

POLS 3224: The European Union

Syllabus Spring 2018
East Carolina University, Political Science Department

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Meeting time: T/TH 12.30 – 13.45pm
Meeting room: Brewster C101
Instructor: Dr. Magda Giurcanu
Office: Brewster A 118
Email: giurcanum16@ecu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 13.00 - 14.30 & T/TH 14.00 - 14.30
Office Phone: 252 328 5427
Course website: On Blackboard

All students are automatically enrolled in Blackboard after registration and can access the course using their ECU id and password. All communication about this course will be conducted via the blackboard system.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to familiarize students with the history, the institutions, and the policy process in the European Union. The EU is a historic experiment in which sovereign states decided to pool together a great degree of national sovereignty in supranational structures forming a political system with federal characteristics that is nonetheless short of a full-fledged state. However, European integration is not a static process: it ebbs, and flows based on national preferences and initiatives, institutional leadership, and regional and global circumstances. As such, built on the legacy of the WWII, the European integration started in 1951 under the form of a supranational coal and steel community of six states. Today, the EU is a formal political and economic community of 27/28 member states, with elaborate institutions and policymaking procedures.

This course aims to uncover this extraordinary transformation of 50 years of European integration in three sections:

1. First, we will delve into the history of the EU integration, starting with Europe's reconstruction after the WWII and ending with the last treaty reform, the Lisbon Treaty. Various terms such as 'the empty chair crisis', the 'Luxembourg compromise', 'Eurosclerosis', and 'EU enlargement' will be used to describe different aspects of European integration. In addition, we will focus on a few national leaders that played an important role in shaping the European integration in the early 50 -70s.
2. The second part will cover in detail the supranational and the intergovernmental character of the EU institutions: The Commissions, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union (the Council of Ministers), the European Council, and the Court of

Justice. In addition to the institutions' core functions and responsibilities, we will consider EU citizens' attitudes towards these institutions.

3. The last part is focused on EU policy areas and recent challenges. The EU policies can be grouped into internal policies -- such as Economy and the Single Market, and Immigration, and external policies such as Development, Trade, and Common Foreign and Security Policy. This last part will also present the interactions with US, China, Russia, and the states in the Eastern and Southern Neighborhood.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are the following:

Knowledge (cognitive level)

- To acquire basic knowledge of the history of the development of the European Union.
- To acquire foundational understanding of the core EU institutions.
- To develop a thorough knowledge of the development of the foreign and security policy of the European Union.
- To acquire information regarding new security threats and the efforts of the European Union to address them.

Skills

- To increase the capacity for close reading and critical interpretation of academic writing on the European Union
- To gain familiarity with current events and the role of the EU on the global stage through engagement with relevant policy actors.
- The acquisition of critical thinking skills through active participation in class discussions and debates and the completion of in class essay exams.
- Develop writing skills through the completion of a 1000-1500 word take home 'response' paper.

Attitudes

- To acquire a passion for life-long learning, commitment to one's work and the ability to be open and critical towards one's own and others' perspectives.
- To develop a greater familiarity with world events and the global role of the European Union
- To gain greater appreciation for the interconnectedness of global events

COURSE MATERIALS

There is only one text required for this course, which provides a brief historical overview of the EU as well as a description of its main policies. This textbook has been ordered and is available through ECU bookstore.

- ✓ Andreas Staab, *The European Union Explained: Institutions, Actors, Global Impact* (3 edition), University of Indiana Press, 2013, ISBN -10: 0253009723
- ✓ Additional readings for the class (videos, short news articles, links to various useful websites) will be available via Blackboard.

GRADING POLICIES

Students will be able access their grades throughout the course via Blackboard. Grades for individual assignments will be posted as soon as they are graded. Students may secure their final course grades via the Pirate Port <https://pirateport.ecu.edu/portal/> using their exchange user-id and password.

