



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

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Maximiliano Lorenzi, Ph.D.

Credits: 3

Contact hours: 45

Prerequisite: None

Class Hours: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course type: Standard Course

Course Fee: 10 €

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, 2016.

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: March 31.**

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 week six.** 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 14.**

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

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 pose questions and understand the impact of the EU on businesses and citizens. Date will be announced at the beginning of the term.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Students are allowed **two "free" absences**, which do not need to be justified. **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). 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

Introduction to the course. The distinction between internal and international law.

States, international organizations, and regional integration.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 1, Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, “Introduction”.

WEEK 2

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”.

European Integration as a post-war phenomenon. The creation of the Common Market.

Readings

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

WEEK 3

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

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 9, Morten Egeberg, “The European Commission”.

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

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 11, Charlotte Burns, “The European Parliament”.

WEEK 4

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 10, Jeffrey Lewis, “The European Council and the Council of the European Union”.

The European Union: how it works and what it does. The legislative process.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 14, Ralf Drachenberg and Alex Brianson, “Policy-Making in the European Union” and textbook, Chapter 12, Ilias Kapsis, “The Courts of Justice of the European Union”.

WEEK 5

The EU as a regulatory state. The common market and the competition policy.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 18, Michelle Egan, “The Single Market”.

The budget: revenues and expenditures. The small budget of the EU.

Readings

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

WEEK 6

The system of interest representation and lobbying in the EU

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 13, Rainer Eising, “Interest Groups and the European Union”.

The agricultural policy.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 22, Eve Fouilleux and Matthieu Ansaloni, “The Common Agricultural Policy”.

Assessment: submission of research paper outline.

WEEK 7

Mid-term exam review.

MID-TERM EXAM

SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 8

Monetary policy: the adoption of the Euro. What for?

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 21, Amy Verdun, “Economic and Monetary Union”.

Populism in Europe

Readings

Provided later by instructor

WEEK 9

EU enlargement from six to 28 members. A pillar of the process of integration.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 16, Ana E. Juncos and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, “Enlargement”.

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

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 3, Clive Church and David Phinnemore, “From the Constitutional Treaty to the Treaty of Lisbon and Beyond”.

WEEK 10

The external relations of the EU. Common Foreign and Security Policy. Soft power versus hard power.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 17, Robert Dover and Anna Maria Friis-Kristensen, “The European Union's Foreign, Security, and Defence Policies”.

ROLE-PLAY EXERCISE

The external relations of the EU. A powerhouse in trade.

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 15, Michael Smith, “EU External Relations”.

WEEK 11

What kind of democratic accountability?

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 24, Stijn Smismans, “Democracy and Legitimacy in the European Union”.

Is there a democratic deficit in the EU?

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 25, Simona Guerra and Lauren M. McLaren, “Public Opinion and the European Union”.

WEEK 12

The challenge of immigration.

Assessment: submission of research paper.

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”.

WEEK 13

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

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 27, Brigid Laffan, “The Future of the EU”.

Final Exam Review

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

The Final Exam and Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester.