

Course title	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON - UNDERSTANDING AND TAMING EUROPEAN UNION
Lecturer	<i>dr Krzysztof Załucki, LL.M. Eur. (Munich)</i>
Hours	30
ECTS	5
Semester	Fall
Content	<p>According to John McCormick in his book "Understanding the European Union (8th Edition) A Concise Introduction" (Red Globe Press, 2020): "What, then, is the EU? The answer depends upon who you ask, and what preferences and perspectives they bring to their analysis. It is clearly more than a conventional international organization, but it has not yet been comfortably slotted in to discussions about the state.</p> <p>It often works in the company of states, as in peacekeeping operations in world trouble spots, where EU soldiers might be operating alongside those from individual states, or in negotiations held under the auspices of the WTO, where there is a single EU trade representative who speaks on behalf of all EU member states (even though the latter are still individual members of the WTO).</p> <p>In spite of the time and energy devoted to first understanding the process of European integration, and then to understanding the personality of the EU, all that has been agreed is that nothing in the political lexicon captures the essence of the EU. It is, in other words, <i>sui generis</i>, or unique.</p> <p>To describe it as such is to avoid taking a hard position, and yet to take a position, and to describe the EU as federal, confederal, quasi-federal, an exercise in multi-level governance, or something else, is to invite immediate criticism. This is one of the great frustrations of studying the EU".</p> <p>As you see, European Union appears to be a weird creature located somewhere between an Alien and a Gremlin – at least to the majority of its inhabitants.</p> <p>Have no fear: this course allows to elaborate effective methods of understanding and domesticating this being.</p>
Prerequisites	General English level B1

Learning outcomes	<p><u>Knowledge:</u> The student is able to describe the main features of the European Union, noting its strange and obscure sides. Through the analysis of specific examples, he/she is able to indicate why the European Union is a unique, although not entirely effective and orderly, international organization.</p>
	<p><u>Skills:</u> The student is able to point out the strange and seemingly inexplicable legal, economic and social aspects of the European Union. Through examples from his/her own life and from literature and newspaper articles, he/she is able to answer questions related to these features and explain them to others, especially those outside the European Union.</p> <p><u>Competences:</u> The student is able, acting independently or in a group, to solve tasks and puzzles explaining the peculiarities of the functioning of the European Union and to demonstrate that every strange and inexplicable feature of this organization has some justification.</p>
Selected literature	<p>English-language texts from European recognized magazines and weeklies, such as Der Spiegel, The Times, Newsweek and others. Students can also propose their own texts, which will be used after approval by the Lecturer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Understanding the European Union. A Concise Introduction</i>, John McCormick, 2020. 2. <i>The European Union: Questions and Answers</i>, Kristin Archick, 2024 <p>Supplementary reading suggested or handed out in class.</p>
Teaching tools/methods	on-site lectures, classes, exercises, discussion,
Form of examination	written test