

European Studies 2026 Pécs Summer School - Syllabi

Title of the class:

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION - INTEGRATION HISTORY & INSTITUTIONS

Lecturer responsible for this class: dr. Péter Szegedi, assistant lecturer

Role and purpose of the class:

The precise and genuine character of the European Union (EU) has long been a point of contention in international politics. It is challenging to comprehend how to engage with and collaborate with an actor that is neither a traditional state nor an intergovernmental international body. While the EU wields considerable decision-making authority in some policy areas, it is powerless in others. This jumble of external relations competencies can be perplexing to non-members and strain ties between EU member states and the Union's supranational institutions. The lectures explore the intricacies of the EU's Foreign Policy, the identity issues surrounding the Community's existence and destiny, and touch on the EU's worldwide status and function, stressing the challenges the EU faces - with a particular emphasis on USA/Russia/China-EU relations.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:

Compulsory reading:

Blanc, E. (2024). Crisis in EU-US relations under Trump: an emotional contemptuous double game of misrecognition, *Journal of European Integration*, 46:5, 685-705, DOI: 10.1080/07036337.2024.2360154

Politi, A. (2023). The Paradigm-Shift in EU-China Relations and the Limits of the EU's Current Strategy Towards China: A Relational Perspective, *Asian Affairs*, 54:4, 670-693, DOI: 10.1080/03068374.2023.2281164

Duff, A. (2024). NATO and the European Union: Bridging the gap, Discussion Paper, European Policy Center, available at: <https://www.epc.eu/en/publications/NATO-and-the-European-Union-Bridging-the-gap~5a4754>

Recommended reading:

Johansson-Nogués, E., Vlaskamp, M. C., & Barbé, E. (Eds.).(2020). *European Union Contested: Foreign Policy in a New Global Context (Norm Research in International Relations)*. 1st edition, Springer.

Westlake, M. (Ed.). (2020). *The European Union's New Foreign Policy*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop

Title of the class:**EU IN WORLD POLITICS I-II.****Lecturer responsible for this class:** dr. habil Zoltán Vörös, associate professor**Role and purpose of the class:**

The class will discuss the place and role of the EU in our changing world order – as it will be shown that the world order has been changing due to the dynamics of the emerging actors of the international system. We will investigate what kind of power the EU holds, and the EU is in fact in the global arena.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.**Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:****Compulsory reading:**

Borges de Castro, R. (ed.) (2024). Europe in the world in 2024: From voting to geopolitics. Outlook Paper, European Policy Centre, available at:

https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2024/2024_Outlook_Paper_v8.pdf Chapters 1 and 2.

Recommended reading:

Manners, I. (2009). *The EU's Normative Power in Changing World Politics*. Normative Power Europe in a Changing World, available at: https://rucforsk.ruc.dk/ws/portalfiles/portal/38395617/Ian_Manners_The_EU_s_normative_power_in_changing_world_politics_Gerrits_2009.pdf

Ruser, A., & Anheier, H.K. (2014 October). The EU's Future Role on the Global Stage. *Global Policy*, 5:1, 58-67. DOI: 10.1111/1758-5899.12146

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop

Title of the class:**INTERCULTURAL SENSITIVITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION I-II.**

Lecturer responsible for this class: dr. Gyöngyi Pozsgai, Head of the Study Abroad and Summer School Office, University of Pécs

Role and purpose of the class:

The class examines questions of identity, culture, and globalization with a focus on understanding different cultures and diverse populations. It will enable participants to identify the differences in the cultural identity of the other party, to become more open to the various cultures, and to achieve successful collaboration with students and later colleagues from different cultural backgrounds.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:**Compulsory reading:**

Samovar, Larry A.- Porter, Richard E.- McDaniel, Edwin R.- Sexton Roy, Carolyn (2015): *Communication Between Cultures*. S.l.: Cengage Learning.

Recommended reading:

Jeannette S. Martin - Lilian Chaney (2012): *Global Business Etiquette: A Guide to Intercultural Communication and Customs*.

Hofstede, Geert- Hofstede, Gert Jan (2004): *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind. Intercultural Cooperation and Its Importance for Survival*. New York: McGraw-Hill

Lustig, Myron W.- Koester, Jolene (2010): *Intercultural competence: Interpersonal communication across cultures*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon

Structural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop

Title of the class:**POLITICAL CULTURES IN EUROPE FROM WEST TO EAST I-II.**

Lecturer responsible for this class: Prof. Dr. István Tarrósy, full professor, director of the International Centre, University of Pécs

Role and purpose of the class:

This class will deal with the notion of political culture and offer a comparative analysis of political cultures across Europe. The case study will be Hungary, which – according to many – has, for a long time, been stuck between East and West.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:**Compulsory reading:**

Tarrósy, I. (2015). *Political Culture in a Glocal Perspective*. University of Pécs, Department of Political Studies.

https://www.academia.edu/15856867/Political_Culture_in_a_Glocal_Perspective

Recommended reading:

