

## PO4015 The Government and Politics of the European Union

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### Aims and Objectives

This module aims to develop students' understanding of the way the European Union works and how its policies and powers affect the lives of citizens of EU member states. It will provide students with a solid understanding of the history, institutions, decision-making processes and major policies of the European Union, as well as the principal issues and controversies which it currently faces.

Having completed the module, students should be able to:

- Describe the political system and main activities of the EU
- Discuss and evaluate the various theoretical accounts of the process of EU integration
- Explain the workings of the major EU institutions and assess the balance of power between them
- Conduct research on EU activities using a range of primary and secondary sources



### Contents

The course consists of three parts. The first part provides the basis for understanding how the EU works. Topics covered include: the evolution of the EU; understanding the process of EU integration; how the EU decides; the roles of the EU institutions. The second part examines democracy in the EU. Topics include public opinion; EU elections and referendums; political parties and the EU; interest groups. The third part examines the main policies of the EU including the single market, economic and monetary union, and budgetary policies.

### Core Readings

- Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen (2011), *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hix, Simon and Bjorn Hoyland (2011) *The Political System of the European Union* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nugent, Neill (2011). *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, (7<sup>th</sup> edition). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Cini, Michelle and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borragan (eds.) (2010). *European Union Politics*, (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.