



European Economy A | ECU33031

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	20 hours of lectures and 5 hours of tutorials
Pre-Requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader and Lecturer	Professor John O'Hagan
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Module Outline:

The aim of this course is to equip students with a critical understanding of the major issues facing the European economy. The course provides a blend of policy information, history, and empirical analysis. The emphasis is on economic issues, but these issues are studied in their political, institutional, and historical context. Attention is devoted to some policy areas in which EU co-ordination has progressed furthest: labour markets, economic growth, agriculture/food sector and economic geography/regional policy. The course is suitable for any student who has taken first-year Economics, and all Visiting Students who have acquired an equivalent level of Economics understanding.

Topics Covered Include:

- Historical evolution of the European Union.
- Law, institutions and budget.
- Decision making: fiscal federalism, distribution of power and legitimacy.
- Economic growth. Facts and explanations.
- Employment. Performance, labour market rigidities and EU labour market institutions.
- Location effects, economic geography and regional policy.



- Agriculture and the food sector: historical development of policy, and current issues (environment, sustainability, food safety and security of supply).

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Review and summarise reading material on various key aspects of European Union integration.
- Explain the importance and relevance of the information contained in this reading material.
- Compare and contrast different aspects of the policy debate surrounding European integration.
- Formulate a balanced, critical judgment on the status of each of these debates.

Assessment:

- Term test 50%
- Essay Assignment 45%
- Class participation 5%

Recommended Reading List:

Baldwin, R. and C. Wyplosz, (2022) (7th edition), *The Economics of European Integration*, McGraw-Hill.

The above is the core reading material and lectures will follow closely the material in this book. In addition to it, students should keep abreast of current European economy issues through newspapers and magazines, particularly the *Financial Times*, the *Economist*, and the *Politico* web site at: <https://www.politico.eu/>