

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE**  
**Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University**  
**International Relations Faculty**  
**International Relations Department**

**SYLLABUS**  
of an elective academic component  
**“Current Development Problems of European Countries”**

**Bachelor Training**

Lutsk–2026

**The syllabus of the academic component** “Current Development Problems of European Countries”, education level bachelor

**Developer:** PhD in Economics, Assoc. prof. Ilona Balak.

**Approved**

by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:



*signature*

Assoc. prof. Ilona Balak

**The syllabus of the academic component** “Current Development Problems of European Countries” was approved at the meeting of International Relations Department

Protocol № 7 of January 30, 2026

The Head of the Department:



Assoc. prof. Yevheniia Vozniuk

## I. The description of academic component

Indicator Name	Field of knowledge, specialty, educational and professional programme, education level	Characteristics of academic component
Full-time form of education	C “Social Sciences, Journalism, Information, and International Relations” C3 “International Relations” “International Relations” bachelor	Elective
Number of hours / credits 150/5		Year of study 3
Individual Student’s Work: <u>no</u>		Semester 6
Language of study		Lectures 10 hours
		Seminars 20 hours
		Independent work 110 hours
		Consultations 10 hours
		Form of control: credit
		English

## II. Information about the instructor

**Name** Mrs Ilona Balak

**Scientific Degree** PhD in Economics

**Academic Title** Associate Professor

**Title** Associate Professor of International Relations Department

**Contacts** [Balak.Ilona@vnu.edu.ua](mailto:Balak.Ilona@vnu.edu.ua)

**Days Classes** <https://ps.vnu.edu.ua/cgi-bin/timetable.cgi>

## III. Description of the academic component

### 1. A Course Abstract

The educational component "Current Problems of Development of European Countries" highlights a comprehensive analysis of the key challenges facing European states in the context of geopolitical instability and energy transformation. The main attention is paid to the problems of security architecture, overcoming the migration crisis and maintaining the economic competitiveness of the EU against the backdrop of the rapid technological gap between the USA and China. Applicants will study the internal contradictions between the national interests of individual countries and the pan-European integration strategy, and will also look for ways to strengthen the strategic autonomy of the region.

### 2. Goal and tasks of the academic component

The aim of the course is to develop a deep understanding of the current socio-economic and political situation in Europe by analyzing key destabilizing factors and strategies for overcoming them in the context of European integration.

The main tasks of the course are:

- to identify the main challenges for European security in connection with the changing geopolitical landscape and hybrid threats.
- to analyze the economic consequences of the energy crisis and the transition to a "green" economy.

- to examine socio-demographic problems, in particular migration processes and population aging, and their impact on public policy.
  - to assess the level of unity within the EU and analyze the contradictions between national governments and supranational institutions.
3. Soft skills
- critical thinking;
  - cultural intelligence;
  - analytical forecasting;
  - resistance to information pressure;
  - team cooperation and debating.

#### 4. Structure of the academic component

Name of the content module and topic	Total	Lectures	Seminars	Independent student's work	Consultations	Form of control / Grades
<b>Content Module 1. Modern problems of development of European countries</b>						
<b>Topic 1.</b> European Security Architecture and Strategic Autonomy	15	2	2	11	–	DS/10
<b>Topic 2.</b> The Green Deal and Energy Sovereignty	15	–	2	11	2	DS/10
<b>Topic 3.</b> Demographic Shifts and the Aging Population Crisis	15	2	2	11	–	DS/10
<b>Topic 4.</b> Migration Policy and Social Cohesion Challenges	15	–	2	11	2	DS/10
<b>Topic 5.</b> Digital Sovereignty and the AI Race in Europe	15	–	2	11	2	DS/10
<b>Topic 6.</b> Re-industrialization and Economic Competitiveness	15	2	2	11	–	DS/10
<b>Topic 7.</b> The Rise of Populism and the Future of Liberal Democracy	15	2	2	11	–	DS/10
<b>Topic 8.</b> Intra-European Tensions and Rule of Law Disputes	15	–	2	11	2	DS/10
<b>Topic 9.</b> Post-Brexit Britain: Global Britain vs. Regional Reality	15	2	2	11	–	DS/10
<b>Topic 10.</b> EU Integration of Ukraine: Impacts and Prospects	15	–	2	11	2	DS/10
Total for Module 1	150	10	10	110	10	100
<b>Total hours / Grades</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

Control methods: DS – discussion.

