

European Union Politics

84:301 | Fall Semester 2017 | 3 credits
TTh, 9:40-11:10am in Sage Hall 3224

"Nobody in Europe will be abandoned. Nobody in Europe will be excluded. Europe only succeeds if we work together."

-Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany

COURSE DESCRIPTION

BREXIT. The refugee crisis. The rise of far-right groups. The threat of both Putin and Trump. Immigration and multi-culturalism. Questions about commitment to "European values" from some member states. The European Union faces no shortage of dilemmas lately. But are these challenges really any different from those that have faced the EU in the past? This course will give students a window into the complex, fascinating world of the EU and, through a simulated negotiation, allow you to play the role of a seasoned Eurocrat.

The European Union itself is somewhat of a puzzle: it's not "just" an international organization, yet it's definitely not a state. What is the European Union, how does it work, and how does it influence both the politics of the states that comprise it and the international system as a whole? We will explore the historical development of this unique organization and examine each of its institutions in detail in order to unravel the EU's complex policy-making process. We will also look at the major issues that the EU has worked through in its short history (e.g., agricultural policy and economic and monetary union) and challenges facing the organization today (e.g., security policy, the future of the Euro, refugees, and the twin crises of democracy and legitimacy).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Although I am willing to sign interested students from any discipline into this course, students who have completed Political Science 101, 115, 308, or 309 will find that those courses provide a useful foundation for concepts and issues addressed in this course. I do not intend to cover material from these courses extensively here, so some knowledge (especially from introductory courses) will be assumed. Students who are struggling with the course because of the lack of background knowledge should see me for background readings and feel free to discuss them with me at any time.

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Professor Tracy H. Slagter
Ph.D., University of Iowa (2006)

Dept. Contact: Angelee Hammond
Dept. Office Location: Sage Hall 4631
Department Phone: (920) 424-3456

Office Hours: TTh, 11:30-1:00, or by appt.
Office Location: Sage Hall 4626
Email: slagtert@uwosh.edu
Cell: (920) 410-5244 (texting is best)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Cini, Michelle and Nieves Perez-Solorzano
Borragan. 2016. *European Union Politics*, 5th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

This textbook is required and is available at University Books & More or from online retailers. Other readings will be available to you on D2L or via Polk Library's online databases.

Please bring your textbook, readings and syllabus to class with you each meeting.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- *Evaluate* and *differentiate* the many theories about European integration;
- *Describe* the major institutions of the European Union and explain their primary functions;
- *Explain* how historical forces have shaped the EU's trajectory;
- *Outline* the EU's policy-making process;
- *Examine* major EU policy decisions and understand why policy outcomes are shaped the way that they are;
- *Integrate* their course knowledge into a simulated treaty negotiation;
- *Collaborate* with classmates on a joint project; and
- *Defend* their own research and positions against opposing views and research.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an upper-division course in political science, and as such it will be taught in a

seminar style as much as is practical. This means that student input is required for the course to be successful (and fun). As such, I expect that students will attend class each week prepared to discuss the readings; completing the readings ahead of time is essential. *My ability to teach is severely limited if you do not read.*

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Here's a partial list of what I expect from you this semester:

- Do the assigned reading by the day it is listed on the syllabus, and by "do the reading" I mean highlight, mark it up, write in the margins, etc.;
- Come to class every session on time and ready to work;
- Read the news every day; I recommend the BBC or *EU Observer*;
- Take notes the old-fashioned way: pen and paper;
- Be interested, or at least pretend to be because when you look bored it makes me sad because all of this stuff is super-interesting (really!);
- Notify me if you have a disability or problem of any kind so that I can help you be successful;
- Tell me if you're going to be absent (call me crazy, but I like to know where you are);
- Avoid distractions (phones, tablets, laptops) in class;
- Do not plagiarize or cheat (it will result in an F for the course, and no one wants that);
- Be kind and respectful to each other and to me.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The grading scale I use for this course is **93/90/87**. Grades are determined as follows:

Participation (10%): In an upper-division course, there's nothing worse than a roomful of students who won't say a word. You can participate by making quality contributions in class, injecting yourself into class discussions, asking questions, and stopping by office hours. Although I do not formally take attendance, you will note that several of the assignments below require your presence and *cannot* be made up.

Reading Quizzes (15%): I will periodically quiz the class on the assigned readings to assess your understanding and determine where more clarification is needed. Quizzes will be unannounced, and will require that you have a basic understanding of the readings for that day. You can expect a quiz at least once per week, sometimes more often. These *cannot be made up* outside of class, no matter the reason. I will be firm on this.

EU Refugee Response Project (35%): The major project of this course is a negotiation wherein students represent selected

governments in the European Union and attempt to come to consensus on a major policy issue. The governments represented in the negotiation will be Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Hungary, Sweden, and Poland. Students will be allowed to choose a country to represent, but that choice may be constrained by the requirements for the simulation. More details will be provided in class. Note that this project *will require time outside of class* like any research assignment.

