



INSTITUTE FOR
EUROPEAN
STUDIES

*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

www.ies.be

Course title:

European Immigration Policy

Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Christian Kaunert

Type of course:

Optional (part of the specialisation option "Migration and Europe")

Course content:

This course examines EU policy and its relevance and relation to global policy in the field of migration, asylum, and border policy. By studying European migration policy from an interdisciplinary perspective the course introduces students also to migration analysis from different disciplinary viewpoints.

The EU policy field of migration is highly salient and sovereignty sensitive. Admission of non-citizens to the state territory used to lie at the heart of national sovereignty. Over the past 25 years, EU integration has changed this relation significantly. Borders were dismantled and free movement for EU citizens was established. Member States started co-operating on admission conditions for third country nationals, migrants as well as asylum seekers. EU member states also created the general Area of Freedom, Security and Justice with the Schengen area as an integral part of this new concept, as well as establishing the Dublin system at the heart of the Common European Asylum System. However, the recent 'refugee crisis' has shown that the implementation of the Schengen and Dublin agreements, the Common European Asylum System, the common immigration policies is far from consolidated. The EU and its Member States still struggle to balance competencies, functions and effectiveness of those policies. The very future of the EU integration project seems to depend on the question whether legitimate and effective cooperation can be established.

Explanations for the why and how of cooperation in this policy area cover essential questions of European studies. The policy field will be approached from a multidisciplinary angle, looking at the legal, economical and security implications of EU migration policy. The course will discuss EU and Member State policies, decision making, as well as relations to global policy.

Learning outcome:

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the context and history of European migration and policy-making in the world;

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2. An ability to comprehend several different EU policies in relation to migration, asylum and border;
 3. An ability to explore the difficulties that democracies face in balancing the requirements of openness and policy pressures;
 4. An ability to appreciate the changing nature of migration and consider possible future directions of the phenomenon

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes

Upon completion of this module, students will have had the opportunity to:

1. learn to manage time pressure, and make concise explanation of their arguments through the essay research and writing process, which also provides students with the opportunity to:
 - a. demonstrate the development of research skills;
 - b. demonstrate subject specific research techniques;
 - c. apply a range of methodologies to complex political problems.
2. develop their critical capabilities to assess both political and documentary evidence, and to make written arguments in a coherent, structures and persuasive way;
3. develop their IT skills (word processing and the use of the internet for research purposes);
4. perform their cultivated inter-personal skills and oral and written communication skills through seminar participation (in the standard teaching format), and increase their confidence in making oral arguments and giving short presentations before an audience. The seminar (standard teaching format) format will further encourage discussion and debate of differing viewpoints;
5. In the distance learning format of online tutorials, students will have had the opportunity to:
 - a. Perform inter-personal skills with a long-distance medium;
 - b. Enhance their written communication skills.
6. Identify and define the information required on a given topic and use research skills to identify relevant information resources.
Manage and critically evaluate the information found and reference appropriately.