

European and Regional Integration Theories (K001233)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Debusscher, Petra

PS03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

crdts

offering

6

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science\(main subject International Politics\)](#)

6

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in EU-Studies](#)

6

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in EU-Studies](#)

6

A

[Elective Set Political Sciences](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

political science, European Union, integration theories, critical theories, regionalism, comparative regionalism, European politics, debate

Position of the course

This is a general course in the Major European and World Politics (Ba Political Science). The course aims to provide the basic concepts for studying regional integration in Europe and for making critical and scientific assessments of European politics. At the same time, attention goes to processes of regionalism outside Europe and to comparative regionalism. The course prepares students who aim to write a Master Paper in EU Studies or who are preparing a Bachelor Thesis on the EU or other forms of regionalism. The course also provides traditional and critical frames to reflect on these phenomena. Much attention goes to ongoing and topical developments and to debating EU politics.

Contents

This course includes a traditional overview of European integration theories (federalism, neo/functionalist, (liberal)intergovernmentalism, multi-level governance, europeanization, critical theories, new institutionalism, constructivism). Each time the relevance of theories is considered for recent political developments and there is also attention for comparative regionalism. Theories are contextualized by reference to their scientific and societal context. There is special attention for critical assessments of traditional theories and for critical approaches.

The second part of the course builds on this foundation by engaging with key debates in EU politics. Students work in small groups around a specific proposition, drawing on both current affairs and academic literature. They also prepare an Oxford-style debate on their assigned topic. In addition, students attend a series of guest lectures on pressing EU issues, delivered by experts and/or policymakers. Following these lectures, students write a "Theory-in-Practice" paper, applying European integration theories to a contemporary EU case.

Initial competences

Having successfully taken courses on European political integration and on political

science - or having acquired similar competences in another way.

Final competences

- 1 Having a profound knowledge of diverse theoretical perspectives in analysing EU politics.
- 2 Having knowledge of different theoretical perspectives on (comparative) regionalism.
- 3 Having a profound insight into the relationship between these theories and their societal and academic context.
- 4 Being able to link and combine different theoretical insights.
- 5 Being able to theoretically assess current evolutions and events in EU and other regional politics.
- 6 Being able to write a theoretically informed research paper on EU/regionalism.
- 7 Witnessing a critical attitude towards statements on dynamics of regional integration in the EU and elsewhere, with attention for power and ideological dimensions.
- 8 Being able to find relevant academic texts on the EU or regionalism, to synthesize and critically assess them.
- 9 Being able to apply theories on European and/or regional integration to a specific case.
- 10 Being able to critically reflect on a particular statement about EU politics and to defend this statement in a debate.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

Ex cathedra lectures based on the handbook.
Guided exercises and quiz in class, based on theoretical texts.
independent work: assignment and debate.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: European and Regional Integration Theories
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Author : Jan Orbie
Number of Pages : 600
Alternative : no alternative
Oldest Usable Edition : this academic year
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
Additional information: Texts on Ufora, free

References

Lelieveldt, H. & Princen, S. (2011) *The Politics of the European Union*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (nieuwe editie 2015); Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, M. (2006) *Debates on European Integration*, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan; Jørgensen, K.E., Pollack, M. en Rosamond, B. (2007) *Handbook on European Union Politics*, London: Sage; Nelsen, B.F., Stubb, A. (2003) *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration* (3rd edition), Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan; Rosamond, B. (1999) *Theories of European Integration*, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan; Wiener, A., Diez, T. (eds) (2009) *European Integration Theory*,

Oxford: Oxford University Press; Saurugger, S. (2013) *Theoretical Approaches to European Integration*, Palgrave.
Journal of Common Market Studies; Journal of European Public Policy; European Union Politics; Journal of European Integration

Course content-related study coaching

Support through Ufora.
personal appointment possible.
Exercises with in-class feedback.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

- periodical evaluation: MCE exam, (10/20) - Oxford-debate (4/20)
- permanent evaluation : (1) paper (4/20) (2) participation (2/20)

Calculation of the examination mark

MCE (10/20), paper (4/20), debate (4/20), participation (2/20)

Facilities for Working Students

Exams can be rescheduled.