



## HIST/PSCI 340: History and Politics of the European Union

### Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2022

**Instructor:** Maximiliano Lorenzi, Ph.D.

**Credits:** 3

**Contact hours:** 45

**Prerequisite:** None

**Class Hours:**

**Office Hours:**

**Email:**

**Course type:** Standard Course

**Course Fee:**

### Course Description

Europe is at the forefront of international regional integration: no other group of nation-states has proceeded further in pooling sovereignty. The process of transforming Europe from a continent of often fractious nation-states into an integrated political system of shared laws and institutions has been unfolding since the end of World War II. This course examines European integration as an essentially contested political process, which continues to divide and inspire nations, political parties, and citizens alike. The course offers a comprehensive survey of three notable aspects of European Union (EU) integration: its institutions and policy-making; controversies about what the EU does and should do; and the democratic nature of the EU system.

### Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

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

#### Learning Outcomes

#### Assessment Measures

*Course requirements that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome*

Understand the process of European integration

Exams, presentations, research paper

Display knowledge of European political institutions and issues

Exams, presentations, role-play exercise, research paper

Assess the successes and the failures of the EU

Exams, class participation

Develop critical thinking

Class participation, role-play exercise, exams, research paper

### Course Materials

Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (eds), *European Union Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2019, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

## Assessment

Participation	10%
Presentation 1	10%
Presentation 2	10%
Role-Play Exercise	10%
Research Paper	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

## Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

## Course requirements

Grades are based on participation, two presentations, role-play exercise, research paper, mid-term, and final exams.

### *Participation (10%)*

Students are asked to cover the reading material listed before every lesson. Displaying a lack of preparedness in the in-class discussions negatively affects the participation grade. The grade will be calculated to reflect your participation in class discussions, your capacity to introduce ideas and thoughts dealing with the texts, and your ability to express your analysis in constructive argumentation. The active, meaningful and informed verbal contribution that you make is the most important aspect of your overall participation grade.

### *Presentation 1 (10%)*

The presentation aims to understand the symbolic meaning of the Union, its identity and the creation of a community in Europe. Topics include but are not limited to Euro notes and coins, flag, anthem, Erasmus program, buildings of the EU institutions, House of European History. Students are to check with the instructor via email a few days before their assigned presentation date if the topic they have in mind is fitting, and whether or not someone else is already presenting the same.

The presentation should be 8-10 minutes in length. The grade assesses the saliency of the chosen material, the organization, clarity, and timeliness of the presentation, the thoroughness of the research, and the ability to answer questions.

### *Presentation 2 (10%)*

Every student will individually present one piece of news. Students should be able to relate it to the course, and students should make it clear during their presentation how exactly it is related to the EU, if it is not obvious. Students are to check with the instructor via email a few days before their assigned presentation date if the news they have in mind is fitting, and whether or not someone else is already presenting the same. The presentation should be 8-10 minutes in length. The grade assesses the saliency of the chosen material, the organization, clarity, and timeliness of the presentation, the thoroughness of the research, and the ability to answer questions.

#### *Role-Play Exercise (10%)*

Students act out a meeting of the Council of the European Union. The aim of the meeting is to reach a decision on a specific legislative proposal. Students play the part of ministers from EU member states. Further information on the exercise will be given in class.

The grade assesses the knowledge of the material, the active participation to the exercise and the grade of collaboration within the team. **Date: April 6**

#### *Research Paper (20%)*

The paper is a personal research work (about 2,000 words) carried out by the student on one of the topics studied in class during the semester. **The paper outline should be submitted by email by March 14.** This will include three elements: (1) the suggested title; (2) a provisional bibliography of at least three 'scholarly' works; and (3) a single paragraph statement of the goals of the student's paper. It will be evaluated according to the following criteria: organization, argumentation, support, and content knowledge. **Deadline for submission: April 13.**

#### *Mid-Term Exam (20%)*

An exam covering all topics presented in the first half of the course. It will be closed-book and closed-notes and will consist of essay questions. A review guide will be distributed to students a week before the exam. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

#### *Final Exam (20%)*

The final exam will cover all material from the course. It will be closed-book and closed-notes and will consist of essay questions. A review guide will be distributed to students a week before the exam. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

#### *Special Activities During Class Time (To be confirmed according to the regulation on Covid)*

**Visit to Regione Umbria**, the regional government. Students will meet a regional government representative and learn more about the application of EU policy at the local level. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and understand the impact of the EU on businesses and citizens. Date will be announced at the beginning of the term.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Absences for Covid-related circumstances: in order to keep the entire Umbra community healthy and to comply with local laws, you may not enter the Umbra premises if you have a temperature of 37.5 °C (99.5 °F) or higher. For all students who display any relevant symptoms, the procedure will be the following:

- avoid going to class;
- immediately notify the Student Services staff;
- be prepared to get tested for COVID at a local pharmacy within the day.

