
POSC 3622 Politics of the European Union

Fall 2013

Monday/Thursday, 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Dealy Hall 204

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. – 4: 00 p.m., or by appointment

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

Participation	– 10 percent
Presentation	– 10 percent
Quiz	– 10 percent
Current Events Analysis	– 15 percent
Midterm Exam	– 25 percent
Policy Brief	– 30 percent

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

October 10	Midterm Exam
November 21/25	Student Presentations
December 5	Policy brief due

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

McCormick, John. 2011. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. 5th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 9780230298835.

Additional readings are available via the Blackboard. Students are responsible for downloading assigned readings from the course web site 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 web sites 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

Delanty, Gerald. 2005. “What Does It Mean to be a ‘European’?” *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Sciences* 18(1): 11–22

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

Wright, Thomas. 2012. “What if Europe Fails?” *Washington Quarterly* 35(3): 23–41

Sept 30. EU Agricultural Policy

McCormick, pp. 172–181

Erjavec, Karmen and Emil Erjavec. 2009. “Changing EU Agricultural Policy Discourses? The Discourse Analysis of Commissioner’s Speeches 2000–2007.” *Food Policy* 34: 218–226

Oct 3. EU Environmental Policy

McCormick, pp. 190–195

Damro, Chad, Iain Hardie, and Donald MacKenzie. 2008. “The EU and Climate Change Policy: Law, Politics and Prominence at Different Levels.” *Journal of Contemporary European Research* 4(3): 179–192

Oct 7. EU Cohesion Policy

McCormick, pp. 182–190

European Commission. 2007. *European Cohesion Policy in Bulgaria and Ireland*. Retrieved from http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm.

Oct 10. MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 17. Educational Policy

Wilson, Iain. 2011. “What Should We Expect of ‘Erasmus Generations’?” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 49(5): 1113–1140

Oct 21. Employment and Social Affairs

Karamichas, John. 2009. “The December 2008 Riots in Greece.” *Social Movement Studies* 8(3): 289–293

Psimitis, Michalis. 2011. “The Protest Cycle of Spring 2010 in Greece.” *Social Movement Studies* 10(2): 191–197

Castañeda, Ernesto. 2012. “The *Indignados* of Spain: A Precedent to Occupy Wall Street.” *Social Movement Studies* 11(3/4): 309–319

Oct 24. Cultural Policy

Jones, Shannon and Jelena Subotic. 2011. “Fantasies of Power: Performing Europeanization on the European Periphery.” *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 14(5): 542–557

Oct 28. Youth Policy

European Commission. 2009. *An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering*. Belgium, Brussels

Mainsah, Henry. 2011. “‘I Could Well Have Said I Was Norwegian but Nobody Would Believe Me’: Ethnic Minority Youths’ Self-Representation on Social Network Sites.” *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 14(2): 179–192

Oct 31. Writing a Policy Brief

Nov 4. EU and Its Citizens

McCormick, pp. 98–122

Economist. 2009. “The European Elections: Swing Low, Swing Right.” June 11. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com/node/13832286>

Hix, Simon and Christophe Crombez. 2013. “Why the 2014 European Parliament Elections Will Be About More than Protest Votes.” *EUROPP Blog* June 3. Retrieved from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2013/06/03/european-parliament-elections-2014/>

Nov 7. Democratic Deficit in EU?

Follesdal, Andreas and Simon Hix. 2006. "Why There Is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 44(3): 533–562

Spiegel. 2013. "Europe's Bogeyman." April 11. Retrieved from <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/cambridge-scholar-examines-roots-of-anti-german-sentiment-in-europe-a-893439.html>

Nov 11. EU Enlargement

Gerhards, Jurgen and Silke Hans. 2011. "Why Not Turkey? Attitudes towards Turkish Membership in the EU among Citizens in 27 European Countries." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 49(4): 741–766

Economist. 2013. "The Eurasian Tug-of-War." July 6. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21580528-eu-competing-russia-future-its-eastern-neighbours-urasian-tug-war>

Nov 14. EU Foreign and Security Policy

McCormick, pp. 195–218

European Commission. 2013. "EU Response to the "Arab Spring": The State of Play after Two Years." *Policy Memo* February 8. Retrieved from [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-13-81_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-81_en.htm).

Nov 18. EU-US Relations

Shapiro, Jeremy and Nick Witney. 2009. *Towards a Post-American Europe: A Power Audit of EU-US Relations*. London, UK: European Council on Foreign Relations, pp. 19–39

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.