

BACHELOR MODULE FUTURES OF EUROPE

TILBURG UNIVERSITY

ENGAGE.EU EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE 2023 – 2024

- Module timeframe:** Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semester
- Study level:** Bachelor
- Module certificate:** Students can choose any combination of courses within the module. Completion of a total of 18 ECTS or more will result in a module certificate.
- Admission:** The module is offered to a maximum of 30 students. Admission to individual courses is also possible by selecting single courses in the application form. There are no admission requirements for the module. However, courses may have prerequisites (see below).
- Courses in module:** 630027-B-6 Introduction to European Governance (6 ECTS)
310123-B-6 Economics of the European Union (6 ECTS)
400151-B-6 Sociological and Historical Perspectives on Identities (6 ECTS)
800090-B-12 Learning Project: Values and Civil Society in Europe (12 ECTS)
Note: Single courses of the module are available via the Online Exchange Initiative.
- Module content:** Several recent societal challenges, such as large-scale migration, climate change, or fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown to require political action that go beyond the national level. Not undisputed, the European Union has shown to be one of the most relevant political actors to address many issues that are relevant to us these days. However, the European Union is a complex actor that for many is difficult to understand. The aim of the ENGAGE University Module ‘The Futures of Europe’ offered by Tilburg University is to provide students across Europe with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the institutions underlying the European Union by combining four courses coordinated and taught by top experts in their respective fields.
- A better understanding of the European Union requires a multidisciplinary focus. ‘The Futures of Europe’ combines insights from Public Administration, Macro Economics, Sociology, and broader Social Sciences and Humanities, showing that political, economic and cultural forces intrinsically determine and constrain this relevant political actor. The course ‘*Introduction to European Governance*’ aims to make students aware of the essentials of the European context of public administration, including its political dynamics, at various levels of governance. Through abundant use of examples and cases, students will have the opportunity to get a ‘taste’ of the practice of European(ized) governance. The course ‘*The Economics of European Integration*’ contains an overview of the history of the European integration process (once started

as an economic project) and an overview of the European institutions and decision-making, focusing on process of financial and monetary integration in Europe (including financial market infrastructures) and the impact of the recent financial crises. Despite continuous economic and political integration, debates loom about the cultural integration of the European Union. Therefore, in the course '*National and Regional Identities*', students become aware of the increasing importance of social identities, simultaneously responding to questions why the creation of an overarching European identity has not succeeded (yet). In final, the course '*Learning Project: Values and Civil Society*' offers students the opportunity to analyze relevant survey data, such as the European Values Study, to explain cultural differences and/or similarities between European countries.

The ENGAGE University Module 'The Futures of Europe' offers comprehensive and multidisciplinary courses covering crucial aspects for the functioning of the European Union: its decision-making processes, its economy, and its culture. Upon completion of this Module, students have acquired a more encompassing understanding of the European Union and will be able to apply these insights in responding to questions that the European Union is currently struggling with.

Lecture periods:	Fall semester:	end of August – December
	Block 1:	end of August – October
	Block 2:	October – December
	Exam period	December 2023 - January 2024
	Re-sit period	January 2024 and mid-June/July 2024
	Spring semester:	end of January – May
	Block 3:	end of January – April
	Block 4:	April – May
	Exam period	May/June 2024
	Re-sit period	mid-June/July 2024

Course catalogue links: The course codes link to the course catalogue information of the current academic year for information purposes. The course information including tentative exam dates and the link to the schedule will be updated for Fall 2023 by mid-August 2023 and for Spring 2024 in December 2023.

