

INTA 2803: Introduction to the European Union

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

FALL 2011

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:05-10:55AM, Instructional Center 113

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This course is designed to familiarize you with the politics of the European Union, concentrating on the period since 2004. The fundamental goal of this course is to examine the historical circumstances behind the creation of the EU, the theoretical explanations underlying the EU and the policy areas and the actual results. The course is divided thematically into four broad sections: 1) historical and theoretical underpinnings, 2) EU institutions, 3) day-to-day policymaking, and 4) the large debates facing the future of the European Union.

We begin by looking at the historical situation at the end of the Second World War. We will then complement our studies with more in-depth investigation of the theoretical explanations for EU development. We will then look into specific EU institutions and their functions. We will look at how the institutions work with each other to create EU-wide law (especially in the aftermath of the Treaty of Lisbon). Then we will look at specific policy areas to see how the EU impacts those issues on a global, national, and local level. We will end with debates on enlargement and other higher-level issues that will shape the future of the EU.

There are no formal prerequisites for this class, but an introductory course in political science or comparative politics is helpful.

Required Reading

One textbook is required for this course. Copies are available at the student bookstores and elsewhere.

- Cini, M. and N. Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (2010). *European Union Politics*: (3rd ed.). New York, NY, US: Oxford University Press Inc. ISBN: 978-0-230-57379-7 (abbreviated as EUP)

In addition to the required book, there will be several required readings from other sources. Links to these readings will be available on the T-square site for the course. Specific readings for each week are noted in the course schedule.

The T-square site will also contain other important material for the course, including assignments, study guides for exams, and so on. Regular access to T-Square is mandatory

for this course. Most of you already have the necessary skills to use this tool, but if you don't OIT runs periodic workshops.

Recommended Reading

Being informed about what is going on in the world is always a good idea. We will spend some time in this course discussing contemporary European politics, and though it is not required I highly recommend spending a little time each day checking the international news. Keeping up with European events will enhance the quality of our discussions as we incorporate what we are learning with what we see and read in the news. Listed below are some of the best news sources you can use to stay abreast of events in Europe. If you speak a non-English European language, I can recommend country-specific news outlets as well.

- [*The Financial Times*](#) (British daily newspaper with quality information on Europe)
- [*The Economist*](#) (weekly British newsmagazine)
- [*BBC News*](#)
- [*The New York Times*](#) (best American coverage of European events)

I also recommend the following blogs for following the day-to-day events in the European Union:

- <http://www.jonworth.eu/> (Jon Worth – pretty Eurosceptic blog)
- <http://centreforeuropeanreform.blogspot.com/> (Center for European Reform – pretty neutral blog to improve dialog about the EU)
- <http://fistfulofeuros.net/> (A fistful of Euros – blog focused on mainly pure economics)

Class Format

This class will meet three times a week for 50 minutes. A list of general discussion questions appears with the reading assignment for each session. I expect all students to come to class having done the reading and ready to comment and/or ask questions. Remember, no question is too small or too obvious. Chances are your classmates will be wondering the same thing.

Course Requirements

- Quizzes (4/5): 15%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Issue Papers (2) 15%
- Country Presentation: 10%
- Participation: 15%

Quizzes (15%)

There will be five quizzes over the semester, given on Fridays. The quizzes will not last more than 15 minutes, but will be mainly to make sure you are keeping up with the reading and lectures. You will be able to drop your lowest quiz grade so only your best four grades

will count towards your final grade. **Make-up quizzes will not be offered except for excused absences.**

Exams (45%)

There will be two exams during the semester – The midterm (worth 20%) will cover material from the first part of class and the final (worth 25%) will be cumulative (but weighted toward the second half of the course). Each of these exams will consist of a series of short answer, matching and identification questions. I will provide study resources prior to each exam. **The midterm exam will be held October 3rd in class and the final exam is scheduled for December 16th (Friday) from 11:30a-2:20p.**

Issue Papers (20%)

I will assign two papers to be written during the semester. Each should be between five (5) and seven (7) pages, matching the format listed in the paper guides. All papers are due by the beginning of class. The first paper will be due September 28th, and the second is due November 30th. Papers must be submitted on paper and stapled. Electronic submission will be not accepted. Late papers will not be accepted without a valid (documented) excuse.

I will allow you to “mulligan” your first paper. Once I hand papers back, if you want to take my comments into account and redo your papers, you will have 48 hours to do so for the chance to increase your grade by up to one letter. You must make an appointment and meet with me in order to take advantage of this option. Papers with a B+ or greater cannot be redone for additional credit.

Here are the topics for the two papers:

Paper 1: Choose a policy area not discussed in class and discuss how the EU acts on that area. What level of government has authority? Is it shared, etc?

Paper 2: The European Union is a good thing. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Country Presentations (10%)

The class will be divided into 26 groups in order to have a presentation on each of the member states of the European Union. The presentation order is already decided, however the country assignments will be made the second Monday of class by a method deemed fair by instructor and students. There will be two presentations each Friday. Each presentation must contain an audio-visual element of your choice. Additionally, all presentations must include a poster. A group of graduate students and faculty will judge the posters at the end of the semester and the country’s poster voted best will get bonus credit for their presenter’s final exam. Creativity will be a large part of the grade. More specifics will be given when the assignments are made.

