European Economic Integration

Prof. Dr. Peter Eppinger
University of Oldenburg
Winter term 2025/26

Content

In this course we study the key issues of European economic integration, including international trade, migration, and the monetary union. The course provides students with an overview of the history and the topical questions of European economic integration. We analyze both microeconomic and macroeconomic aspects of European integration using theoretical models, data, and modern methods of international economics. The course enables students to contribute in an informed manner to the debate about European integration.

Eligibility

This is a new course eligible under the module wir420 for students in the Bachelor programs (typically in the 2nd or 3rd year), e.g. in Economics and Business Administration (single or dual subject), Sustainability Economics, Business Administration: Management and Law, and for exchange students. The course is not eligible for Master students.

Organization and schedule

This course consist of a lecture with an integrated exercise class. We meet in two two-hour sessions every week (starting October 14, 2025):

- Tuesdays: 10.15 am – 11.45 am, in A05 1-161
- Wednesdays: 8.15 am – 9.45 am, in A05 1-159

Approximately every second week, we use one of the two sessions for exercises. As we proceed through the course, students are encouraged to work on several assignments, which we subsequently discuss in class. In addition, there will be in-class exercises that we work on together. The language of instruction is English.

Prerequisites

Participants must have passed the *Introduction to Economics* (wir041). Successful completion of *Macroeconomic Theory* (wir110) and *Microeconomic Theory* (wir120) is also recommended. Exchange students should have equivalent background in the principles of economics.

Registration

Please register for this course on Stud.IP, where all course materials will be made available.

Assessment

There will be a written exam (90 minutes) at the end of the term. In addition, you may earn bonus points during the term by working on the assignments and submitting written solutions by the set deadlines. These bonus points will be added to the points that you earn in the final exam. Grades are based on the total number of points earned in the exam plus the assignments. You may work on the assignments in groups of up to three students. Participation in the assignments is voluntary but strongly recommended. Details will be communicated in the first week.

Literature

Main text:

Baldwin, R. and C. Wyplosz, The Economics of European Integration, 7th ed., McGraw Hill, New York, 2022 (selected chapters).

Supplementary reading:

Krugman, P., M. Obstfeld, M., and M. Melitz (2022), International Economics: Theory and Policy, Global Edition (12th edition). Boston: Pearson Education.

Further supplementary reading will be announced during the course.

Outline (tentative)

1. Introduction
2. History and institutions
3. Trade integration – the traditional view
4. The pro-competitive effect of trade integration
5. Labor market effects of integration
6. Exchange rate regimes and optimum currency areas
7. Monetary union
8. The Eurozone in crisis
9. The four freedoms – where do we stand?

Contact details

Peter Eppinger
Professor of International Economics
University of Oldenburg
Phone: +49-441-798-4110
E-mail: peter.eppinger@uol.de
Office hours: by appointment (please send me an e-mail).