics.
- Geopolitical Codes.

TOPIC 2 - HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN REALITY. BASICS ON EUROPEAN HISTORY.

- The idea of nation-states.
- Bismark diplomacy and order.
- The World Wars (WWI, the Interwar period, WWII).
- Political revolutions.
- The Cold War and its aftermath.

TOPIC 3 - CONSOLIDATING THE IDEA OF EUROPE: THE EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT.

- Europe's *raison d'être*. European principles.
- The institutions of the European Union. How does the Union work?
- EU competences and policies.

TOPIC 4 - EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION: CRISES

- Europeanisation: Integration and disintegration.
- Theoretical approaches to EU integration: basic approaches to EU integration.
- The democratic deficit and legitimacy crises in the EU institutions.



- Case Studies: Brexit, the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 crises

TOPIC 5 - EUROPE, ITS ALLIES AND ENEMIES

- The EU Enlargement policy: Candidate countries.
- Relationship with the environment: the Eastern Partnership (EaP).
- Europe in the Word.

TOPIC 6 - CONFLICTS DEFINING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

- The US and Europe: NATO and the European Union.
- Europe and Russia.
- The Ukraine War.
- The future of Europe.

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

The subject "Regional Studies: Europe" implements a combination of different methodologies with the aim of ensuring comprehensive and dynamic learning for students.

Metodología Presencial: Actividades

Throughout the semester, **lectures** will provide the theoretical and conceptual frameworks necessary to understand and analyze the key issues shaping the current state of affairs in Europe. These sessions will be supplemented by active learning methodologies, including **in-class activities** such as debates, case studies, and a simulation game, among others.

The objective of this approach is to foster an effective learning process, enabling students to apply the knowledge gained to their future professional careers. This methodology also encourages the development of **critical thinking and analytical skills**, both within and beyond the classroom setting.

Active participation is a cornerstone of the course, playing a crucial role in its overall effectiveness and in the student's own learning journey.

Metodología No presencial: Actividades

The combination of lectures and active classroom methodologies will be supplemented by **independent work** on the part of the student. The aim of these autonomous activities is to strengthen the student's **research and reflection skills**, thereby reinforcing the knowledge acquired during the lectures.

To complement the material covered in class, students will be provided with readings to complete throughout the semester.

RESUMEN HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO

RESUMEN DE HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO/STUDENT WORK HOURS

Horas presenciales/ Face-to-face hours

Trabajo autónomo/Autonomous work



Aprox. 60

Aprox. 90

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Assessment Activities	Criterion
Final exam	The final exam will take the form of an essay, where students must adopt a position and defend it with arguments supported by scientific evidence. A list of three essay topics will be provided, from which students must select one. To average with the other assessment activities, the exam score must be at least 5 out of 10.
Simulation Game	Over the span of three weeks, students will engage in a simulation game aimed at resolving an international crisis. Each student will represent a key stakeholder in the crisis and must work to safeguard their respective interests.
Final Briefing	Additional information regarding the format and content will be provided throughout the course.
Course participation	Participation in class activities and attendance.

Calificaciones

Para poder presentarse a la convocatoria ordinaria es requisito no haber faltado injustificadamente a más de un tercio de las clases. De no cumplir este requisito, el alumno podrá perder las convocatorias ordinaria y extraordinaria (art. 93.1 del Reglamento General)

Assessment Activities	Weighting
Final exam	50%
Simulation Game	25%
Final Briefing	15%
Course participation	10%

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

To supplement the material covered in the course, it is advisable to consult the following academic resources:

- Costa, O., & Brack, N. (2019). *How the EU Really Works*. Routledge.
- Coman, R., Crespy, A., & Schmidt, V. A. (2020). *Governance and Politics in the Post-Crisis European Union*. Cambridge University Press.
- Triandafyllidou, A., & Gropas, R. (2023). *What is Europe?*. Routledge.
- Leuffen, D., Rittberger, B., & Schimmelfenning, F. (2022). *Integration and Differentiation in the European Union: Theory and Policies*.



Palgrave Macmillan.

- Buonanno, L., & Nugent, N. (2020). *Policies and Policy Processes of the European Union*. Red Globe Press.
- Hix, S., & Høyland, B. (2022). *The Political System of the European Union*. Bloomsbury Academic.
- Richardson, J., & Mazey, S., (2015). *European Union: Power and Policy-making*. Routledge.
- Wallace, H., Pollack, M. A., & Young, A. R., (2015). *Policy-Making in the European Union*. Oxford University Press.
- Olsen, J. (2021). *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. Routledge.