Attendance and Participation (15%)

Attendance in class is mandatory. However, being in class is not enough – you should participate and ask questions, especially during each lecture. Demonstration of having done the reading will result in a better grade. Please advise me ahead of time if you will

miss class or afterward if you are ill. I will grant you two absences (for whatever reason) during the semester after which your final grade will be deducted 1.5 points for each additional absence (10 points off your participation grade). Obviously there are extenuating circumstances that I will consider, but you need to consider your presence in class as vital to your final grade. Only family emergencies, documented illnesses, or Institute-approved absences will count as excused absences.

Honor Code

Full compliance with the Georgia Institute of Technology's Honor Code is required on all assignments, exams, and papers.

Go to www.honor.gatech.edu for more information.

Special Needs

I am happy to meet any special needs you may have for the class in terms of assistance. You must present me with your ADAPTS office information so that I can make sure our learning environment is best suited to help you succeed.

Final Caveat

This syllabus is to be considered a living document and therefore subject to change. Any major changes (such as moving a due date) will be discussed with the class and posted to T-Square. If you have any questions about what you see on the syllabus, please see me to discuss.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: August 22nd – 26th: Introduction and History

Welcome to the European Union

- EUP, chapters 1 and 2

What is the European Union?

How is European policy made?

What are the basic steps from the ECSC to EC?

How were the first enlargements handled? Who were they? Why?

What are some important milestones in the development of the EU?

Week Two: August 29th – September 2nd: Historical Development

From the Single European Act to the Treaty of Lisbon

- EUP, chapters 3-4

What is the importance of the Treaty of Maastricht? Amsterdam? Nice? Lisbon?

What were the crises that the EU faced in terms of its future and direction?

What has been the impact of the euro on the EU and its economy?

Week Three: September 5th – 9th: Theory

- HOLIDAY (NO CLASS) – MONDAY 9/5
- QUIZ 1 – FRIDAY 9/9

Theories of European Integration

- EUP, chapter 5

What are the main theories used to study European integration? Are they useful?

Week Four: September 12th-16th: Theory (II)

MW: Theories (continued)

- EUP, chapter 6-7

What are the main theories used to study European integration? Are they useful?

F: Review of History and Theory

Week Five: September 19th-23rd: The Commission

The European Commission

- EUP: Chapter 8

What is the European Commission?

What does it do?

Week Six: September 26th-30th: The Council

- Progress Reports on Friday 9/30
- PAPER ONE DUE 9/28
- QUIZ 2 – 9/30

The Council of the European Union

- EUP: Chapter 9

What is the Council of the European Union?

What does it do? How does it function? What is its relation to other institutions?

Week Seven: October 3rd-7th: Midterm, European Parliament

- MIDTERM 10/3

M: Midterm

WF: European Parliament

- EUP: Chapter 10

What is the European Parliament?

What does it do? How does it function? What is its relation to other institutions?

Week Eight: October 10-14th: EU Law

- **Drop Day is 10/14**

Courts of the European Union

- EUP: Chapter 11

What are the different courts of the European Union?

How does EU Law work?

What is its relation to other institutions?

Week Nine: October 17th-21st: Interest Groups and the EU

- **FALL BREAK - 10/17**
- **QUIZ 3 – 10/21**

Interest Groups

- EUP: Chapter 12

How do interest groups influence EU policy?

Week Ten: October 24th-28th: Policy Making, External Relations

M: Policy Making

- EUP: Chapter 13

How is EU policy generally made?

W: External Relations

- EUP: Chapter 14

How is EU foreign policy generally made?

What impact has the Treaty of Lisbon had on foreign policy formation?

Week Eleven: October 31st-November 4th: Security, the Single Market

M: Security and Defense Policy

- EUP: Chapter 15

How is EU security policy generally made?

Does the EU really even have a security policy?

W: Single Market

- EUP: Chapter 16

How is EU trade policy generally made?

How has globalization impacted the EU Single Market?

Week Twelve: November 7th-11th: Social Policy, the Regions

- QUIZ 4 – 11/11

M: Social Europe

- EUP: Chapter 17

What is social Europe? Is it dead?

W: Regional Policy

- EUP: Chapter 18

How are regions represented in the EU?

Has EU regional policy made internal cohesion even more difficult?

Week Thirteen: November 14th-18th: Justice, Monetary Union**M: Justice**

- EUP: Chapter 19

How has the EU developed its third pillar?

What is the Schengen area and what has its impact been?

W: Monetary Union and the Euro

- EUP: Chapter 20

How has monetary union been reached?

Does everyone participate?

Is the Euro a success?

Week Fourteen: November 21-25th : Agriculture Policy

- NO CLASS – 11/23 or 11/25

M: Agriculture Policy

- EUP: Chapter 21

How has agriculture policy been shaped in the EU?

Who has benefited the most from agriculture policy in the EU?

Week Fifteen: November 28th–December 2nd: Democracy?

- PAPER TWO – 11/30
- QUIZ FIVE – 12/2

Is the EU democratic? What about public opinion?

- EUP: Chapters 23-24

What is the democratic deficit?

Has the Treaty of Lisbon helped?

Is the EU democratic?

What does the average European think about the EU?

Week Sixteen: December 5th-9th: EU: Deeper or Larger?

M: Europeanization

- EUP: Chapter 25

What is europeanization?

What are the two types of europeanization?

W: Enlargement

- EUP: Chapter 26

What are Europe's borders?

Who should be a member? Iceland? Turkey? Ukraine? Georgia?

FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 16th, 11:30a-2:20p