

INTA 2221: Introduction to the European Union

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

FALL 2015

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:05-11:55AM, 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 and the Economic Crises). 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 in the form of a simulation of the European Council.

There are no formal prerequisites for this class, but an introductory course in political science or comparative politics is helpful as well as basic knowledge about European political institutions.

Required Reading

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

- Bache, Ian, Simon Bulmer, Stephen George, and Owen Parker. *Politics in the European Union*. 4th Revised ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

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 (3): 30%
- Final Simulation: 40%
- Country Presentation: 15%
- Participation: 15%

Quizzes (30%)

There will be three exams during the semester, each worth 10%. Each of these exams will consist of a series of short answer, matching and identification questions.

Final Simulation (40%)

At the end of the semester you will engage in a simulation of a crisis meeting of the European Council. You will represent either the government of a country (in the form of that country's Head of Government) or an EU role (such as a member of the Commission). You will be expected to discuss several main issues concerning the EU (such as economic or immigration-type issues). Your grade will depend on the following: preparedness (in the form of the position paper), accurate representation of the role you are following, and active participation in the simulation.

The simulation will take place during the last week of classes and the final exam period for the class (currently scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th at 8:00 AM).

In preparation for the final simulation, you will compile a position dossier on a range of issues facing the EU from your assigned country/role's perspective. You are to compile all of the different policies that have been made and put out by the country or role that you are representing the simulation. This will probably end up consisting of 8-10 pages of writing. You must submit this electronically in .doc(x) format by the deadline (to be announced). You will use Times New Roman 12 point font with 1" margins. Half of your grade for the simulation will be derived from your position paper.

Country Presentations (10%)

In preparation for the final simulation you must prepare an oral presentation on the country or role that you have been assigned. The presentation order is already decided, however the country assignments will be made the first Friday of class by a method deemed fair by instructor and students. There will be 3-4 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 presentation grade. 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 Wes 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.

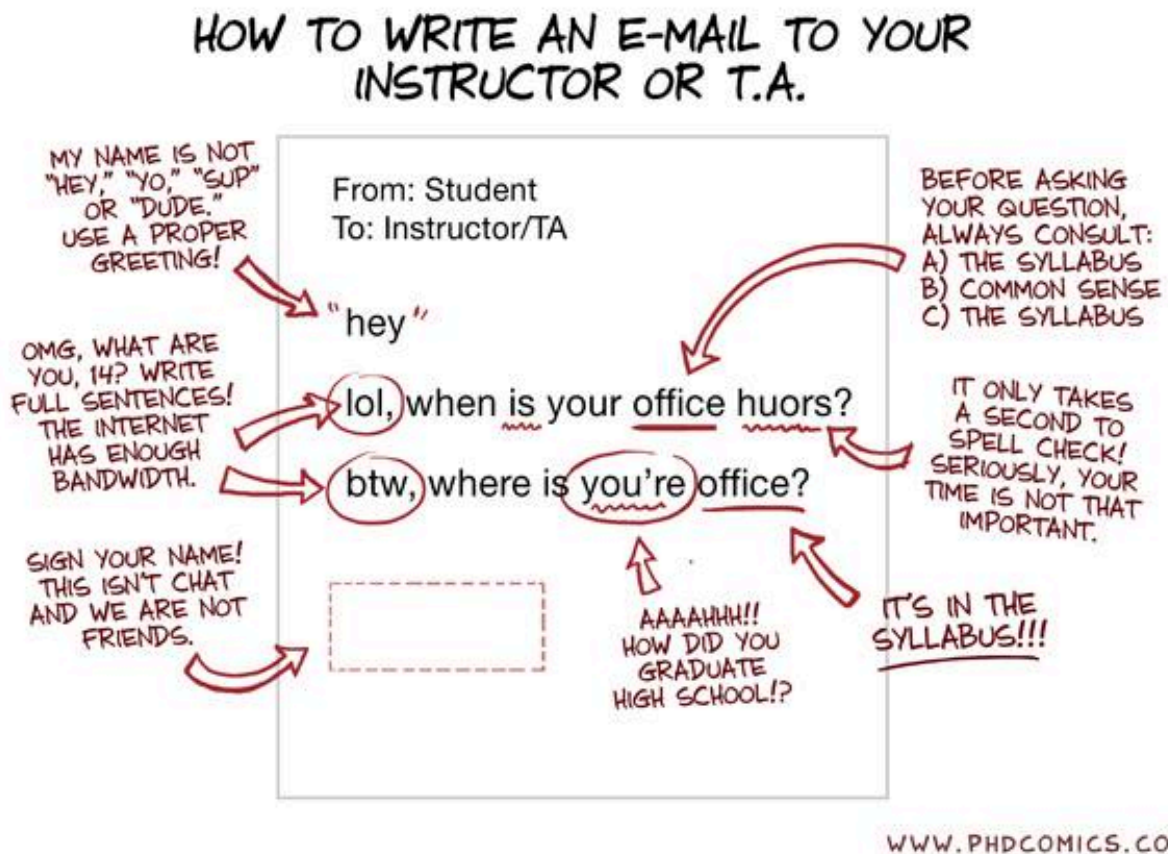
Go to www.honor.gatech.edu for more information.

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 17nd – 21th: Introduction

Welcome to the European Union

- chapters 1-4

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 24th – 28th: Historical Development (I)

From the Coal to SEA

- chapters 5-8

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 Three: August 31st - September 4th: Historical Development (II)

From Maastricht to today

- chapters 9-11

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 Four: September 7th – 11th: Institutional Intro and Enlargement

M: HOLIDAY

W: Quiz One

Introduction to the Institutions of the EU, Enlargement

- chapters 12, 27

Week Five: September 14th – 18th: The Commission

The European Commission

- chapter 13

What is the European Commission?

What does it do?

Week Six: September 21st – 25th: The Councils

The Council of the European Union and the European Council

- chapter 14

What is the Council of the European Union? The European Council?

What they do? How does they function? What are its relationships to other institutions?

Week Seven: September 28th – October 2nd: European Parliament

European Parliament

- chapter 15

What is the European Parliament?

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

Week Eight: October 5th – 9th: EU Law

Courts of the European Union

- chapter 16

What are the different courts of the European Union?

How does EU Law work?

What is its relation to other institutions?

Week Nine: October 12th – 16th: Policy Making in the EU

M: Fall Break

W: Quiz Two

Policy Making in the EU

- chapter 18

How do interest groups influence EU policy?

Week Ten: October 19th – 23rd: Agriculture and the Single Market

Agriculture and the Single Market

- chapters 19-20

Week Eleven: October 26th – 30th: Economic Union and Cohesion

Economic Union and Cohesion

- chapter 21-22

Week Twelve: November 2nd - 6th: Environment and Justice/Security

Environmental Policy and Freedom, Security and Justice

- chapters 23-24

Week Thirteen: November 9th- 13th: Trade and CFSP

Trade and CSFP

- chapters 25-26

Week Fourteen: November 23rd – 27th : Simulation Prep

M: Quiz Three

W and F: NO CLASS (Holiday)

Week Fifteen: November 30th – December 4th: Simulation