

## ABS0424 – European Business Environment

Course Title	European Business Environment			
Course Code	ABS0424			
Course Type	Elective			
Level	BSc (Level 1)			
Year / Semester	3rd			
Teacher's Name	Dr Bernard Musyck			
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3	Laboratories/week
Course Purpose	<p>Broadly speaking, the purpose of this course is to familiarize the students with the European Business Environment. Besides introducing the European institutional environment, the focus of the course will be to emphasize how specific regulations and the wider competitive framework implemented throughout the Union affect the operations of companies. Many case studies will be reviewed highlighting also how European best practices (such as consumer protection, health and safety standards, environmental standards, etc) have been implemented by many states beyond the confines of the Union.</p>			
Learning Outcomes	<p>Examine how European integration came about and analyze the economic and political logic that led to the creation of the Union. Students will learn to differentiate the terms of “European Economic Community”, “European Community” and “European Union” as well as special concepts like the “<i>acquis communautaire</i>” and the term of “subsidiarity”.</p> <p>Students will understand the genesis of Europe; starting from the initial failure of a supranational organization, followed by the European Coal and Steel Community, the Common Agricultural Policy, the Single Market (to only name a few) and the new challenges affecting the Union.</p> <p>Identify how micro and macroeconomic tools can help understanding the logic of integration. To this end, a short introduction to the theory of trade will be proposed leading the students to understand the main arguments for free trade. In this context, students will learn of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade have been hampering integration.</p> <p>Review the main EU policies and their effects on the economy and society. To do this end, the example of the Single Market will be analysed including the</p>			

	<p>challenges it still faces today. Labour movement, immigration and asylum will also be reviewed in the context of the new challenges these pose to the process of a deeper integration between Member States. The weaker structures of the European project will be highlighted in this context.</p> <p>Analyse the monetary and fiscal aspects of the European integration process. The students will learn the concepts of “optimum currency area”, the related costs and benefits of the introduction of the EURO and the idea of “asymmetric shocks”. The aim will be to introduce the students to the challenges of Monetary Union and the possible future developments regarding fiscal union</p>		
Prerequisites	ABSE205	Co-requisites	N/A
Course Content	<p>Introduction to history and institutions History of European Integration Basic facts, law, institutions and the budget Decision making, European terminology</p> <p>The economics of integration: tools and concepts Introduction to essential microeconomic tools and preferential liberalization Market size and scale effects Growth effects and factor market integration Economic integration, labour markets and migration Introduction to essential macroeconomic tools</p> <p>EU Micro policies The Common Agricultural Policy Location effects, economic geography and regional policy EU competition policy and state aid policy EU trade policy</p> <p>EU monetary and fiscal policies The theory of Economic and Monetary Union The long road to Economic and Monetary union The Eurozone: Structure, Performance</p>		

Teaching Methodology	<p><i>Ex cathedra</i> lectures, class discussions and presentations</p> <p>Lectures, discussions and presentations by students. Students will also be required to watch specially selected videos (mostly documentaries) to complement their reading of the course material.</p> <p>Students will be invited to attend at least one external seminar (public talk, conference, academic presentation) on a relevant topic. If such opportunities will not be available during the course of the semester, a video recording of a relevant presentation abroad will be shown and discussed in class.</p>
Bibliography	<p>(a) <u>Textbooks:</u></p> <p>Nello S. S, (latest edition) The European Union: Economics, Policies and History, McGraw-Hill</p> <p>(b) <u>References:</u></p> <p>Baldwin R, and Wyplosz C, (latest edition) The economics of European Integration, McGraw-Hill          El-Agraa A (Ed), (latest edition) The European Union: Economics and Policies, Cambridge          Neal L, (latest edition) The Economics of Europe and the European Union, Cambridge</p>
Assessment	<p><u>(a) Methods:</u> Students will be assessed with a final exam and coursework that involves an online assignment (quiz), a midterm test.</p> <p><u>(b) Criteria:</u> The assessment criteria are assignment-specific and will be highlighted on the exam paper.</p> <p><u>(c) Weights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment (online)      20%</li> <li>• Mid-term test                20%</li> <li>• Final exam                    60%</li> </ul>
Language	English