# History of European Economic Integration

## Prof. Riccardo Semeraro

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

***Course aims***

The course aims to retrace the main steps defining the process of constructing the European Union, taking a long-term perspective that reveals the possibility of identifying various attempts to economically integrate the continent throughout history. Next, the course will outline the itinerary that led, in the aftermath of WW2, to the birth of the European Communities first, followed by the European Union, now an integral part of the complex global economic system.

***Intended learning outcomes***

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* recognise the stages of European economic development in terms of how they shaped the development of national economies and societies, in terms of both form and substance;
* navigate the dynamics of the process of European integration, both in terms of timeline and geography;
* identify the different players and factors, both social and institutional, that have had an impact on the economic integration of the countries of Europe over time;
* understand, through historical knowledge, how to interpret changes and evaluate differences.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* approach decision-making situations, both ordinary and extraordinary, recognising the need for a multicausal approach to issues;
* make strategic economic choices based on the relevant historical context and institutional framework;
* integrate into national and international organisations, as well as intermediate bodies, taking account of the historical and institutional context in which they are active;
* assess the importance of the social, cultural and economic variables, as they evolved historically, that were involved in shaping the constitutional and functional mechanisms of the European institutions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Attempt at integrations from a long-term perspective
2. The functionalist approach
3. The Europe of the Communities
4. The main aim of the European Union
5. The challenges of recent history

***READING LIST***

*Course textbook:*

Desmond Dinan, *Europe Recast. A history of European Union,* Palgrave Macmillan (2nd edition), London, 2014.

*Recommended reading:*

Giuliano Amato, Enzo Moavero-Milanesi, Gianfranco Pasquino, Lucrezia Reichlin (eds), *The History of the European Union. Constructing Utopia*, Hart Publishing (1st edition), Oxford, 2019.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is delivered in English over 30 hours of lectures, which will incorporate specialist material, including audiovisual, on each part of the course. There will be an emphasis on active learning and student engagement.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam, in written form (tests with different types of questions), is aimed at assessing students' reasoning skills and analytical rigour with respect to the course contents. The format of the test makes it possible to assess both the general preparation of the students on large sections of the programme, as well as the quality of their study concerning topics of particular importance.

In order to prepare for the final exam, students will have to study the textbook indicated in the reading list. In addition, during the course, they will have the possibility to submit an assignment focused on a topic of their interest that must be previously approved by the lecturer. The latter option will allow the additional awarding of a maximum of 4 marks to the written exam mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require good knowledge of modern history and the contemporary world.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.