Section Examinations (40%): There will be two short exams in this course, each worth 20% of your final grade. The exams must be taken at the time and on the date they are scheduled unless you have a documented medical excuse or must be absent for a University-sponsored activity (in which case I ask for a signed letter from your coach or other University official). If you have a disability that requires special testing arrangements, please see me after class.

NOTE TO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. 84:245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

CHANGES

I reserve the right to change any portion of this syllabus at any time in the semester in order to accommodate the needs and pace of this particular group. I will notify you in advance of any changes both in class and via email.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

FOUNDATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

September 7: Introductory material, teaching philosophy, major projects
Read: Please print your syllabus, read it, and bring it to class.

September 12: In the Beginning...
Read: **Cini**, Chapters 1 and 2
"Ventotene Manifesto" (Spinelli and Rossi)
"The Tragedy of Europe" (Winston Churchill)
"The Schuman Declaration" (Robert Schuman)

September 14: Much Ado about France
Read: "A Ferment of Change" (Jean Monnet)
"A Concert of European States" (Charles de Gaulle)

September 19: Settling the "German Question"
Read: **Tractenberg, Marc**. 1997. "The Making of a Political System: The German Question in International Politics, 1945-1963." In Paul Kennedy and William Hitchcock, eds., *From War to Peace: Altered Strategic Landscapes in the Twentieth Century*. New Haven: Yale. (D2L)

September 21: Willful Ignorance and Inevitable Divorce?
Read: **Nicol, Danny**. 2001. "The United Kingdom's First Two Attempts to Join the EEC." Chapter 2 in *EC Membership and the Judicialization of British Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (D2L)
Copeland, Paul and Nathaniel Copsey. 2017. "Rethinking Britain and the European Union: Politicians, the Media, and Public Opinion Reconsidered." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 55:4, 709-726.

September 26: The Single European Act and Beyond
Read: **Moravcsik, Andrew**. 1991. "Negotiating the Single European Act: national interests and conventional statecraft in the European Community." *International Organization* 45: 1, 19-56.
"A Necessary Union" (Jacques Delors)

September 28: A Constitution for Europe and the Treaty of Lisbon
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 3

THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

October 3: The Commission
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 9
Nugent, Neil and Mark Rhinard. 2016. "Is the Commission Really in Decline?" *Journal of Common Market Studies* 54:5, 1199-1215.

October 5: The Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers)
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 10

October 10: The European Parliament
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 11

Kohler, Manfred. 2014. "European Governance and the European Parliament: From Talking Shop to Legislative Powerhouse." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 52:3, 600-615.

October 12: The "Democratic Deficit" and the European Public
Read: **Cini**, Chapters 8, 24, and 25

October 17: The European Court System
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 12
Alter, Karen J. 1998. "Who are the 'Masters of the Treaty?' European Governments and the European Court of Justice." *International Organization* 52: 121ff.

October 19: Review for first exam. Bring your questions!

October 24: **SECTION EXAM I:** History and EU Institutions

INTEGRATION THEORY AND EUROPEAN POLICYMAKING

October 26: Theories of Integration: Federalism, Functionalism, and Neofunctionalism
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 4
Read: "A Working Peace System" (David Mitrany)
"The Uniting of Europe" (Ernst Haas)

October 31: Theories of Integration: Intergovernmentalism and Supranationalism
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 5
"Integration, Supranational Governance..." (Stone Sweet, et. al)

November 2: States in Europe and New Theories of Integration
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 6
"Obstinate or Obsolete?" (Stanley Hoffmann)

November 7: Interest Articulation and Policymaking in the EU
Read: **Cini**, Chapters 13 and 14
Kluger Rasmussen, Maja. 2015. "The Battle for Influence: the Politics of Business Lobbying in the European Parliament." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 53:2, 365-382.

November 9: The Single Market and the Common Currency
Read: **Cini**, Chapters 18 and 20

November 14: The Euro Crisis
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 26

November 16: The Common Agricultural Policy
Read: **Cini**, Chapter 21

November 21: External Relations and Defense
Read: **Cini**, Chapters 15 and 17
Orenstein, Mitchell and Daniel Kelemen. 2017. "Trojan Horses in EU Foreign Policy." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 55:1, 87-102.

November 23: **Thanksgiving Recess: NO CLASS**

November 28: The “Third Pillar”

Read: **Cini**, Chapter 20

Maricut, Adina. 2017. “Different narratives, one area without internal frontiers: why EU institutions cannot agree on the refugee crisis.” *National Identities* 19:2, 161-177.

November 30: Environmental Policy

Read: **Cini**, Chapter 23

Skjaereth, Jon. 2017. “The European Commission’s Shifting Climate Leadership.” *Global Environmental Politics* 17:2, 84-104.

December 5: **SECTION EXAM II: Theories of Integration and Policymaking**

December 7: Refugee Crisis Project

December 12: Refugee Crisis Project

December 14: Refugee Crisis Project