Course Overview

The European Union (EU) consists of 28 member states, with the total population of more than 500 million people. Taken as a whole, EU is one of the largest economies in the world, and it is a major trade partner with the United States. Furthermore, EU is an influential actor in world politics. How does EU work? Is there democratic deficit in this unique political and economic partnership? What are prospects for the expansion of the euro zone and further EU enlargement? This course will address these issues through the analysis of EU institutions, policies, and political processes. The course is divided into three parts. The first part examines the evolution of the European Union over time. The second part focuses on EU public policies. The third part deals with EU external relations.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- gain a better understanding of political and socioeconomic developments in EU;
- evaluate the effectiveness of multilateral governance;
- develop analytical skills by writing a policy brief on an assigned topic.

Course Requirements

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>Current Events Analysis</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
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<td>Policy Brief</td>
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**Participation**
Evaluation of student participation will be based on the completion of assigned readings and meaningful contribution to classroom discussions. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to each class and reflect upon connections between the course material and recent happenings in EU.

**Quiz**
A quiz will be administered in class to test the knowledge of the class material. There will not be any make-up quiz if you miss it.

**Current Events Analysis**
The assignment consists of an oral component and a written component. The oral component is worth the maximum of 5 points, and the written component is worth the maximum of 10 points. Starting September 26, most classes will begin with a student-led discussion of European politics. Once a semester on an assigned date, the student is expected to present a news item and facilitate student discussion on the topic, tying in current events with the class material.

A hard copy of one-page single-spaced current event analysis, along with a printout of the selected news article, is due at the beginning of the class on the date of the student-led discussion of current events. In the written analysis, summarize the news item, explain why you think this current event is important, and discuss how it is related to the class material. Please refer to specific concepts or issues covered in the class and do not exceed the one-page limit.

**Midterm Exam**
There will be a midterm exam consisting of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The exam will cover the course material, including assigned readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. A make-up exam will be administered only in case of a medical emergency.

**Policy Brief**
At the end of the course, each student will write a ten-page policy brief addressing a public policy issue faced by EU. The purpose of the policy brief is to convince policymakers to revise the way a policy issue is currently handled and adopt an alternative course of action. Each student will choose a policy issue that aligns with his or her own interests. Further details will be provided in the class.

**Presentation**
Prior to the submission of the policy brief, each student will make a short presentation in class. In the presentation, the student will be expected to briefly describe the policy issue, provide relevant policy background, and present a set of one’s policy recommendations.

**Important Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21/25</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Policy brief due</td>
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Late Penalty

You are responsible for submitting a hard copy of the policy brief at the beginning of the class on December 5. Email submissions will not be accepted. The paper handed in after the last class will be considered late. The late assignment will receive a ten percent penalty per each day of lateness.

Academic Integrity

Failure to properly acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others constitutes plagiarism and is a very serious academic offence. Please consult the Fordham University Undergraduate Policy on Academic Integrity to get familiar with the standards of academic integrity.

Required Readings


Additional readings are available via the Blackboard. Students are responsible for downloading assigned readings from the course website and reading them prior to the class.

Internet Sources

Students are strongly encouraged to keep track of current events in the region so that they can gain a deeper understanding of political, socioeconomic, and cultural processes inside EU and better relate them to the class material. Below is a list of websites that you may find useful.

http://europa.eu/index_en.htm
It is the official website of the European Union.

http://www.economist.com/
The Economist is a reputable London-based magazine covering international politics and business.

http://www.europeanvoice.com/
European Voice is a web-based weekly published by The Economist Group.

http://euobserver.com/
EUobserver is an online publication based in Belgium, Brussels.

http://www.euronews.com/
Euronews is a TV channel that supplies around-the-clock news in 14 languages.

http://www.dw.de/european-journal-the-magazine-from-brussels/p-220045-9798
European Journal is a weekly English-language program produced by Deutsche Welle to cover political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in EU.
Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Sept 4. Introduction (no readings)

Sept 5. What is the European Union?
McCormick, pp. 1–23

Sept 9. The Idea of Europe
McCormick, pp. 24–47


Sept 12. The Evolution of the European Union
McCormick, pp. 48–73

Sept 16. The Treaties
Excerpts from treaties (posted on Blackboard)

Sept 19. EU Institutions
McCormick, pp. 74–97

Sept 23. EU Policy Process
McCormick, pp. 123–147

Sept 26. EU Economic Policy
McCormick, pp. 148-171


Sept 30. EU Agricultural Policy
McCormick, pp. 172–181


Oct 3. EU Environmental Policy
McCormick, pp. 190–195

Oct 7. EU Cohesion Policy
McCormick, pp. 182–190


Oct 10. MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 17. Educational Policy

Oct 21. Employment and Social Affairs


Oct 24. Cultural Policy

Oct 28. Youth Policy


Oct 31. Writing a Policy Brief

Nov 4. EU and Its Citizens
McCormick, pp. 98–122


Nov 7. Democratic Deficit in EU?


Nov 11. EU Enlargement


Nov 14. EU Foreign and Security Policy
McCormick, pp. 195–218


Nov 18. EU-US Relations

Nov 21. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Nov 25. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Dec 2. Writing Lab
Note: Please bring a draft of your policy brief for peer review.

Dec 5. Wrap-Up Discussion
Note: Policy brief is due at the beginning of the class.