The Economics of European Integration (Corona-Edition)

Outline
Summer 2020

A course about the Economics of European Integration based on the textbook by Baldwin/Wyplosz. We apply both micro- and macroeconomic tools to understand the European integration process. We cover a broad range of topics, including task allocation, the effects of liberalizing trade on consumers and producers, competition policy, monetary and fiscal policy in Europe, optimum currency areas and other monetary arrangements and probably more.

There is a version history at the end of the document. Updates of this document will be announced via Moodle.

A self-study course

This course is intended for students who have attended "Economic of European Integration" in previous semesters but have not yet passed the exam.

The course content is organised in such a way that you can review everything, using material from the winter semester 2019/2020. Probably in the first week of June there will be an exam which will be held without your physical presence in Frankfurt (Oder). Further details will follow at the beginning of the semester. Updates of this document will be announced via Moodle.

MES students with the focus on "Economics" should choose Ingo Geishecker’s course "European Economic Integration (Master)".

We cover a broad range of topics with the common theme that they belong to the Economics of European Integration. Where possible, we apply our knowledge to current issues (Brexit, "Trumponomics", migration & refugees, reform of the Eurozone, ...).

In the beginning of the course, a couple of lectures and tutorials are dedicated to an introduction to general economics, especially for those students that did not study economics before and that have to deal with a “culture shock”. For some students, this might be a bit boring, for others this will be a welcome opportunity to make sure that they understand basic concepts used in economic analysis.

Please register yourself as a student in Moodle and make sure to check our page frequently and/or pay attention to your Email-account provided by Viadrina. The URL is https://moodle.europa-uni.de/course/view.php?id=7420. These are the necessary enrollment keys:

MES-students:
I-am-a-MES-student-in-SoSe20

dbecker@europa-uni.de, http://www.wiwi.europa-uni.de/iwbz
Bachelor-students:
I-am-a-BA-student-in-SoSe20
Moodle is our central communication tool. So, please do not send private messages, unless it is really necessary. We also use Moodle to provide lecture slides and other downloads.

Please note that the lectures will be recorded and made available for course participants. You are not allowed to share those videos, they are for your private use only.

examination

The examination is due in the middle of the semester, probably in the first week of June. It will not be necessary to show up in Frankfurt (oder). Details will be announced via Moodle ASAP. The exams for Bachelor and Master students will be slightly different.

To register, go to https://viacampus.europa-uni.de/. Bachelor student look for the course “5041 The Economics of European Integration”. For Master students the examination is organized using this title: “1951 Economics of European Integration (MES)”.

A special note for Erasmus students: I sometimes receive requests to certify that students participated in my course but nevertheless failed the exam. Following a general policy at Viadrina, I am not going to provide you with a certificate like this. The same applies to attendance reports or requests to clarify the reasons for failure by partner universities. What you can get in this course is 6 ECTS, given that you pass the exam. These ECTS will then be recognized by your home university. This is the standard procedure in the Erasmus program.

Students enrolled in the winter semester who have not yet had the opportunity to write the second exam will be given a new date for this exam as soon as this is possible. This will then be a written exam on site in the Viadrina buildings.

textbook, topics, reading list

The course follows roughly the structure of the textbook by Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019 and will be taught in english language. Please note that we intend to use the 6th edition of the book. The 4th and the 5th edition are also ok, but slightly outdated. The Viadrina library provides a number of textbooks.

In addition, we use as a general introduction Krugman and Wells, 2015 - the publisher offers a trial access for the online version of that textbook. Another source for general economics is CORE, 2017, that is published as an EBook free of charge.

A lecture will cover (roughly) a chapter from the textbook. You should consider those chapters as mandatory reading. In addition, there will be extra-references for most topics that you are expected to read (self-study) or that are simply suggestions because they are interesting.
lecture topics & schedule

This list of topics and references will be updated occasionally.

1. An very short history of European Integration, and a little bit of Economics (Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019, ch. 1-2)
2. Economic models & diagrams (Krugman and Wells, 2015, ch. 1-2; CORE, 2017)
3. Supply, Demand and Welfare (Krugman and Wells, 2015, ch. 3)
4. Public Goods (Krugman and Wells, 2015, ch. 17)
5. Decision making in the EU (Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019, ch. 3)
6. Essential microeconomic tools (Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019, ch. 4)
7. The economics of (preferential) trade liberalisation (Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019, ch. 5 + 12)
8. Introduction into imperfect competition
9. Market size, scale effects and competition policy (Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019, ch. 6)
10. Trade Policy: Subsidies, Competition Policy, Free Trade, ENP, Brexit / NTBs
11. Growth effects of European Integration
12. Essential macro for open economies
13. Optimum currency areas (Baldwin and Wyplosz, 2019, ch. 15)

References


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Version history of this document:

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