



The Politics and Institutions of the European Union
(POS 4931/ Section 061B & EUS 4210/ Section 05E9)
Spring 2012

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Course Meetings

T: 4 (10.40 - 11.30)
Th: 4/5 (10.40 - 12.35)
2306 Turlington

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 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:

- 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.
- 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 look into EU citizens' attitudes towards these institutions.
- The last part is focused on EU policy areas and recent challenges. Major themes covered in the last part will consist of CAP (the common agricultural policy), the environment and energy policies, and the internal and external security policies. We will focus in particular on the economic and monetary union and the current economic crisis of the eurozone.

Course materials

There are 2 textbooks required for this class. The books are available through the UF Bookstore.

PLEASE BUY ONLY THE EDITIONS MENTIONED IN THE SYLLABUS.

1. Desmond Dinan. **2010. *Ever Closer Union. An Introduction to European Integration.*** (Lynne Rienner Publishers) (4th edition)
2. Simon Hix and Bjørn Høyland. **2011. *The Political System of the European Union*** (Palgrave Macmillan) (3rd edition)
3. The rest of the readings will be available through 'e-Learning in Sakai'



STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIALS COVERED IN LECTURES, READINGS, HANDOUTS, & POSTINGS ON THE COURSE WEBSITE.

E-Learning in Sakai You should become familiar with 'e-Learning in Sakai'. All electronic materials assigned as readings (articles and book chapters) will be posted here, as well as power point slides for the class. In addition, ALL GRADES will be posted here too.

Course requirements

- 2 in-class tests (20% each of the final grade)
- 1 group project and in-class presentation (15% of the final grade)
- 1 research paper of 8-10 pages (25% of the final grade) –more details later in the semester
- Attendance and participation (20% of the final grade).

Tests 40%: There will be **2 in-class tests**, each worth 20% of the final grade. Tests will consist of short answer, multiple choice, identification, true/false and fill-in the blank questions, in addition to 1-2 short essay questions.

Research paper 25% Each student is required to produce a research paper on a topic relevant to the issues covered in the class and will be due on **March 22** in class. There are several deadlines that you need to follow to receive all points for this assignment.

1. Students are expected to come up with a topic for their paper on **January 26** and have it approved by the instructor (5%)
2. Bibliographies and paper outlines (1 page) are due on **February 16** (5%)
3. Final paper due on **March 22** (15% of the total assignment).

Failure to submit topic selection, bibliography and outline will lead to deductions from the final paper grade. To prevent plagiarism, I will check the papers using Turnitin.com. Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day. More instructions on this assignment will be posted later in the semester.

Class attendance and participation 20%

1. Come to class-- Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Students with more than three unexcused absences will lose attendance points (5%)
2. Active participation in class--Read the assigned materials for the week BEFORE the class meetings. (5%)
3. **Weekly postings:** Post 1 question related to the readings by **Wednesday 9pm**. The questions should be uploaded on SAKAI and will be discussed in class on Thursday (10%)

Group project (15%)

1. Choose a region from the list below and build a news region folder with **biweekly EU news** on your countries (5%).
2. Summarize the news in a 2-page report and prepare a power point presentation of the news. Organize your presentation based on similarities and differences among the EU issues discussed in the media for the states in question (5%).
3. In addition, at least one slide of this presentation should cover a short history of the EU- states relations (when did they join, did they hold the presidency of the Council of the EU, are they part of the eurozone, and what role they play in the European integration process) (5%).



The region/countries list:

1. France, Germany
2. Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece
3. Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria
4. UK, Ireland
5. Malta, Cyprus
6. Sweden, Denmark, Finland
7. Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary
8. Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia
9. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Policies of the course

1. **Assignments:**
 - a. All assignments must be submitted on line **BY THE DEADLINE** and following all instructions.
 - b. Extensions will be granted at my discretion and, if granted, they will require proper documentation. Make sure you ask for an extension only **PRIOR** (at least 24 hours) to the deadline date.
2. **Cheating/plagiarism:** DON'T. Any student caught violating the honor code will fail the class. For more information, read the Code of Student Conduct <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>
3. **Courtesy:** Don't come late and turn off your cell-phones. Any disruptive behavior (reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions) will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class.
4. **Special Needs:** If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g. note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact me **within the first week** of class. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

Grading scale: (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93-100	90-92.9	87-89.9	83-86.9	80-82.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	< 59.9

*****I reserve the right to alter this schedule with prior notice—one week in advance.**

Course Schedule
Part I: HISTORY

Week 1: Jan 10-12

Course introduction

- Choose one: Introduction (Dinan) or Introduction (Hix and Høyland)
- Gary Marks: Europe and Its Empires: From Rome to the European Union (on Sakai)

Week 2: Jan 17-19

History of the EU (1950-1972)

- Dinan (chapters 1 & 2)
- **Complete CES Survey by January 19 available** @: <http://www.ces.ufl.edu/surveys/>



Week 3: Jan 24-26

History of the EU (1973-1993)

- Dinan (chapters 3 & 4)
- Paper Topic due Jan 26

Part II: EU INSTITUTIONS

Week 4: Jan 31-Feb 2

The Commission

- Dinan (chapter 7)
- Hix and Høyland: pp. 40-49

Week 5: Feb 7-9

The European Council and the Council of the European Union

- Dinan (chapter 8)
- Hix and Høyland: pp. 31-40 & 79-89

Week 6: Feb 14-16

The European Parliament

- Dinan (chapter 9)
- Hix and Høyland: pp. 89-99
- Paper outline due Feb 16.

Week 7: Feb 21-23

The European Court of Justice

- Dinan (chapter 10)
- Hix and Høyland (chapter 4)
- Test review (Thursday)

Week 8: Feb 28-March 1

Test 1 (Tuesday)

Democracy in the EU—Elections and Accountability

- Hix and Høyland (chapter 6)

Week 9: NO CLASS Spring Break

Week 10: March 13-15

Treaty Revisions: From Maastricht to Lisbon

- Dinan (chapter 5& 6)

Part III: POLICIES & CHALLENGES

Week 11: March 20-22

Introduction to Policy-Making in the EU

- Dinan (chapters 11 & 12)
- Hix and Høyland (chapter 8)
- Final research papers due on March 22

Week 12: March 27-29

Monetary Union and the Euro

- Dinan (chapters 13 & 14)
- Hix and Høyland (chapter 10)
- Daniel Hamilton: Europe's watershed moment (on Sakai)



Week 13: April 3-5

External EU Relations and Security Issues

- Dinan (Chapters 16, 17)
- Hix and Høyland (chapter 11)

Week 14: April 10-12

Test Week

- Test Review
- **Test 2 (Thursday)**

Week 15: April 17-19

- Group-project presentations

Week 16: April 24

- Tuesday: wrap-up. Conclusions, discussions, questions.