

The Czech Republic and the EU

IRCROPPK

Syllabus for winter 2025, bachelor 3IRES

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Course description

This course examines the position of the Czech Republic in the European Union and the Czech policy within the EU. It starts with the historical and geopolitical context of the European integration during and after the Cold War until its biggest enlargement in 2004. We will summarize hopes and anxieties associated with the Eastern enlargement both on the side of the European Union (then EU15) and on the side of the Czech Republic (and the CEE countries as such).

We will assess the attitudes of the Czech public (Czech society) and Czech political parties towards the EU. We will then move on towards discussing Czech institutions (especially government) and their role in representing the Czech Republic within the European Union. The course also addresses the conduct of the Czech Presidencies of the Council of the European Union in 2009 and 2022.

The second part of the course will focus on Czech priorities with regard to selected individual policies of the European Union (Common Foreign and Security Policy, Regional Policy, Economic and Monetary Union, and the Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice). We will assess, on one hand, the impact of such policies on the Czech Republic and, on the other hand, Czech influence on its implementation and future development.

Course requirements and grading

The course will take the form of weekly lectures; the teaching will take place at the MUP campus in Strašnice in a room according to the schedule. All course literature, PowerPoint presentations, weekly assignments, and final tests will be available online via Moodle. Go to <https://moodle.mup.cz/course/view.php?id=898>, login with your SIS account, and register for the course using password: window

There are three requirements to pass the course. For each of them you will receive points for the final assessment of the course:

1. Active participation

For attending each class and participating in the discussions, you will receive 2 points for the overall assessment. Active participation during classes will be recorded from the 3rd week of the semester; you can thus earn a **maximum of 20 points**. If you cannot attend lectures over a longer period, you can apply for an **individual study plan (ISP) at the beginning of the semester**. If your ISP is approved, you will have to do an oral exam as compensation for your lack of active participation. For the retake term (September), the same conditions apply as for the ISP, i.e., instead of active class participation, you get points for an oral exam (maximum 20 points).

2. Weekly assignments

Each week (starting from the 3rd week), you will complete a short assignment via Moodle. You are required to upload the assignment into Moodle **before** the start of the given lecture. You can get 0-3 points for each assignment, so you can get a **maximum of 30 points** for all weekly assignments. The obligation to upload weekly assignments on time (i.e., before the start of the lecture) also applies to students with an individual study plan (ISP). Additional submission of weekly assignments after the deadline is only possible within the retake (September).

3. Final test

You will write the final test during the exam period **in person in Strašnice**. There will be 4 exam dates during the exam period (you have max 3 attempts). For a retake, there will be 2 exam dates in September (you have only 1 attempt for the retake). The test will cover lectures, presentations, and course literature and will consist of two parts (multiple choice and open questions). You can get a **maximum of 50 points** for the entire test.

	Regular students	Individual study plan	Retake in September
Max 20 points	Active participation (during semester)	Oral exam (in person in Strašnice)	
Max 30 points	Weekly assignments (during semester)		Weekly assignments (late submission)
Max 50 points	Final test (in person in Strašnice)		

Total points collected will be used for the final grading according to the following **grading standard**:

excellent (=1)	85-100 points
very good (=2)	73-84 points
good (=3)	61-72 points
failed	0-60 points

Course content

1. Course introduction
2. Historical and geopolitical context: Czechoslovakia and Europe during the Cold War
3. The accession to the EU: The Czech perspective
4. The accession of CEE countries: The EU perspective
5. Public attitudes towards the EU, Czech Euroscepticism
6. Party attitudes towards the EU, representation in the European Parliament
7. Czech government and the representation of the Czech Republic in the EU
8. Czech Presidencies of the Council of the EU (2009 and 2022)
9. Czech economy and trade within the EU, EU Funds and Euro
10. Czech foreign policy and EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy
11. Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; Schengen and the migration crisis
12. The Future of the Czech Republic in the EU

Readings

See Moodle.