

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: The European Economy		
Course code: ECN 271E		
Teacher responsible: Peter Solar		
Contact hours: 42 Budgeted study time		
Examination method: One written examination, combining short answer and essay questions; two 10-15 page essays, and one oral presentation.		
Course description: This course examines the structure, institutions and performance of the European economy today. By today I mean the last 15-20 years and the next 10 years. It seeks to show both the distinctive features of the European economy—mainly how it differs from the American economy—and the major differences in economic structure and institutions among European countries. The study of individual economies, how they differ and how they interact, should provide students with the context for understanding the process of economic integration in Europe.		
Course objectives: I hope that students take away from this course not only an extensive knowledge of the European economy but also an improved understanding of how to describe and analyze an economy and its institutions. They should also learn how to find, interpret and use statistical and other economic information. Finally, they should have sharpened their economic intuitions and reasoning by putting to use what they have learned in more theoretical economics courses.		
Grade weighting scheme (percentages):		
Final examination		35
Country study		25
Industry study		35
Individual paper	25	
Group paper and presentation	10	
Class participation		5

Literature consulted (titles of handbooks, reader, readings and other course material):

Alberto Alesina and Francesco Giavazzi, *The Future of Europe* (Cambridge, Mass, 2006); documents from the International Monetary Fund and the UN Economic Commission for Europe; selected articles from scholarly journals (*Journal of Political Economy*, *Brookings Papers*, *Health Affairs*); selected chapters from books; *Financial Times*