

Universitat Ramon Llull (Barcelona)
IQS School of Business
Nexus Barcelona-Paris
Summer 2009

Course Number: **RLFN-337**

Introduction to the European Union: Economics, Politics and Society
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Course Syllabus

- **Course Description**

This course provides an inter-disciplinary overview of the history, evolution and current challenges facing the European Union. It focuses on the economic and political rationale for closer integration, on the difficulties of reconciling sharply different cultural, legal and political traditions, on the stresses caused by immigration and enlargement, and on the recent challenges presented by the global economic and financial crisis.

- **Textbook**

"Understanding the European Union", by John McCormick, Palgrave Macmillan, 4th Ed., 2008

Plus supplementary articles and case-studies to be distributed by the instructor.

- **Professional Visits**

Students will be required to participate in 10 professional visits to corporations and international organizations.

- **Contact Hours**

In the classroom:	48
In professional visits:	30
Total:	78

- **Grading Scale**

High to Low	=	Letter Grade
100 - 94	=	A
93 - 89	=	A-
88 - 85	=	B+
84 - 82	=	B
81 - 78	=	B-
77 - 74	=	C+

73 - 70	=	C
69 - And below	=	F

- **Components of Final Grade**

35%	Midterm Exam
35%	Final Exam
10%	Team Project
10%	Case Studies
10%	Class Participation

- **Tentative Outline**

Week 1:

- The evolution of European integration
- The impact of the 2008-2009 crisis on the EU
- Economic, political and social conditions in Spain in 2009
- Understanding cultural differences within the EU
- Cultural characteristics of the people in Spain: Inter-regional differences and comparisons with other countries
- The Treaty of Rome
- The Maastricht treaty
- The costs and benefits of European integration
- Characteristics and impact of the Single Market Program
- Labor movement and immigration in the EU
- The changing pattern of immigration over the years
- The Schengen Agreement
- Moslem minorities in the EU: Assimilation and marginalization

Week 2:

- Economic, political and social conditions in France in 2009
- Cultural characteristics of the people in France: Inter-regional differences and comparisons with other countries
- The changing membership of the EU
- The growing importance of Eastern Europe
- The debate over Turkey's admission to the EU
- The Lisbon strategy
- The Mediterranean policy
- The Constitutional treaty
- The European Commission
- The Council of Ministers
- The European Parliament
- The European Court of Justice
- Social and Employment policies
- Environmental policies
- Competition and industrial policies

Week 3:

- Economic, political and social conditions in Italy in 2009
- Cultural characteristics of the people in Italy: Inter-regional differences and comparisons with other countries
- The Euro and the long road to monetary union

- The European Central Bank
- The future of the Euro
- European protectionism and the Common Agricultural Policy
- The EU and the World Trade Organization
- EU foreign aid

Week 4:

- Economic, political and social conditions in Greece in 2009
- Cultural characteristics of the people in Greece: Inter-regional differences and comparisons with other countries
- EU relations with the US
- EU relations with Latin America
- EU relations with Mediterranean countries
- EU relations with Russia
- EU relations with Asia
- EU relations with NATO
- The future of EU enlargement

- **Schedule of Classes:**

Group A

July 2	3:30 pm - 5:55 pm	
July 3	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 4	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 6	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 7	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 8	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 9	1:30 pm - 3:55 pm	
July 10	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 13	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 15	8:30 am -10:55 am	Midterm Exam
July 16	1:30 pm - 3:55 pm	
July 17	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 18	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 20	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 21	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 23	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 25	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 27	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 28	8:30 am -10:55 am	
July 29	8:30 am -10:55 am	Final Exam

Group B

July 2	6:05 pm – 8:30 pm
July 3	11:05 am – 1:30 pm
July 4	11:05 am – 1:30 pm
July 6	11:05 am – 1:30 pm
July 7	11:05 am – 1:30 pm
July 8	11:05 am – 1:30 pm

July 9	4:05 pm – 6:30 pm	
July 10	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 13	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 15	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	Midterm Exam
July 16	4:05 pm – 6:30 pm	
July 17	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 18	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 20	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 21	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 23	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 25	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 27	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 28	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	
July 29	11:05 am – 1:30 pm	Final Exam