#### 5. Tasks for independent work.

Elements of the independent student's work	Number of hours
reading literature for classes	60
constant review of the press and other media	50
<b>Total number of hours</b>	<b>110</b>

### IV. Evaluation Policy

**The instructor's evaluation policy related to the student.** The answers to the questions should be based on the student's own vision of the problem, if the results of other people's researches are used, its' authors and sources should be indicated. Communication during classes should be based solely on respect for respondents, regardless of age, gender, religion, race, political views. If on-line learning is held, students must use with the video mode.

**Academic integrity policy.** Zero write-off tolerance threshold.

**Deadlines and retaking policy.** Delays can occur if they are not regular and do not interfere with the lesson. Omissions of seminars with the possibility of working off are allowed in case of a student's illness. Maximum number of spaces allowed without justification causes – 3 testing are possible in a team discipline platform Microsoft Teams in the form of photos, videos, presentations.

**The recognition of learning outcomes acquired through formal, non-formal, and informal education** is ensured in accordance with the procedure for recognizing learning outcomes obtained in formal, non-formal, and/or informal education at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. ([https://ed.vnu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024\\_%D0%92%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8F\\_%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B7%D1%83%D0%BB\\_%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B2\\_%D0%92%D0%9D%D0%A3\\_i%D0%BC.\\_%D0%9B.%D0%A3.\\_%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4.pdf](https://ed.vnu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024_%D0%92%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8F_%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B7%D1%83%D0%BB_%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B2_%D0%92%D0%9D%D0%A3_i%D0%BC._%D0%9B.%D0%A3._%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4.pdf))

**The possibility of obtaining additional (bonus) points** is not provided.

## V. Final Control

A maximum of 100 points is available for continuous assessment. The demonstration of comprehensive lecture notes addressing all seminar discussion questions accounts for 40% of the total seminar score. If the final semester grade is not lower than 60 points, then with the consent of the student, it can be counted as the final grade for the discipline. Otherwise, the student takes the credit again. The credit assessment questions cover the topics of both lectures and seminars.

## VI. Grading Scale

Scores	Linguistic Grade
90-100	Passed
82-89	
75-81	
67-74	
60-66	
1-59	Fail (needed to retake)

## VI. Recommended references

1. Коляда Т. Сталий розвиток міст і регіонів ЄС: кращі практики для України. Ірпінь : Державний податковий університет, 2025. Режим доступу: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/390335532\\_STALIJ\\_ROZVITOK\\_MIST\\_I\\_REGIONIV\\_ES\\_KRASI\\_PRAKTIKI\\_DLA\\_UKRAINI\\_Navcalnij\\_posibnik](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/390335532_STALIJ_ROZVITOK_MIST_I_REGIONIV_ES_KRASI_PRAKTIKI_DLA_UKRAINI_Navcalnij_posibnik)
2. Європейська регіональна політика: підручник За ред. Крисоватого А. та Ліщинського І. Тернопіль: ВПЦ «Економічна думка ЗУНУ», 2020. 236 с.
3. Право Європейського Союзу : підручник / за ред. Р. А. Петрова ; М-во освіти і науки України, Нац. ун-т «Києво-Могилян. акад.». Харків : Право, 2024. 488 с.
4. Мазаракі, А. А., Мельник, Т. М., Будзяк, В. М., Будзяк, О. С. Країнознавство. Європа та Азія, підручник. Київ. Державний торговельно-економічний університет, 2024. Режим доступу: <https://www.doi.org/10.31617/p.knute.2024-270>

5. Гільченко О. Л. Зовнішня політика країн Європи : навч. посібник. Ч. 1 / О. Л. Гільченко, М. А. Светлакова, М. В. Булик. Маріуполь : МДУ, 2021. 156 с.
6. Balak I., Pikulyk O. The impact of EU migration policy on the regions' development in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war. *Studia de Securitate*. 2024. 14(2). P. 23–32. URL: <https://doi.org/10.24917/26578549.14.2.2>
7. Economic Integration and Cooperation in the Conditions of Globalization. *Economic Affairs*. 2024. Vol. 69 (Special Issue). P. 363–369. URL: <https://doi.org/10.46852/0424-2513.1.2024.38>