Grading Scale: The course grade and individual exams will use the following scale:

Course Average	Grade
94 and above =	A
90 to 93.99 =	A-
87 to 89.99=	B+
83 to 86.99 =	B
80 to 82.99 =	B-
77 to 79.99 =	C+
73 to 76.99 =	C
70 to 72.99 =	C-
67 to 69.99 =	D+
63 to 66.99 =	D
60 to 62.99 =	D-
Below 60 =	F

Course Grade: The course grade is based on the following components:

Assignment	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	10%
First Exam	20%
Second Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
In-class simulation	20%

Important points to remember:

1. Please read the policies carefully and note that around **30%** of your grade will come from in-class activities. In other words, the key to success in this class is to make sure you're COMING to class regularly and closely follow deadlines.
2. All assignments will be submitted via BLACKBOARD. Assignments sent via email will not be considered.
3. I am checking my emails once a day, during office hours. In other words, if you write a message Friday evening, you will receive a reply on Monday at noon. If your email question concerns issues that the entire class may benefit from, I will post announcements via BLACKBOARD rather than answering directly to the student in question.
4. **GRADE RELATED ISSUES are not discussed via email. If you decide an error has**

been made when grading one of your assignments, you need to make an appointment to discuss it face to face. If you miss a deadline and would like to see what options you may have, again, set up a face to face meeting. If you want to ask about extra-credit opportunities towards the end of the semester, set up a face to face meeting.

Further policies regarding grading:

- A. **Classroom Attendance and Participation** (10% of the course grade)—come to class prepared to actively contribute to the discussion.

CLASS ATTENDANCE is required for this course. (5%) This includes lectures attendance and weekly discussion sections. Attendance will be monitored as necessary during lectures (roll) and through participation in in-class assignments. **If you arrive excessively late to class or if you leave class early, you will receive only partial credit for attendance.** Your class attendance grade will be based on the percentage of classes that you attend (e.g., a student who attends every class will earn a 100; a student who attends half of the classes will earn a 50, etc.).

PARTICIPATION in class discussions is also required (5%). Throughout the course students are encouraged to raise questions and relevant discussion topics in class, and students are expected to contribute to class discussions. To prepare for discussions, it is important that assigned readings be completed prior to the corresponding class period.

Note: I make a strong distinction between attendance and participation. Attending every class, without ever speaking up, does not constitute participation. To receive credit for participation, students are required to ask questions, raise issues, express opinions, etc. regarding the topics covered, as well as respond to the questions.

- B. **In-class examinations** (70% of the course grade): Feb 1, March 1, and final on May 1 (11-13.30pm)

There are two in-class exams. Each test values 20% of the final grade. The first two exams will NOT be cumulative. In-class exams will consist primarily of short answer essay questions, but may include other question formats (fill in the blanks, true/false, etc). The **final is open-book** and cumulative; it will consist of 2-3 short essay topics.

Failure to be present for any of the scheduled exams will result in an automatic “0.” On all exam dates, please come prepared with a pencil. If you cannot attend an exam, you must contact me at least 30 minutes before I have administered the test. I will grant a make-up exam only for circumstances that I deem extraordinary or for circumstances that meet university guidelines. If you miss an exam because of an illness, you are still required to contact me before the exam. You must also present me with proper verification as noted above.

- C. **In-class simulation (20%)**

The simulation, which will be handled by the European Council, will take place during the last weeks of class but the bulk of the work required for this simulation to go smoothly will be done

before these days. The topic to be addressed will be “**How should EU respond to the recent challenges it faces:**

- 1) **Brexit**
- 2) **The rise of controversial regimes in Hungary and Poland,**
- 3) **Emergence of far-right parties, popular parties**
- 4) **A more aggressive neighbor in the East, Russia?”**

Your job is to become specialists in these issues and discuss them during the simulation from a EU member state or EU institution perspective.

Here are the following small written assignments related to the simulation:

1. At the end of WEEK 2, each student will be assigned a country/or an institutional role to prepare.
2. WEEK 4, each student will have searched and authored ‘alter-ego’ profiles of the person in their position. (5%) The information for this assignment can be found on the internet, news articles and on the member state sites.
3. WEEK 8, each student will have produced a country profile (5%). Students should investigate the history, politics, economics, and current demographics of their country. Most importantly, they must study the relationship of their state with the states in question. This assignment allows students to understand the background and preferences of their country.
4. WEEK 12, each student will have produced a policy position paper (5%). Student should write a short diplomatic statement, which will be read at the beginning of the conference.
5. Participating in the simulation (5%)—last week in-class.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: I will excuse absences, including those on exam dates, for the following reasons: (1) participation in an authorized activity as an official representative of the university (this includes athletic events, university-sponsored performances, or academic conferences); (2) participation in other activities deemed by the Dean of Students to warrant an excused absence; (3) an extreme personal emergency; (4) the death of an immediate family member; (5) participation in a religious holiday; and (6) health reasons such as an incapacitating or contagious illness or unavoidable surgery. **If you arrive excessively late to class or if you leave class early, you will receive only partial credit for attendance.** I will not stop the class, but I will make a note on my attendance sheets.

