

Syllabus

Dates of the Angers Summer Programme 2012:

Wednesday 13 June – Thursday 12 July

Website for further information:

<http://www.essca.fr> > international > programmes > summer programmes > ASP

Staff in charge of the programme:

Programme coordinator	Dr Marie-Noëlle COCTON
Programme assistant	Laëtitia DURON
Academic programme supervisor	Dr Albrecht SONNTAG
Director of international relations	Carol CHAPLAIS

Overview

	Course title	Total volume	Suggested ECTS
Course 1	European Union Studies	60	6
Course 2	Culture and communication	45	6

Textbooks and course material

Generally students will have **up to 5 contact hours per day**.

Students are not expected to buy textbooks. Each lecturer will provide specifically compiled readers in class, most of which will also be available electronically on ESSCA's intranet.

Assessment

Assessment is detailed below each course description.

European Union Studies

Course coordinator:	Dr Marie-Noëlle Cocton E-mail: marie-noelle.cocton@essca.fr
Course instructors:	Dr David Ranc (European Politics) Dr David Rees (European Economics)
Teaching language:	English
Total number of hours:	60 (Angers, Brussels, Paris)
ECTS credits:	6

This course is divided into three sections:

Sections	hours	Suggested ECTS
European Politics	24*	2
European Economics	24	2
Brussels Field Seminar	12	2

* including a subject-related field-visit to the historical site of the D-Day landing beaches

Section 1: European politics

Prerequisites

- curiosity about Europe, the European Union and issues of geopolitics
- open-mindedness and readiness to put into question what is believed to be “normal”
- courage to ask “stupid questions” any time

Presentation and Learning Objectives

The European Union is contemporary history written before our eyes in all its complexity. In order to understand its design and functioning, an interdisciplinary approach is necessary.

The first approach is historical: the objective is to understand where the idea of a European Community comes from and with what kind of institutions it could be realised in the geopolitical constellation of the postwar years. The second approach is cultural and socio-political: the specificity of the European institutional framework is studied in order to provide students with the necessary tools to make sense of the present European environment in which people, institutions and companies move and work.

These approaches are completed by the experiential learning of the Brussels field seminar with its series of visits and meetings which will deepen the understanding of the concrete manner in which the European integration process takes place.

At the end of the summer programme, students will have developed a critical awareness of the major achievements and difficulties of the process of European integration, and a deeper understanding of challenges the European continent is currently facing.

Course Schedule

Teaching is organised in six 3-hour sessions during the weeks held in Angers.

Session 1 ***Post-war Europe and the idea of a European community***

Objective: Understand the conditions in which the idea of a European community was possible

Contents: ♦ Destruction and reconstruction
♦ The idea of a European community
♦ The road to the Schuman declaration

Session 2 ***The institutional design of the European Union***

Objective: Understand the innovative character of the European institutions

Contents: ♦ The theories and actions of Jean Monnet
♦ Supranationalism vs. Intergovernmentalism
♦ The European Coal and Steel Community

Sessions 3/4 ***Historical field visit to the D-Day landing beaches***

Objective: Integrate different experience of World War II in the context of the emergence of the European Union

Contents: ♦ Guided visit and explanation of the Canadian Juno Beach Center
♦ Visit of the American cemetery of Saint-Laurent-Colleville
♦ Visit to the German cemetery of La Cambe, with its peace garden

Session 5 ***How the EU works***

Objective: Understand the design and mandate of each of the major EU institutions and their role in the decision-making process

Contents: ♦ Overview on today's institutional framework
♦ The European Commission as supranational institution
♦ The European Council as intergovernmental institution
♦ The European Parliament as democratic representation
♦ The decision-making process in the institutional triangle

Session 6 ***60 years of development of the European Union***

Objective: Put the development of the EU and its current challenges into perspective

Contents: ♦ Waves of enlargement and evolution of membership
♦ Milestones in integration / Successive Treaties

Session 7 *Economic integration: the European Single Market*

Objective: Understand the implications of the realisation of the single market

Contents: ♦ The four freedoms of movement of the single market
♦ Principles and case studies of market integration
♦ Redistributive policies: Agriculture, Regional Policy and Structural Funds

Session 8 *Popular support / Euroscepticism*

Objective: Understand causes for support and hostility towards European integration

Contents: ♦ Attempts at reforming the EU (focus 2000-2012)
♦ Crisis as recurrent phenomenon of the integration process
♦ Level of popular support and forms of Euroscepticism
♦ The finality question

Assessment

The acquired knowledge about the European Union will be assessed in a written test (multiple-choice questions and short open questions, 1 hour) before departure for Brussels.

This test will count for one third (2 ECTS) of the European Union Studies course.