The following additional conditions apply:

- Students may attend classes remotely and without academic penalty via Zoom or Skype but only if they are waiting for the test to be scheduled or performed.
- Students with a positive test result (or who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive) must follow all applicable quarantine or isolation requirements and may attend classes remotely, without academic penalty.
- Students with a negative test result are allowed to attend class in person.

It is Institute policy that students with symptoms be tested. Any student refusing testing will not be admitted to the Institute under any circumstances and any absences will not be considered eligible for an extra absence for any classes missed. In other words, refusing a test and staying in one's apartment is considered an unexcused absence.

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. Students are allowed two "free"

absences, which do not need to be justified. However, it is considered common courtesy to inform the instructor of your absence when possible. It is the students' responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Academic Director but only if a medical certification is provided.

Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students' grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

### **Academic Integrity**

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

### **Classroom Policy**

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be turned off before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions.

## Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

### WEEK 1

Mon.  
Feb 7 *Introduction to the course. The distinction between internal and international law.*

Wed.  
Feb. 9 *States, international organizations, and regional integration.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, (eds), *European Union Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2019, Chapter 1 “Introduction”.

### WEEK 2

Mon.  
Feb 14 *European integration as a post-war phenomenon. The European Coal and Steel Community.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Chapter 2, David Phinnemore, “The European Union: Establishment and Development”.

Wed  
Feb, 16 *European Integration as a post-war phenomenon. The creation of the Common Market.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Chapter 4, Carsten S. Jensen, “Neo-Functionalism”.

### WEEK 3

Mon.  
Feb. 21 *How the EU works: institutions and decision-making. The role of the supranational institutions. The Commission.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Chapter 10, Morten Egeberg, “The European Commission”.

Wed.  
Feb. 23 *How the EU works: institutions and decision-making. The role of the supranational institutions. The Parliament.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Chapter 12, Charlotte Burns, “The European Parliament”.

### WEEK 4

Mon.  
Feb. 28 *How the EU works: institutions and decision-making. The institutions where the interests of the member states are represented. The Council of Ministers and the European Council.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Chapter 11, Jeffrey Lewis, “The European Council and the Council of the European Union”.

Wed.  
Mar. 2 *The European Union: how it works and what it does. The legislative process.*

#### Readings

Textbook, Chapter 13, Ilias Kapsis, “The Courts of Justice of the European Union” and Chapter 16, Edward Best, “Policy-Making in the European Union”.

#### WEEK 5

Mon.  
Mar. 7 *The EU as a regulatory state. The common market and the competition policy.*

**Mid-term exam review.**

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 20, Michelle Egan, “The Single Market”.

Wed.  
Mar. 9 **MID-TERM EXAM**

#### WEEK 6

Mon.  
Mar. 14 *The budget: revenues and expenditures. The small budget of the EU.*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 5, Michelle Cini, “Intergovernmentalism”.

**Assessment: submission of research paper outline.**

Wed.  
Mar. 16 *The system of interest representation and lobbying in the EU*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 14, Rainer Eising, “Interest Groups and the European Union”.

### SEMESTER BREAK

#### WEEK 7

Mon.  
Mar. 28 *Monetary policy: the adoption of the Euro. What for?*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 23, Amy Verdun, “Economic and Monetary Union”.

Wed.  
Mar. 30 *Populism in Europe*

Readings

TBA

#### WEEK 8

Mon.  
Apr 4 *EU enlargement from six to 28 members. A pillar of the process of integration.*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 18, Ana E. Juncos and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, “Enlargement”.

Wed. *Brexit and the debate over further enlargement: what is at stake?*

Apr 6

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 27, Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán and Michelle Cini, “Brexit”.

**ROLE-PLAY EXERCISE**

**WEEK 9**

Mon.,  
Apr 11

*The external relations of the EU. Soft power versus hard power.*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 15, Michael Smith, “Trade and Development” and Chapter 19, Ana E. Juncos and Anna Maria Friis Kristensen “The European Union's Foreign, Security, and Defence Policies”.

Wed.  
Apr. 13

*What kind of democratic accountability?*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 9, Stijn Smismans, “Democracy and Legitimacy in the European Union”.

**Submission of research paper.**

**WEEK 10**

Mon.  
April 18

**BANK HOLIDAY NO CLASS  
MAKE UP CLASS ON APRIL 22**

Wed.,  
Apr. 20

*Explaining the EU process of integration. A new form of polity or politics as usual?*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 6, Ben Rosamond, “Theorizing the European Union after Integration Theory”.

Fri.,  
Apr. 22

**MAKE UP CLASS**

*What is the EU? How will it look like tomorrow?*

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 28, Brigid Laffan, “The Future of the EU”.

**Final Exam Review**

**WEEK 11**

**Final Exam and Special Academic Events Week**  
TBA