FURTHER READINGS AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES WILL BE PROVIDED VIA MOODLE.

Bibliografía Complementaria

European History:

BOOKS:

- Alcock, A. (2002). *A short history of Europe*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke:Palgrave
- Berend I. T. (2016). *The History of European Integration: A New Perspective*. Routledge.
- Best, A. (2015). *An International History of the 20th century and beyond*. 3rd ed. Routledge.
- Davies, N. (1998) *Europe. A history*. London: Pimlico. Chapters XI and XII.
- Dinan, D. (2014). *Europe Recast: A History of European Union* (2nd edn.). Palgrave.
- Fabbrini, S. (2015). *Which European Union? Europe after the Euro Crisis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ferguson, N. (1999). *The pity of war*. London: Penguin. (Selected readings).
- Col. Hughes-Wilson, J. (2006). *The Cold War*. London: Constable & Robinson
- Jaraush, K. H. (2015) *Out of ashes. A new history of Europe in the twentieth century*. Princeton University Press.
- Judt, T. (2006). *Postwar*. Penguin Books.
- Keegan, J. (1997): *The Second World War*. London: Pimlico. (Selected readings).
- Mazower, M. (1998) *The crisis of capitalism*. Dark Continent. Vintage Books, Random House. Pp 115-130.
- Nugent, N. (2010), *The Government and Politics of the European Union (Part 1)*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Overy, R. (2010). *1939. Countdown to war*. London: Penguin
- Richards, M., Waibel, P. (2014). *Twentieth Century Europe: A Brief History, 1900 to present*. Malden: Wiley Blackwell.
- Sakwa, R., Stevens, A. (2012). *Contemporary Europe*. Basingstoke: Palgrave. Selected chapters.
- Stites, R. (2002) *The Russian Empire and the Soviet Union in Howard, M. The Oxford History of the Twentieth Century by Oxford University Press*.

OTHER ACADEMIC SOURCES:

- Klaus Patel, K. (2019). Widening and deepening? Recent advances in European Integration History. *Neue Polit. Lit.* 64, 327–357.
- Gilbert, M. (2008). Narrating the Process: Questioning the Progressive Story of European Integration. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 44 (3), 641-662.

European integration (theory and practice):

- Bergmann, J. y Niemann, A. (2015). Chapter 11: Theories of European Integration. En Jorgensen, K. E., Aarstad, A. K., Drieskens, E., Laatikainen, K., y Torna, B. (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of European Foreign Policy*. Sage.
- Hoerber, T., Weber, G., y Cabras, I. (2021). *The Routledge Handbook of European Integrations*. Routledge.
- Wiener, A., Börzel, T. A., y Risse, T. (2018). *European Integration Theory*. Oxford University Press.

The European Union's governance:

- Bradford, A. (2021). *The Brussels Effect: How the European Union Rules the World*. OUP USA.
- Damro, C. (2012). Market power Europe. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 19(5), 682–699.



- Elmuradov, A. (2024). *Russia and the EU in the New World Disorder: Revisiting Sovereignty and Balance of Power in the study of Russian Foreign Policy*. Routledge.

European Union's policies:

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY:

- Domorenok, E. (2019). *Governing Sustainability: From Political Discourse to Policy Practices*. Routledge.
- Zito, A. R., Burns, C., y Lenschow, A. (2024). *The Future of the Union Environmental Politics and Policy*. Routledge.

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

- Howorth, J. (2014). Introduction: CSDP - A 'Work in Progress'. En *Security and Defence Policy in the European Union* (pp 1-32). Red Globe Press.
- Keukeleire, S., y Delreux, T. (2022). *The Foreign Policy of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Vanhoonacker - Kormoss, S., y Pomorska, K. (2013). The European External Action Service and agenda-setting in European Foreign Policy. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 20(9), 1316-1331.

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION:

- Chang, M. (2022). *Economic and Monetary Union*. Bloomsbury Academic.
- The Economist (27 de agosto de 2016). Two out of Three Ain't Bad. *The Economist*.

SOCIAL POLICY:

- Crespy, A. (2022). *The European Social Question: Tackling Key Controversies*. Agenda Publishing.
- Graziano, P., y Hartlapp, M. (2018). The end of Social Europe? Understanding EU Social Policy Change. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 26(10), 1484-1501.