Section 2: European Economics**Prerequisites**

- basic knowledge about the history of the EU and the main EU institutions (see section 1)
- interest in the EU from an economic perspective
- ability to listen to others and to be open-minded

Presentation and Learning Objectives

This course aims at providing a general understanding of the European Union from an economic perspective. It looks at the functioning and the policies of the European Union as well as the effects both within and outside the EU of the application of those policies. In order to understand some of the economic issues studied, the programme includes some refreshers of basic macro-economic theory. By the end of the course, students should be able to provide their personal, critical analysis of the most controversial European economic, political and social issues.

Session 1 *Introduction to European Economics: All you ever wanted to know about European Economics but were afraid to ask.*

Objective: Understand basic features of the European economic space

Contents: ♦ True/False quiz and European opiniaire
♦ Discussion and course outline

Session 2 *How countries manage and mismanage their economies*

Objective: Revise the fundamental tools and concepts of traditional economic policy

Contents: ♦ Money-what it is, how it works and what can go wrong (crashes)
 ♦ Financial sovereignty
 ♦ Monetary policy

Session 3 *Is bigger better?*

Objective: Distinguish between the European and national level of economics

Contents: ♦ Airbus
 ♦ Galileo
 ♦ Economies of Scale

Session 4 *How to ruin your company*

Objective: Understand the risks of international trade & the interplay between different macroeconomic policies (EuroZone, USA, China, €-non-€zone etc.)

Contents: ♦ Exchange rate fluctuations
 ♦ Import-Export risk (role-play exercise)
 ♦ Elasticity

Session 5 *To tax or not to tax – that is the question*

Objective: Understand the economics and politics of fiscal policy

Contents: ♦ Direct and indirect taxation / ♦ Controlling a national budget
 ♦ Tax choices – who pays how much and why? (EU comparisons)
 ♦ Social service or profit-based company?
 ♦ Group exercise – ESSCAland's economy

Session 6 *Joining the club*

Objective: Understand the motivations, benefits and uncertainties linked to accession to the European Union and/or to the Eurozone

Contents: ♦ The Copenhagen criteria
 ♦ The Maastricht criteria (with application exercise)
 ♦ Productivity, mobility and employment in the Eurozone
 ♦ Prospects of Euro compatibility and adoption in Britain

Session 7 *Feeding or cheating?*

Objective: Study and understand the internal and external impact of the EU's most fully integrated economic policy: the Common Agricultural Policy

Contents: ♦ The origin of the CAP

- ♦ World Food Economics
- ♦ Present and future of European agriculture
- ♦ Food shortages, economic paradigms and politics

Session 8 ***Case study: the United Kingdom in the European Union***

Objective: Understand the special relationship between the UK and the EU

Contents: ♦ History of UK accession to the European Community and membership
 ♦ Specific problems of EU legitimacy in the United Kingdom

Assessment:

This section of the course is assessed through a written exam on the course content (1 hour). This test will count for one third (2 ECTS) of the European Union Studies course.

Section 3: Brussels Seminar

Presentation:

The Brussels seminar deepens the understanding of the European Union's current scope and international role. It is composed of a series of visits and meetings with actors from the European scene, including:

- ♦ Visit to the European Commission (3 specialised presentations)
- ♦ Visit to the Council of the European Union (1 presentation)
- ♦ Visit to the European Parliament (1 presentation)
- ♦ Meeting with a Member of Parliament
- ♦ Visit to the representation of a major region of the EU
- ♦ Meeting with a lobbyist
- ♦ Meeting with representatives from a think-tank organisation

A detailed syllabus of the Brussels Seminar will be given at the beginning of the programme.

Assessment:

Each student is expected to write a detailed report about the meetings and the Brussels experience (to be submitted at the end of the programme). Time will be set aside during the final programme week in Paris for drafting this report.

This report will count for one third (2 ECTS) of the European Union Studies course.

Culture and Communication

Course coordinator:	Dr Marie-Noëlle Cocton E-mail: marie-noelle.cocton@essca.fr
Course instructors:	Dr Marie-Noëlle Cocton Dr Albrecht Sonntag
Teaching language:	English
Total number of hours:	30h plus a series of subject-related field visits (15h)
ECTS credits:	6

This course is divided into two sections:

Sections	Hours	Suggested ECTS
Intercultural communication	15	3
French culture	30*	3

* including a series of subject-related field visits.

Prerequisites

- interest for issues of intercultural communication
- curiosity for concepts of social psychology and collective identity
- interest for the culture of France

Presentation and Learning Objectives

This course helps students to make sense of their intercultural experience during this summer programme itself by providing them with appropriate tools to analyze their observations of cultural difference and singularity and to understand the barriers one would need to overcome to communicate with other.

