

*Approved by the Academic council  
of the Education programme  
“Foreign Languages and  
Intercultural Communication”  
Protocol No. 6 from 26.08.2019*

Syllabus  
Understanding Europe: Why It Matters and What It Can Offer You  
(N ECTS)

Authors, lecturer (e-mail, web-page): Budnikova A.A., [abudnikova@hse.ru](mailto:abudnikova@hse.ru)  
Department of Foreign Languages  
Meeting Minute # \_\_\_\_dated \_\_\_\_\_ 2019

## **1. Course Description**

### **a) Pre-requisites:**

Understanding Europe: Why It Matters and What It Can Offer You is a two-module course designed for undergraduate students of the Foreign Languages and Intercultural Communication programme. To fulfill the requirements of the course students need to have a good command of written and spoken English (required CEFR language proficiency level is B2).

### **b) Abstract**

Regardless of where you live, the European Union not only affects your life, but may also transform it. By learning how Europe works, a new world will open up to you and discover new jobs you never heard of. The European Union has a large, yet often unnoticed, impact on many aspects of everybody's life. We will analyze what the EU is doing for YOU regardless of where you live. We will also look at what YOU can do for and in Europe. Whether you are traveling, eating, working, doing business, shopping, surfing the Internet or breathing, all these activities are largely shaped by the EU. As a result no global citizen, business leader, lawmaker, lobbyist or student can effectively operate in Europe or in the world without a solid understanding of this unique laboratory of integration. While the EU is often depicted as a monstrous bureaucratic creature, condemned to irrelevance by the emerging economies, in 50 years it accomplished what other countries took centuries to realize. The EU remains the most accomplished experiment of economic, social and political integration in human history.

## **2. Learning Objectives**

1. Empower students as citizens, residents, corporations or even as tourists in the

European Union;

2. Make students aware of what the European Union is, and what it can offer to global citizens.

### 3. Learning Outcomes

**By the end of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Identify what impact the EU has on our daily life, taking a critical perspective on the EU's purpose but also highlighting the opportunities it offers;
2. Define where the EU's idea comes from and how it was put into practice;
3. Discuss what the "European Paradox" is and express their opinion about it;
4. Get familiarized with and learn how to interact with: the EU Member States, the EU Institutions, and identify all EU relevant actors;
5. Learn what are the competences of the EU and the limits to its action;
6. Explore the major policies shaped by the EU and affecting citizens, such as trade, agriculture and innovation;
7. Explore how Intellectual Property works;
8. Become aware of EU rights and how to make them actionable;
9. Gain a better understanding of how the EU is financed;
10. Become aware of Fundamental Rights, Values of the EU;
11. Learn what are the rights and duties of EU Citizens.

### 4. Course Plan

№	Course section	Total hours	Learning Outcomes	Control
		lectures		
		seminars		
		self-guided work		
1	Why the European Union?	--	Learn the EU's impact on our daily life; take a critical perspective on the EU's purpose; highlight the opportunities it offers	Research project Tasks 1, 2 ( <i>See §6. Grading system</i> )
		--		
		19		
2	Who is the European Union?	--	Learn what the EU is, who its main actors are, by whom it is composed; identify who decides in Europe; learn how to interact with its main	Research project Task 3
		--		
		19		

			actors	
3	What the EU can do?	--	Analyze the EU's powers: What can it do? How far can it go? In which policies is it involved? Analyze the EU's major fields of intervention: What does the EU do for trade, agriculture and innovation?	Research project Task 4
		--		
		19		
4	How does the EU work?	--	Learn the EU's means of action: the process of its work, who does what, its strengths and weaknesses	Research project Task 5
		--		
		19		
5	What can the EU do for you?	--	Examine the EU's movement from freedom to funding opportunities, immigration policies, establishment, level playing field through competition law, getting you a job	Research project Task 6
		--		
		19		
6	What can you do for Europe?	--	Analyze the initiatives and instruments fostering civic engagement in the EU (public consultations, ECIs, Ombudsman, etc)	Research project Task 7
		--		
		19		
	<b>Total hours:</b>	114		

## 5. Reading List

### a) Required

On-line course "Understanding Europe: Why It Matters and What It Can Offer You"

URL: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/europe>

Authors: Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law and Risk Regulation

## 6. Grading System

$$O = 0,25 * O_{\text{tasks1,2,3,7}} + 0,25 * O_{\text{tasks4,5,6}} + 0,5 * O_{\text{exam}}$$

Research project – not blocking, cannot be resat.

Exam – not blocking, can be resat.

Research project topic: “EU and Russia: cooperation”.

**The project is carried out individually and submitted in hard-copy to the professor by June 1st.**

Research project plan:

Task1. Choose any aspect of the EU-Russia cooperation (science, politics, business, culture, etc.);

Task 2. Conduct research on historical perspective of the EU-Russia cooperation within the chosen context;

Task 3. Examine EU-Russia cooperation projects realized today within the chosen context (for instance, cremlin.eu);

Task 4. Carry out a survey among Russian/EU citizens to find out what they know of the EU-Russia cooperation within the chosen context, realized projects, personal attitude;

Task 5. Visualize the obtained data;

Task 6. Make conclusions on possible future perspectives of the EU-Russia cooperation within the chosen context;

Task 7. Design the project’s portfolio.

**Assessment criteria:**

Tasks 1-2	4 points	Research on historical perceptions
Task 3	4 points	Research on contemporary projects
Task 4	4 points	Survey
Task 5	2 points	Data visualization
Task 6	4 points	Conclusions
Task 7	2 points	Portfolio design

All the grades are rounded half up (arithmetic rounding) to the nearest whole numerical grade.

**7. Examination Type**

The exam will be held online in the LMS system.

Structure: 30 questions. Each correct answer weighs 1 point. Maximum: 30 points.

Test question types: multiple choice, gap-filling, true/false, open questions.

Sample exam questions:

- 1) Which countries were the first to join the EU just after the 6 founding member states?
- 2) How many governing institutions make the EU machinery work?

Final exam grade will be calculated using the following formula:  
 $O_{exam} = O_{cumulated\ points} : 3$ . All the grades are rounded half up (arithmetic rounding) to the nearest whole numerical grade.

## **8. Methods of Instruction**

The course has got a blended format including contact hours with the professor and self-guided work.

## **9. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)**

Standard technical equipment (PC+CPr) and requirements, including Wi-Fi access.