Course code	630027-B-6
Course title	Introduction to European Governance
Study cycle	Bachelor
Year of study	Bachelor year 2
Semester	Fall 2023
Credits	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	<p>After the completion of this course, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the historical background to and the impact of European integration on (multi-level) governance processes; • Analyze the political dynamics involved in European governance processes, using mainstream theories; • Apply knowledge acquired on the way European institutions and policies work, in terms of both effectiveness and legitimacy, to concrete cases; • Search for, select and process policy, legal and other type of data/ information needed to analyze concrete cases; • Follow and take part in debates about European governance in academia and society, and to do so in an unprejudiced way and on the basis of knowledge and facts; • Build, present and defend well-substantiated arguments about EU integration and European politics and concrete cases thereof.
Mode of delivery	hybrid (both on campus and online at the same time)
Prerequisites	none
Course content	<p>European integration is a reality within all levels of public administration, in The Netherlands as well as in other European countries. It could even be argued that 'Brussels' is one of those levels and, vice versa, Dutch or national public administration is also European public administration. This course provides an introduction to the nuts and bolts of the EU, its institutions, policies and European(ized) governance, but does so at a high level, requiring a good amount of self-study and pro-activeness of students. The focus of the course is then on applying this knowledge, learning how to find the (policy, legal etc.) information needed to make sense of concrete cases. The ultimate aim is to make students aware of the essentials of the European context of public administration, including its political dynamics, at various levels of governance. Through abundant use of examples and cases, students will have the opportunity to get a 'taste' of the practice of European(ized) governance.</p>
Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools	Literature to be announced
Learning activities and teaching methods	Plenary sessions, writing tutorials, feedback meetings
Assessment methods and assessment criteria	Paper assignment (40%) Written online take home exam (60%)
Language of instruction	English
Degree Program(s) or field	Bestuurskunde (Public Administration)

Course code	310123-B-6
Course title	Economics of the European Union
Study cycle	Bachelor
Year of study	Bachelor year 2
Semester	Fall 2023
Credits	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can explain the history (until now) of the European integration process, provide an overview of the European institutions and decision making, and provide a conceptual bridge to the recent financial crisis in Europe • Students are able to explain key elements of European legislation aimed at creating a European internal market for financial services and to make a connection to the current political crisis in Europe • Students are able to analyze the recent banking and euro zone crisis • Students are able to analyze problems with respect to fiscal and monetary institutions in the euro zone • Students are able to analyze sovereign risk and the recent crisis in the euro zone • Students obtain an analytical insight into the economics of preferential liberalization • Students obtain an analytical insight into the dynamics between economic growth and factor market integration • Students obtain an analytical insight into the dynamics between economic integration, labour markets and migration • Students obtain an insight into the history and current problems of the common agricultural policy
Mode of delivery	Lectures: Online Tutorials: Hybrid (on campus and online at the same time)
Prerequisites	<u>Recommended</u> prerequisite: Bachelor courses in macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economics and financial economics
Course content	<p>European economic integration has been a fascinating process of deepening, widening and enlargement during the past 70 years or so. It has involved economic policy makers, regulators, business and various interest groups. The study of economic integration in Europe touches upon a range of specialized fields in economics, such as public economics, international economics – covering macroeconomics as well as the terms of trade and investment at the level of firms and industries – agricultural, industrial and regional economics, and more recently, international finance, monetary policy and capital markets.</p> <p>The course contains an overview of the history of the European integration process and an overview of the European institutions and decision making. Key elements of European legislation aimed at creating a European internal market in which there is a free flow of goods, persons, capital and services are discussed. Also, we will pay attention to the important process of financial and monetary integration in Europe (including financial market infrastructures) and the impact of the recent financial crises. Specifically, we will deal with issues such as: (a) banking and the recent financial crisis, (b) fiscal and monetary institutions in the euro zone, (c) sovereign risk and the recent crisis in the euro zone, (d) the impact of the corona crisis on the stability of the euro zone, (e) economics of preferential liberalization, (f) growth effects and factor market integration, (g) economic integration, labor markets and migration, (h) common</p>

	agricultural policy.
Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools	<p>Compulsory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baldwin, R., & Wyplosz, C. (2015). The Economics of European Integration (Fifth Edition). London: McGraw-Hill. (selected chapters) • Papers indicated as part of the mandatory literature (to be announced on Canvas) • Lecture slides (to be posted on Canvas) <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kokkola, T. (2010). The Payment System. Frankfurt am Main: European Central Bank.
Learning activities and teaching methods	Lectures and tutorials
Assessment methods and assessment criteria	Participation in tutorials (25%) Exam (75%)
Language of instruction	English
Degree Program(s) or field	Economics

