

MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

IRE207 Contemporary Issues in the European Union

Syllabus – spring 2019

Lecturers

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Course Description

The course discusses new developments in the EU and runs each spring semester. It is based on class discussions and presentations of various positions in the debates. The objectives of the course are to discuss topical events in the EU and improve student's argumentation and presentation skills.

Requirements of the Course

- 4 ECTS (1 class and 1 seminar per week)
- 6 short opinion papers – max. 18 points
- Regularly participation – max. 12 points
- Active participation in the class
- Min. 18 points required to pass the course

Position papers

Student has to produce 6 written opinion papers based on the topic of the seminar. The student can choose his/her 6 papers from weeks 2-11. Position paper should be max. 2700 characters long. It should be composed of (1) two or three discussion questions; (2) the problematics of each of these discussion questions should be shortly described (each description based on own opinion should have approx. 500 characters). Papers must be submitted **at least one day (24 hours)** before concerned lesson to teaching lecturer via Homework Folders in the Information System.

Schedule of Classes:

- 1) Opening session – brief intro into the course (February 19, Sychra and Havlík)
- 2) Future of the Eurozone (February 26, Sychra)
- 3) The role of Germany in EU integration (March 5, Havlík)
- 4) EU and the migration question (March 12, Sychra)
- 5) The role of Visegrad countries in the EU (March 19, Havlík)
- 6) Democratic backsliding in Hungary and Poland (March 26, Havlík)
- 7) Multi-speed integration in the EU (April 2, Sychra)
- 8) EU foreign policy towards Russia (April 9, Havlík)
- 9) Brexit (April 16, Sychra)
- 10) Further enlargement of the EU (April 23, Sychra)
- 11) European Parliament election (April 30, Havlík)
- 12) Future of the European Union (May 7, Sychra and Havlík)

! Assigned readings to particular seminars and related topics you can find in the [interactive syllabus](#) of the course (authorized part of Information System).