**MULTIPLE CRISIS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Course description**

The history books about the European Union are full of crises – empty chairs crisis in the mid-1960s, economic crisis and its European effects in the 1970s, the British budgetary crisis in the 1980s, and we could continue the list. However, in the recent years the EU shows parallel crises – conflict in the Ukraine that ruined the idea of Eastern partnership, crisis in the institutional setup, problems with legitimacy and public trust, problems with leadership and the obvious crises of the Euro, Brexit and migration.

The course offers an overview of the current crisis areas on the basis of current social science literature and political analyses and aims to give an insight to both the reasons of the crises and potential ways out.

Students are expected to have previous knowledge about the history and the institutional structure of the European Union. The course schedule includes two occasions where the subject will be defined on the basis of the interest of students.

**Course schedule**

1st week: Introduction. Course schedule and distribution of topics

2nd week: Brief summary of the history of the European Union after the Maastricht Treaty

3rd week: Current issues in the European Union

4th week: Democracy deficit in the EU

5th week: Member state democracies and the EU

6th week: Euroscepticism

7th week: Eurozone crisis

8th week: Crisis of the Eastern partnership / Ukraine

9th week: Crisis of the narratives of the EU

10th week: Case study: TBC

11th week: Case study: TBC

12th week: Exam

**Assessment**

* students may miss max. 3 classes during the semester
* each student is required to give a summary of the readings of the day once in the semester (30% of the grade)
* Students may choose to write the written exam (based on the materials uploaded to Neptun) or to submit an essay of max. 30.000 characters on a previously agreed topic until the last week of the semester. (70% of the grade)

**Course materials**

PPT slides and further readings will be uploaded weekly to Neptun.

**Recommended readings**

JAN WERNER MÜLLER: Safeguarding Democracy inside the EU. Brussels and the future liberal order. Transatlantic Academy Paper series, 2013 February.

PAUL TAGGART and ALEKS SZCZERBIAK: Coming in from the Cold? Euroscepticism, Government Participation and Party Positions on Europe. JCMS 2013 Volume 51. Number 1. pp. 17–37.

VINCENT DELLA SALA (2010): Political Myth, Mythology and the European Union. JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies. Special Issue: Political Myth, Mythology and the European Union Volume 48, Issue 1, pages 1–19, January 2010.

SIMON BULMER and WILLIAM A. PATERSON (2013) ‘Germany as the EU’s reluctant hegemon? Of economic strength and political constraints’, Journal of European Public Policy, 20 (10), 1387-1405.

JEAN PISANI-FERRY Jean Pisani-Ferry, Norbert Röttgen, André Sapir, Paul Tucker, Guntram B. Wolff: Europe after Brexit: A proposal for a continental partnership. Breugel Institute 2016