The course introduces students to concepts of cultural and intercultural studies. It highlights, in a complementary manner with regard to the European Union Studies course, the apparent paradox of Europeanness: the belonging to an increasingly integrated supranational community, while remaining attached to the Europe's cultural diversity and the preservation of cultural particularities.

A special emphasis is given to France, the programme's host country, as an example for a Nation-State whose culture has been and still is the object of a significant discourse of cultural distinction. Notions of national identity are exemplified and illustrated during several field visits focusing on different periods of history and their impact on contemporary France.

Course Schedule

Teaching is organised in 3-hour sessions.

Section 1: Intercultural Communication

Session 1 ***Introduction to the concept of communication***

Objective: Understand through a simulation game the place of communication in life and become familiar with the basic concepts of communication

Contents: ♦ Simulation game and collective analysis
♦ Definition of the concept of communication
♦ Analysis of several models of communication

Session 2 ***Intercultural communication competence***

Objective: Understand the idea of “interculturality” through communication and become familiar with the IC competence

Contents: ♦ Criteria to judge intercultural communication competence
♦ Knowledge, motivation and skills
♦ Case study on critical intercultural situations
♦ How to become a multicultural person

Session 3 ***Barriers to intercultural communication***

Objective: Gain awareness of the obstacles that prevent communication from working efficiently and appropriately

Contents: ♦ Barriers to intercultural communication
♦ Film: “One day in Europe”
♦ Discussion on “linguistic diversity” and communication
♦ English as globalisation’s lingua franca

Session 4 ***French people and culture: discourse, myth, and reality***

Objective: Understand the patterns of French cultural perception and self-perception in Europe and the rest of the world

Contents: ♦ The gap between reputation and self-perception
♦ Use and abuse of hetero-stereotypes and auto-stereotypes
♦ The role of the context in the creation of stereotypes

Session 5 ***Dimensions of identity***

Objective: Become familiar with the mental processes that underpin individual and collective identity construction

Contents: ♦ Cultures and subcultures in the identity formation process
♦ The salience of national culture in the individual formation process
♦ Social engineering, nationalism and feelings of belonging

Section 2: French Culture

Session 1 ***Culture in a glass: the French wine industry***

Objective: Understand the heritage and tradition of French wine industry

Contents: ♦ The history of wine
♦ Study of the French and Loire valley terroirs
♦ The place of wine in the national culture and the current situation of the French wine industry

Subject-related field visits:

- ♦ Visit to a traditional family-owned vineyard of the Anjou region and meeting with the owner.
- ♦ Visit to the Cointreau-liquor museum.

Session 2 ***Culture on the table: food and national culture***

Objective: Understand the importance of historical echoes of rurality in contemporary France through an analysis of the place of gastronomy in the national psyche

Contents: ♦ French gastronomy: roots, diversity, discourse, challenges
♦ The concept of “terroir” and that of “savoir-vivre”
♦ The identity of each specific region and its local products

Subject-related field visits:

- ♦ Visit to a local market to discover the local products (Angers)
- ♦ Dinner in an old restaurant to enjoy a typical French meal (Paris)

Session 3 ***France as a land of immigration***

Objective: Understand the importance of the immigration in the formation-identity process of France

Contents: ♦ History of the immigration
♦ The ideas of “ethnicity”, “assimilation” and “integration”
♦ Stereotyping the migrants

Session 4 ***Building an identity through symbols***

Objective: Understand the notion of “symbols” as part of a collective memory and try to explore the symbols of France

Contents: ♦ The 14th of July: Bastille Day
♦ Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
♦ “The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen”

Subject-related field visits:

- ♦ Visit of the Conciergerie (Paris)
- ♦ Event: Commemoration of the “Prise de la Bastille” – 14th of July

Session 5 ***Tradition, heritage and collective memory***

Objective: Understand the lasting impact of abstract and concrete national heritage on identity patterns in the contemporary era of globalization / Illustrate the concept of “national identity” and that of “heritage” through focuses on different key periods of national history

Contents: ♦ The concept of “patrimoine”
 ♦ Cultural and architectural heritage and their impact on collective memory
 ♦ The role of “collective memory” in the identity-formation process

Subject-related field visits: (sites of the UNESCO world heritage list)

- ♦ Visit to the Abbey of Mont Saint Michel
- ♦ Visit to the Châteaux de la Loire: Chenonceaux and Chambord

Assessment:

Section 1 “Intercultural Communication” is assessed through a written test (multiple-choice questions and short open questions, 1 hour)

This assessment will count for one half (3 ECTS) of the “Culture and Communication” course.

Section 2 “French Culture” is assessed through an oral presentation.

This assessment will count for one half (3 ECTS) of the “Culture and Communication” course.