



## ☆ Course description

European Summer School Graz, 2010.

### Goals

#### *Academic:*

- ★ **Content:** Give students a first comprehensive introduction to political sciences, economics and geopolitics with a thematic focus on the European Union
- ★ **Methodology:** Give students the tools to search, filter, acquire and successfully use knowledge for their studies and beyond

#### *Cultural:*

- ★ Provide students with the opportunity to spend ten days studying and living in a truly multicultural, European environment

### Objectives

- ★ *Create links:* Offer a platform to exchange and strengthen links between young Europeans
- ★ *Rouse curiosity:* Allow students to understand the functioning both of the State and the European Union; Boost their capacity to conceive and reason according to the rationales of economy, EU policies and geopolitical contexts
- ★ *Open new horizons:* Give students the methodological keys for university and broaden their view and intercultural flair for a life beyond boundaries

### Approach

Gather young Europeans from different cultural backgrounds for ten days allowing them to live and study together in a place of both high-level education and genuinely informal cultural exchange.

- ★ *High-quality education:* Small study groups taught by excellent professors to receive a real insight into university life
- ★ *Teamwork & communication:* Interactive and simulation games are part of the academic program, allowing students to mature both intellectually and culturally
- ★ *Cultural exchange:* Students from around 20 different countries share their lives for ten days while a genuine *sense of community* is stimulated thanks to on-campus housing, and a wide-range offer of sports and cultural activities
- ★ *Sustainability:* Networking encouraged and fostered



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### Academic Program

The academic course program includes three main classes, the topics of which are deepened during tutorials in smaller groups. Additionally, students can pick up to two thematically focussed work shops.

The classes are built around the three questions: "Who moves the world?", "What moves the world" and "The European Union: Why? How? What?".

These classes are taught by high-quality university professors from all over Europe with the aim of giving a comprehensive insight into the political sciences, geopolitics, European studies etc. The idea is not to replace a university term in economics or constitutional law, but to rouse students' interest, allow them to conceive and look behind the backdrop of current political and economic processes. We give students the tools to understand and get behind the news, and allowing them to develop a personal interest for current social, political and economic issues. Last but not least, the altogether teaching approach is unique: our teachers will encompass a European perspective, thus enabling the students to apprehend their classmates' different views.

#### 1) Who moves the world?

This course explains political systems, examines how European civil society works and gives an introduction to geopolitics.

- Forms of state governance
  - History of political philosophy / political thought
  - Democracy - «the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time»?
- Citizenship
  - Civic society, participation
  - Political parties/ ideologies
  - Social security - a question with many answers
- An unstable world?
  - History: End of Cold War, «new world order»
  - Multiplication of borders: many states governed by few?
  - Conflicts: zones and reasons



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- The emergence and role of the United Nations
- The emergence and role of regional co-operations

### 2) What moves the world?

Understanding economics is understanding political movements.

- Introduction to Micro- and Macroeconomics
- Politics meet Economy: economic thinkers until today
- Current issue: The financial crisis - origins and consequences

### 3) The European Union: Why? How? What?

Understanding the purpose, the functioning and the current policies of the European Union.

- From 6 to 27 : a historic review of the European integration process
- Europe united in diversity: Reflection about European identity and the polemical question of to whom granting EU membership
- European citizenship: Participation and democracy at supranational level?
- The EU = Brussels? : Economy, law and common domestic policies
- The EU and the world: EU foreign policy from humanitarian help to defence

In addition to that, the students will be able to chose two to three workshops, focusing on some of the topics at the very top of the European agenda.

#### **Tutorials :**

During the tutorials, subjects discussed in the main courses will be treated more precisely, specific vocabulary and expressions will be explained. We hope to encourage the students to work in a foreign language.

#### **Workshops:**

Oratory skills, debating skills, presentation skills: public speaking can be learnt!

**Simulation game:**

This exercise gives the students the opportunity to apply the acquired knowledge and demonstrate their oratory and presentation skills. The participants will be taking up the role of several European countries and parties, the European Commission, the European Parliament or the European Council. Together they will solve a challenge currently faced by the EU.

**Interactive exercises:**

In small groups, students will be required to work on subjects discussed in the courses and present the results at the end, with the aim of improving their teamwork skills and training their presentation routine. Interactive exercises will take place within the framework of the main courses as well as the tutorials.



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	Day-0	Arrival Evening: Welcome-Barbecue
<b>Groundwork</b>	Day 1	Morning: Welcome Program / Getting to know each other Afternoon: Classes Evening: Global village (participants present their countries and cultures)
	Day 2	Morning: Classes Afternoon: Classes Evening: European Universities fair, studying abroad information
	Day 3	Morning: free Afternoon: Classes Evening: Debate with expert?
	Day 4	Morning: Classes Afternoon: free Evening: free
	<b>Specialising</b>	Day 5
Day 6		Morning: workshops Afternoon: workshops Evening: n/a
<b>Sunday</b>	Day 7	Excursion

<b>EU Parliament Simulation Game</b>	Day 8	<p>Morning: Methodical workshops (Research, Presentation)</p> <p>Afternoon: Distribution of roles for the simulation game, start of research (autonomous team work)</p> <p>Evening: intervention of EU related professional?</p>
	Day 9	<p>Morning: Research continued (autonomous team work)</p> <p>Afternoon: Finishing touches on Position Papers for simulation game (coached work)</p> <p>Evening: Short presentation of respective position papers</p>
	Day 10	<p>Morning: Simulation game</p> <p>Afternoon: Simulation game</p> <p>Evening: Farewell &amp; Departure</p>