

Essay assignment

Type: Short assignment

Learning objectives

- Help students connect structural models of history to concrete examples.
- Develop essay writing skills.
- Develop skills in source criticism.

Assignment suggestion

Write an essay of max. 2-3 pages. Read the literature on bottom-up European integration history, and explore three stories on *Inventing Europe* at www.inventingeurope.eu. Summarize the main characteristics of bottom-up European integration processes and analyze these processes at the hand of the three *Inventing Europe* stories. If you identify top-down history elements, please describe them as well. Explore the “What’s like this?” sections below the three *Inventing Europe* stories that you have used, to find relevant objects that support your essay. (ECTS: 20%) – Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands.

Approach

In preparation of this assignment we suggest the following optional steps:

1. Select literature that suits your course.
2. In the case of the example assignment, we suggest the literature on bottom-up European integration (see reading suggestions).
3. You might want to show your students www.inventingeurope.eu during the lecture before the start of the essay assignment and inform them which tours they will have to read.
4. Explain to them the (to your course adapted) assignment.
5. Your students are ready to go.

Reading suggestions

- Take a look at the six volume book series [Johan Schot and Philip Scranton ed., ‘Making Europe: Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000’ \(Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013-2016\)](#). Each *Inventing Europe* exhibition is inspired by one of these volumes and allows you to explore in-depth with your students the themes of

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consumers, infrastructures, governance, media, knowledge societies and Europe in a global world. Examine www.makingeurope.eu for more details and table of contents of the already published volumes.

Reading material for the above assignment suggestion

Required reading

- John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union*, (Houndmills: Palgrave/MacMillan, 2008), 45-93.
- Stephen George and Ian Bache, *Politics in the European Union*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 5-42.

Additional reading

- Claudio M Radaelli, "Europeanization: Solution or Problem?" in *European Union Studies*, eds. Michelle Cini and Angela K. Bourne (Houndsmill: Palgrave/MacMillan, 2006), 56-76.
- Thomas Risse, "Social Constructivism and European Integration", in: *European Integration Theory*, eds. Antje Wiener and Thomas Diez (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 159-176.

Are you planning on using this suggestion and teach with *Inventing Europe*? Then we invite you to join our teaching community. You then keep up-to-date on activities, have ample opportunity to share your materials and experiences, and to be in touch with other teachers.

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