If your absence meets any of the criteria mentioned above, I will need you to present me with **some form of verification** no later than one week after the absence if you wish to have your absence excused. Some acceptable forms of verification include the following: a note from Student Health Services; a note from a doctor or medical office; an obituary; or official documentation from the athletic department indicating your travel schedule. Please note that an email saying, ‘**I will be missing class on’** is not considered acceptable excuse documentation.

Assignments: All assignments must be submitted on line (where appropriate), **by the deadline**, and handed in to the instructor, at the beginning of the class. Make up exams and late final

papers will not be accepted unless there are serious legitimate reasons. Provision of a signed medical note is required, and notice must be given **PRIOR** to the deadline.

Academic Integrity: The standard plagiarism and academic integrity rules apply, i.e. all the materials you submit in paper or online must be the results of your own individual work. Any signs of plagiarism will be taken very seriously. The university code of academic integrity will be strictly enforced in this course. According to the East Carolina University Honor Code, violations of academic integrity include the following:

- *Cheating.* Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- *Plagiarism.* Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as one's own original work.
- *Falsification.* Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.
- *Attempts.* Attempting any act that if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

For more information about university policies concerning academic Integrity, please visit the web at http://issuu.com/ecustudentaffairs/docs/at_the_helm/111.htm . If you violate the Honor Code you will be reported to the Academic Integrity Board for disciplinary action. The penalties for violating the university code of academic integrity *range* from having assigned an F for that particular assignment to more stringent measures such as failure in the course and/or expulsion from the university.

Courtesy:

- **Don't come late and turn off your cell-phones.**
- Be civil to each other. We may have different opinions on issues, but we must respect each other's points of view. Please be courteous to your classmates and respectful of your fellow students' views, comments, and questions.
- Any disruptive behavior -- such as reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions, sleeping in class -- will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class.
- **Do not leave before class is dismissed or you lose attendance points for the day.**
- **Students who benefit from using their computers to take notes during class must sit in the front of the class.**

Disability Services Statement: East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY)). <http://www.ecu.edu/accessibility/>

Campus Emergencies and Severe Weather: In case of campus wide emergencies, you may obtain information about changes in the University class schedule by calling 252 328-0062. **ECU**

Alert: In addition, in case of adverse weather or other campus emergencies you may consult <http://www.ecu.edu/alert/> for information.

If and when face-to-face classes are suspended, you will receive an email from me and a Blackboard Announcement that detail how we will communicate, where you can locate course information, and what you can expect during this time period.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART 1. HISTORY OF THE EU

WEEK 1 Jan 9-11: Introduction to the Course and to the European Union

Issues covered:

- Introduction to the course (T)
- What is the European Union? (TH)

Readings:

1. Olsen and McCormick. 2017. "What is the European Union?" (pp13-30) in *The European Union. Politics and Policies* (on Blackboard)

WEEK 2 Jan 16-18: History I The Origins and Early Years of the Integration Project

Issues covered:

- Europe after the War (T)
- The Schuman Plan and the ECSC, The road to the Rome Treaties, and Euratom (T)
- The Emergence of the Single Market and Beyond (TH)
- **Students are assigned roles in the simulation**

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 1, "Parameters of European Integration" (T)
2. Olsen and McCormick. 2017. "The Road to Paris?" (pp33-50) in *The European Union. Politics and Policies* (on Blackboard) (T)
3. Olsen and McCormick. 2017. "To the Single Market and Beyond?" (pp52-69) in *The European Union. Politics and Policies* (on Blackboard) (TH)
4. Visuals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRwZyDTdCAc>

WEEK 3 Jan 23-25: History II EU Consolidation and Crisis

Issues covered:

- The Euro (T)
- From Community to Union (T)
- From Lisbon to current times (TH)
- Enlargements (TH)

Readings:

1. Olsen and McCormick. 2017. "Consolidation and Crisis" in *The European Union. Politics and Policies* (on Blackboard) (T)
2. Staab, Chapter 2, "Enlargement".