1. Gallina, N. (2016, November 17). *Political Culture in Eastern and Western Europe. The Role of Political Correctness*. [Post]. SSRN. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2870532
2. Laczó, F (2022, July 3). *How East-West Dynamics Define Europe*. [Post]. Central European University. <https://revdem.ceu.edu/2021/07/03/how-east-west-dynamics-define-europe/>

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop

Title of the class: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU I-II.	
Lecturer responsible for this class: dr. habil Iván Zádori, associate professor	
Role and purpose of the class: Economic, social, and environmental processes of the second half of the 20th century have resulted more and more intensive efforts in different fields and different levels to react the challenges and negative feedbacks of the activities of humankind. This course is focusing on the main aspects, trends and steps related to the sustainable development in the European Union, with a special focus on the present energy challenges and crisis, and the Green Deal initiative.	
Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.	
Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:	
Compulsory reading: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/sustainable-development-goals_en	
Recommended reading: https://eu-dashboards.sdgindex.org/ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en	
Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop	
Syllabus revised: dr. habil Iván Zádori associate professor	Prepared by: dr. habil Iván Zádori associate professor
controlled: dr. Zsuzsa Koltai assistant professor, leader of the academic program of the European Studies Summer School 2024, University of Pécs	
approved: dr. Gyöngyi Pozsgai head of the Study Abroad and Summer School Office, University of Pécs	

Title of the class:**FROM MARKETPLACE TO CITYSCAPE: UNDERSTANDING EUROPE THROUGH CONSUMERS AND CITIES I-II.****Lecturer responsible for this class:** Dr. Péter Németh, PhD, assistant professor**Role and purpose of the class:**

This class explores how Europe can be understood through the dual lens of consumer behaviour and city branding. It examines how consumer trends shape marketplaces across the continent and how these same trends influence the way European cities position themselves in tourism and international competition. The purpose of the course is to give students a holistic view of Europe's economic and cultural landscape—connecting how people buy, travel, and experience places—while offering practical insights into marketing strategy, urban branding, and the dynamics of the European experience economy.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.**Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:****Compulsory reading:**

Top global consumer trends 2026, <https://go.euromonitor.com/report-2026-global-consumer-trends.html>

McKinsey & Company: An update on European consumer sentiment: Cautious, but gearing up for the holidays. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/consumer-packaged-goods/our-insights/an-update-on-european-consumer-sentiment>

Recommended reading:

OECD Tourism Trends and Policies (annual): https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-tourism-trends-and-policies-2024_80885d8b-en.html

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): PC-projector

Title of the class:

EUROPEAN FOLK TRADITIONS I-II.

Lecturer responsible for this class: Ildikó Kurucz, assistant lecturer

Role and purpose of the class:

The main aim of the course is to give basic information about the European and Hungarian folk traditions, especially focusing on Southern Transdanubia.

Subject contents, topics:

- European and Hungarian identity
- Cultural Heritage of Europe and Hungary
- Feast Days in Hungary
- Folk Music and Folk Dances in Hungary (Learning the basic steps of a few Hungarian, German and Croatian folk dances.)

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class. Pre-reading: <https://hungarytoday.hu/hungarian-folk-culture-traditions-set-time-59257/>

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:

Compulsory reading:

Vehrer, A. (2017). Hungarian Folk Customs and Traditions. *Civic Review*, 13 (Special Issue), 371–387.

<https://eng.polgariszemle.hu/current-publication/142-living-traditions/899-hungarian-folk-customs-and-traditions>

Recommended reading:

Várnagy, P. (2013). Present Identity Consciousness in the Synthesis of Multicultural Origin: Case Study. *Tudásmenedzsment*, XIV, (1.), 193-196.

http://epa.oszk.hu/02700/02750/00030/pdf/EPA02750_tudasmenedzsment_2013_01_193-196.pdf

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop

Title of the class:

Current economic and social challenges of the European Union I-II.

Lecturer responsible for this class: Dr. Norbert Sipos, PhD associate professor

Role and purpose of the class:

This course examines the key economic and social challenges facing the European Union, including inequality, labour market transformations, demographic change, and the EU's evolving social policy framework. It highlights the development of Social Europe and the European Pillar of Social Rights, as well as the changing dynamics of industrial relations, with a focus on collective bargaining, workplace conflict resolution, and the legal-institutional background of strikes. Through these themes, students gain a clear understanding of how economic pressures, social protection systems, and labour relations interact within the EU's governance model.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Attendance in class and class work.

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:**Compulsory reading:**

European Commission. (2021). *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*. Publications Office of the European Union. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0102>

Recommended reading:

OECD. (2025). *OECD Employment Outlook 2025: Can we get through the demographic crunch?* OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/194a947b-en> (Note: Latest edition as of July 2025.)

Vanhercke, B., Ghailani, D., & Sabato, S. (Eds.). (2022). *Social policy in the European Union: State of play 2022 – Policymaking in a permacrisis*. Brussels: European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) & European Social Observatory (OSE).
<https://www.etui.org/publications/social-policy-european-union-state-play-2022>

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): projector, laptop

Title of the class:**ART HISTORY OF EUROPE - ON-SITE LEARNING I.: VISIT TO THE CATHEDRAL OF PÉCS & THE KLIMO LIBRARY****Lecturer responsible for this class:** dr. Zsuzsa Kolai, assistant professor**Role and purpose of the class:**

The purpose of the class is to introduce students to European art movements through the history of the Pécs Cathedral. The on-site learning program provides students with the opportunity to personally explore two important cultural heritage sites in Pécs. In addition to the Pécs Cathedral, the on-site learning program also includes an introduction to the first public library in Hungary, opened by Bishop György Klomo of Pécs in the 18th century, as well as the exhibition on the history of the University of Pécs. Artistic movements defining each period will be introduced in light of the key historical events of the university's and the library's history.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:**Compulsory reading:**

Pécs Megyei Jogú Város Önkormányzata (n.d.). *Pécs Cathedral*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from <https://pecs.hu/en/pecs-cathedral/>

PTE Egyetemi Könyvtár és Tudásközpont (n.d.). *Klomo Library and University Historical Exhibition*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from

https://www.lib.pte.hu/en/klimo_library_and_university_historical_exibition-547

Recommended reading:

1. Oxford Art Online (n.d.). *Europe timeline*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from <https://www.oxfordartonline.com/page/europe-timeline>

Structural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): -

Title of the class:**ART HISTORY OF EUROPE - ON-SITE LEARNING II.: VISIT TO THE CSONTVÁRY MUSEUM****Lecturer responsible for this class:** dr. Zsuzsa Kolai, assistant professor**Role and purpose of the class:**

The class offers an introduction to the legacy of Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka, one of the most unique artists of 19th-20th century European art, through an on-site learning program. Students will explore key artistic movements of the 19th and 20th centuries by delving into Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka's unique life and painting style. The program is delivered through a guided tour of the artist's oeuvre at the Csontváry Museum in Pécs.

Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.

Compulsory and recommended literature for this class:**Compulsory reading:**

1. Fine Arts in Hungary (n.d.). *CSONTVÁRY KOSZTKA, Tivadar*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from <https://www.hung-art.hu/index-en.html>
2. Fine Arts in Hungary (n.d.). *Works by Tivadar CSONTVÁRY KOSZTKA*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from <https://www.hung-art.hu/index-en.html>

Recommended reading:

1. Oxford Art Online (n.d.). *Europe timeline*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from <https://www.oxfordartonline.com/page/europe-timeline>
2. Szépművészeti Múzeum (n.d.). *Csontváry 170*. Retrieved December 18, 2024, from <https://www.mfab.hu/exhibitions/csontvary-170/>

Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): -

Title of the class: CONTEMPORARY EUROPE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: FROM THE 20TH CENTURY TO TODAY I-II.
Lecturer responsible for this class: dr. Péter Szegedi, assistant lecturer
Role and purpose of the class:
Number and type of students' tasks to be tackled individually: Reading the compulsory reading prior to the class. Attendance in class.
Compulsory and recommended literature for this class: This class examines the major political, social, economic, and cultural processes of 20th-century Europe, with special attention to the turning points that fundamentally shaped the continent. The course focuses on the First and Second World Wars, the emergence and operation of totalitarian regimes (fascism, Nazism, Stalinism), the Cold War, the division of Europe, and later European integration and the post-socialist transitions. Students will also explore changes in nation-state ambitions, ideologies, social movements, and everyday life. Beyond providing a historical overview, the course deliberately reflects on the challenges facing contemporary Europe. It analyses how the legacy of the 20th century influences current political conflicts, questions of European identity, the relationship between democracy and authoritarian tendencies, and present-day interpretations of war, memory politics, and social trauma. The class aims to deepen students' historical perspective and enable them to understand contemporary European developments in a more critical and nuanced way by recognising the connections between past and present.
Compulsory reading: Mercer, Ben – Pattison, Micaela (2022): European History in the Shadows of Crisis. <i>Australian Journal of Politics & History</i> , 68(3), 331-336. pp. Bresciani, Marco (2017): The End of Which European Era? The Current Crisis of Europe in Historical Perspective. <i>Annals of the Fondazione Luigi Einaudi</i> , 51(2), 81-103. pp. Richards, Michael D. – Waibel, Paul R. (2014): <i>Twentieth-Century Europe: A Brief History, 1900 to the Present</i> . Third Editions. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
Recommended reading: Krastev, Ivan – Holmes, Stephen (2020): <i>The Light That Failed: Why the West Is Losing the Fight for Democracy</i> . New York: Pegasus Books. Fukuyama, Francis (1992): <i>The end of history and the last man</i> . London: Penguin Books.
Infrastructural pre-requisites of the subject (PC-projector, overhead projector, TV, video, flipchart, other): PC-projector