Course code	400151-B-6
Course title	Sociological and Historical Perspectives on Identities
Study cycle	Bachelor
Year of study	Bachelor year 2
Semester	Block 2
Credits	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	<p>In an ever-changing world, it appears that traditional anchor points are losing relevance. Whereas societies in the past were often stratified according to religious or class lines, several societal processes, including secularization, individualization, and migration, put the question “Who are we?” ever more to fore. Although it might seem obvious that a response to this question is personal, innate, and even genetic, several responses can be found through a sociological lens. The aim of this course is to provide a sociological understanding of the concept of identity by exploring how identities are socially constructed, and how they are intrinsically intertwined with debates about power and suppression. At the end of this course, you can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify different sociological concepts and theories on identities; 2. explain how class, ethnicity, and gender are socially constructed; 3. understand the differences between essentialist and constructivist understandings of nationhood; 4. illustrate how identity categories are intertwined with power; 5. use concepts in class to critically interpret current debates in society dealing with identity; 6. write a literature review on the topic of identities.
Mode of delivery	hybrid (both on campus and online at the same time)
Prerequisites	none
Course content	<p>Debates evolving on the topic of identities repeatedly hit the news. To give but one example, the ‘Black Pete’ discussion that is played out at an annual basis brings up questions about Dutch national identity and its colonial past. As another example, there was the debate whether Amanda Gorman’s “The Hill We Climb” can be translated by Marieke Lucas Rijneveld, or should instead by translated by a woman of color. In the political realm, debates evolve about polarization along educational lines, highlighting that different segments in society hold different preferences, and are currently drifting away from each other. Put differently, it appears as if identity is playing a more prominent role than ever in contemporary conflicts.</p> <p>In this course, you will approach identity and its contemporary relevance from a sociological perspective. To facilitate this, the course is organized in three parts. The first part discusses some general social and social psychological concepts and theories on identities. In the second part, we zoom in on three relevant categories: class, ethnicity, and gender, and discuss their origins and relevance. In the last chunk of this course, we zoom in deeper on national and regional identities.</p>
Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools	Literature to be announced
Learning activities and teaching methods	Lectures
Assessment methods and assessment criteria	Portfolio of assignments or pop quizzes (35%) Literature review (65%)
Language of instruction	English
Degree Program(s) or field	Sociology

Course code	800090-B-12
Course title	Learning Project: Values and Civil Society in Europe
Study cycle	Bachelor
Year of study	Bachelor year 2
Semester	Spring 2024
Credits	12 ECTS
Learning outcomes	This course is a learning project on Values and Civil Society in Europe. Students get acquainted with and learn to do social science research. This course is ideally positioned to apply quantitative analysis techniques to address a relevant puzzle (research question) on differences or similarities in values or civil society attitudes or behavior across European countries. Hence, the aim of this course is to train students to be able to write a complete scientific empirical research paper about a value or civil society issue in contemporary Europe, using existing cross-national survey data.
Mode of delivery	hybrid (both on campus and online at the same time)
Prerequisites	Completed an introductory course in social science statistics
Course content	<p>The first part of the course is to confront students with theoretical mechanisms and recent research findings. In addition to a review of research on values transformations and civil society in Europe, the course will zoom in on six distinct domains which will also be the focus for student papers. These domains align with the new 'Atlas of European Values' (Halman, Reeskens, Sieben & van Zundert, 2022), namely identity, welfare, migration, sustainability, solidarity, and democracy.</p> <p>The second part of the course are four weeks on research practice. The sessions are a mix of seminars, in which seminal techniques are reintroduced from existing statistics for social science courses, as well as computer lab sessions to familiarize you with data sets relevant to this course, as well as techniques that help you respond to your research question.</p> <p>The third part of the course regards five weeks with two feedback sessions per week: one regarding the paper, and one regarding the SPSS labs. The idea is that ahead of each sessions, you submit either your progress (for the paper, including track changes), or analysis questions. These feedback sessions are being concluded with a presentation session.</p>
Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools	<p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halman, L., Reeskens, T., Sieben, I., & van Zundert, M. (2022). Atlas of European Values: Change and Continuity in Turbulent Times. Tilburg: Open Press TiU. <p>Literature to be announced.</p>
Learning activities and teaching methods	Lectures Tutorials Computer labs
Assessment methods and assessment criteria	Literature review (40%) SPSS assignments (20%) Empirical group paper (40%)
Language of instruction	English
Degree Program(s) or field	Liberal Arts and Sciences