WEEK 4 Jan 30-Feb 1: Review and Test 1/Alter-egos for Simulation

Issues covered:

- Test review on history (T)
- Europe in Crisis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-pjqh2UIsE> (T)
- **Alter-egos need to be submitted on T**
- **In-class test 1 (TH)**

PART 2. INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 5 Feb 6-8: EU Executive

Issues covered:

- The European Commission (T)
- The European Council (TH)

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 3, The European Commission (T)
2. Staab, The European Council (TH)
3. Who are you Mr President? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHvTq6Bf_pg

WEEK 6 Feb 13-15: EU Legislative

Issues covered:

- The Council of Ministers (T)
- The European Parliament (TH)

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 5, The Council of Ministers (T)
2. Staab, Chapter 6, The European Parliament (TH)

WEEK 7 Feb 20-22: Checks and Balances in EU. The Public

Issues covered:

- The European Court of Justice (T)
- Representing Public Opinion, Brexit (TH)

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 7, The European Court of Justice (T)
2. Staab, Chapter 8, Checks and Balances (T)
3. Olsen and McCormick. 2017. "Representing Public Opinion" in *The European Union. Politics and Policies* (on Blackboard) (TH)
4. Sarah Hobolt, 2016, "The Brexit Vote", *Journal of European Public Policy* 23:9, 1259-1277 (on blackboard)

WEEK 8 Feb 27-March 1: Review and Test 2

Issues covered:

- Test Review (T)
- Country profile need to be submitted on Blackboard T
- **In-class test 2 (TH)**

WEEK 9 March 5-9: SPRING BREAK Enjoy it!

PART 3: EU POLICIES

WEEK 10 March 13-15: Economic Policies

Issues covered:

- The Common Agricultural Policy and Regional Cohesion (T)
- The Single Market and the Economic Union (TH)

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 10, Regional Policy (T)
2. Staab, Chapter 11, CAP (T)
3. Staab, Chapter 9, The Single Market (TH)
4. Staab, Chapter 12, Monetary Union (TH)

WEEK 11 March 20-22: EU as a Soft Power

Issues covered:

- Economic power and trade (T)
- Humanitarian and developmental aid (TH)

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 15, Trade, and the Common Commercial Policy (T)
2. Christopher Hill and Michael Smith, "International Relations and the European Union (second edition) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) Chapters 14, "The EU and the Developing World" (on blackboard) (TH)

WEEK 12 March 27-29: EU as a Hard Power

Issues covered:

- Common Foreign and Security Policy (T)
- EU and the US (TH)
- **Work at the library on producing the simulation documents: Policy Papers due on Blackboard next T (April 3)**

Readings:

1. Staab, Chapter 14, Common Foreign and Security Policy (T)
2. Olsen and McCormick. 2017. "EU and the US" in *The European Union. Politics and Policies* (on Blackboard) (T)

WEEK 13 April 3-5: The EU and Internal and External Threats

Issues covered:

- The EU and Russia (T)
 - Why is the EU engaging in foreign relations with Russia? What interests is the EU pursuing when signing up 'strategic agreements' with Russia?
 - What points of contention or 'frictions' can emerge between the EU and Russia? How serious are these points of contention in stopping the diplomatic dialog?
- The Big Picture: The Making and Breaking of Europe – Featured Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KypRyuJrRsQ> (TH)

Readings:

1. Sandra Fernandes, 2014. "Putin's Foreign Policy towards Europe: Evolving Trends of an (Un)Avoidable Relationship" in Roger Kanet and Remi Piet (eds) *Shifting Priorities in Russian Foreign and Security Policy*, Ashgate (pp. 13-34) (T)
2. Putin's Approach to the West, <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2017/01/09/putin-approach-west-own-democracy/>
3. Alina Polyakova, Marlene Laruelle, Stefan Meister, and Neil Barnett, 2016. The Kremlin's Trojan Horses, The Atlantic Council (available on Blackboard)

WEEK 14 April 10-12: In-Class Simulation: EU COUNCIL SIMULATION

WEEK 15 April 17-21: In-Class Simulation: EU COUNCIL SIMULATION

Issues covered:

- In-class exercise EU COUNCIL SIMULATION (T/TH)

FINAL Test scheduled for Tuesday May 1, 11.00-13.30pm.