

**Information sheet for the course  
Introduction to Political Science Theory**

<b>University:</b> <i>Alexander Dubcek University of Trencin</i>	
<b>Faculty:</b> <i>Department of Political Science</i>	
<b>Course unit code:</b> <i>PLTP2</i>	<b>Course unit title:</b> <i>Introduction to European Policy</i>
<b>Type of course unit:</b> <i>compulsory</i>	
<b>Planned types, learning activities and teaching methods:</b> <i>Lecture: 2 hours weekly</i> <i>Seminar: 2 hours weekly</i>	
<b>Number of credits:</b> <i>6</i>	
<b>Recommended semester:</b> <i>autumn</i> <b>Recommended year:</b> <i>1</i>	
<b>Degree of study:</b> <i>I. (bachelor)</i>	
<b>Assessment methods:</b> <i>Students have to present a paper and study recommended readings during the semester to receive credits. The course will be completed by oral exam.</i>	
<i>Marking of the course: A – at least 92 points, B – at least 83 points, C – at least 74 points, D at least 65 points, E – at least 56 points.</i>	
<b>Learning outcomes of the course unit:</b> <i>By completing the course, the student will be able to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>describe the historical development of European integration, its various forms and content;</i></li> <li>• <i>characterize its current form and development as it has reached it;</i></li> <li>• <i>summarize developments in the field of European integration and identify its important milestones;</i></li> <li>• <i>define the main theories describing its internal relations and processes and predicting future development;</i></li> <li>• <i>briefly describe the political system of the European Union and the activities of its main institutions;</i></li> <li>• <i>constructively discuss your knowledge and opinions on the topic of European integration with the help of relevant arguments and present them in a cultured manner before a professional or lay audience.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Course contents:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Introduction to the issue, the beginnings and basic stages of the development of European politics</i></li> <li>2. <i>European politics and various attempts to unify it (Charlemagne, Holy Roman Empire, Napoleon Bonaparte, etc.)</i></li> <li>3. <i>The first post-war attempts to institutionalize European integration</i></li> <li>4. <i>The launch of the European integration project in the context of the threat from the USSR</i></li> <li>5. <i>Neofunctionalism and intergovernmentalism as main competing theories of European integration</i></li> <li>6. <i>The boom in European integration in the 1950s and 1960s, the crisis of the 1970s and the relaunch from the mid-1980s</i></li> <li>7. <i>Enlargement as an important aspect of integration, affecting the very functioning of the EU</i></li> <li>8. <i>Intergovernmental conferences and negotiation of founding treaties</i></li> <li>9. <i>Main EU institutions: European Commission</i></li> <li>10. <i>Main institutions of the EU: Council of the EU</i></li> <li>11. <i>Main institutions of the EU: European Parliament</i></li> <li>12. <i>Main institutions of the EU: European Court of Justice</i></li> </ol>	

**Recommended or required reading:**

*BULMER, S. et al. Politics in the European Union. 5th ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2020. 596 s. ISBN: 9780198820635*

*FIALA, P. - KUTÍLEK, O. - PITROVÁ, M. Evropská unie. Brno : Centrum pro studium demokracie a kultury, 2018. ISBN 9788073254506*

*KRATOCHVÍL, P. Teorie evropské integrace. Praha : Portál, 2008. 224 s. ISBN 978-80-7367-467-0*

*KUBICEK, P. European Politics. London and New York : Routledge, 2017.*

*HRIVÍK, P. Európska integrácia a základy fungovania Európskej únie (Historický, politologický a inštitucionálno-právny rámec vývoja integrácie). Trenčín : Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka, 2016. 308 strán. ISBN 978-80-8075-620-8.*