



Vesalius College Brussels

Course Syllabus: The European Union in the World

Contact Details for Professor

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Office hours and location:

By appointment only

Course Prerequisites (if any)

None

Learning Objectives

The main goal of the course is to familiarize the students with the institutions that are responsible for the external action of the EU, the relations between the EU, its major partners, and authoritarian competitors, and the scope of EU's involvement in global affairs.

Course Description

This course will explore the changing role of the European Union (EU) on the global stage. Although many of the individual countries of Europe have at various point in history played leading roles in world affairs (political, military or trade and economics) the two world wars effectively diminished the influence of most of Europe's countries as individual actors. However, the development of the European Economic Community and today's European Union has served to return Europe as a whole to the global stage in a leading role. Although no longer colonial powers, the combined member states of the EU today make up the largest market in the world and have demonstrated their capacity to impact the world through diplomacy, strategic bargaining and even the projection of military force. This course will examine the evolution of the EU's global influence through an analysis of several key areas of influence, including the EU Neighborhood Policy, the development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) / Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) and EU initiatives in humanitarian & economic assistance.

The course will consist of lectures, guest lectures, visits to international institutions (as possible). Grades will be based on attendance/participation, three in-class exams and a final take-home essay exam (final exam). Prof. Kreppel will teach the sections on the European institutions through the first exam and Prof. Giurcanu will teach the remainder of the course. Prof. Selden will guest lecture during Week 4.

Course Materials

There are two required books for the class. Please note previous/older editions are **not** acceptable.

- John McCormick and Jonathan Olsen, The European Union: Politics and Policies, 5th edition (Westview Press, 2014) ISBN-10: 0813348986 | ISBN-13: 978-0813348988 |
- Christopher Hill and Michael Smith, International Relations and the European Union (2nd edition) (Oxford University Press, 2011) ISBN-10: 0199544808 | ISBN-13: 978-0199544806
- Additional readings will be available to students as photocopies.

Grading Scale

Vesalius College grading policy, in line with the Flemish Educational norms, is as follows:

Grade	Scale of 20	Scale of 100
A	17.0-20.0	85-100
A-	16.1-16.9	81-84
B+	15.3-16.0	77-80
B	14.5-15.2	73-76
B-	13.7-14.4	69-72
C+	13.1-13.6	66-68
C	12.3-13.0	62-65
C-	11.5-12.2	58-61
D+	10.7-11.4	54-57
D	10.0-10.6	50-53
F	Below 50	0-49

The students will be evaluated as follows:

- In-class participation 10%
- First examination 25%
- Second examination 25%
- Final examination 40%

Further description of assessment activities:

Regular attendance & participation (10%): There are only 21 class periods, including 5 double periods on **Thursdays**. Each student is allowed one unexcused class period absence (**Thursdays** will count for two because of the double period). Each additional unexcused absence will result in 5 points being deducted from the student's final grade (100 point scale). Students are required to engage in classroom discussions and be active participants in all class activities to receive full credit for participation, simple attendance is not sufficient.

In-class exams (25% each, 50% total): There will be two in class essay/short answer exams, one approximately every three weeks (Fridays – June 13th and July 4th).

Final Exam – take home essay (40%): Students will be provided with set essay topics (some choice among topics *may* be provided) and will be expected to write two (2) essays of approximately 1,000 words (roughly 4-5 pages) each. **These essays must be typed.** Students will receive the essay topics on the last day of class after they turn in the last of the two in class exams. Ample citations from in class reading and other sources (including news papers and other electronic journals etc) should be used. More details on the take home final exam will be provided in class.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is **NOT** tolerated in this course. Incidents of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with severely. Any incident of cheating on an exam will result in zero credit for that exam. A documented incident of plagiarism will result in a grade of "D" if the plagiarism extends to no more than a few sentences. More extensive plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" for that assignment. Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean for Students and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

Course Schedule

Current Issues in the Development of the European Union

Introduction I: The Historical Context (Kreppel)

Week 1

- Introductions and discussion of course expectations and requirements.
- Review of European and EU history in the 20th century.

READINGS:

1. McCormick and Olsen, The European Union (5th Edition), Westview Press, 2014. Chapters 1-4.
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Introduction II: The Institutions & their Interactions (Kreppel)

Week 2

- Introduction to the EU political system in comparative context.
- Survey of core institutions: The executive branch (European Council, FAC in Council (of Ministers) and the Commission).
- The legislative branch (European Parliament and Council (of Ministers)) and Judiciary (European Court of Justice).

Visits

- Visit to the Parlamentarium (confirmed)

READINGS:

2. McCormick and Olsen, The European Union (5th Edition), Westview Press, 2014. Chapters 5-9.
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The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) (Giurcanu)

Week 3

- Introduction to European Security
- CFSP and ESDP- History Institutions and Implementation
- The Impact of Lisbon on the EU's Global Presence.

EXAM # 1

Trips

- Visit to the European Parliament (confirmed)

READINGS

1. Christopher Hill and Michael Smith, *International Relations and the European Union* (second edition) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) Chapters 1 (pp. 3-18), 3 (only up to pp 58), 4 (pp. 76-100), and 8 (pp 172-190)

CFSP applied: the Transatlantic Relations (Selden)

Week 4

- EU Security Operations
- The Transatlantic Dimension: NATO and NATO-EU Relations
- EU and the United States

Trips

- Visit to NATO (to be confirmed) and/or Visit to the US Mission to the EU (confirmed)

READINGS:

1. Christopher Hill and Michael Smith, *International Relations and the European Union* (second edition) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) Chapter 17 (pp. 404-429)
2. Zachary Selden “Power is Always in Fashion: State-Centric Realism and the European Security and Defence Policy” *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 2010 Vol. 48, No. 2. pp. 397-416. PHOTOCOPIES
3. Jolyon Howorth “The EU as Global Actor: Grand Strategy for a Global Grand Bargain?” *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 2010 Vol. 48, No.3. pp. 455-474. PHOTOCOPIES

CFSP and Major Authoritarian Regimes (Giurcanu)

Week 5

- EU and the BRICs
- The Emerging New World Order
- China and Russia

Trips

- Visit to the European Economic and Social Committee (confirmed)

READINGS

1. Christopher Hill and Michael Smith, *International Relations and the European Union* (second edition) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) Chapters 16 (pp. 381-403).
2. Mara Caira, “The EU-China Relationship: From Cooperation to Strategic Partnership”, pp281-289, in Federiga Bindi and Irina Aneglescu (eds.), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Assessing Europe’s Role in the World*, (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2012) PHOTOCOPIES
3. Serena Giusti and Tomislava Penkova, The European Union and Russia: Engaged in Building a Strategic Partnership, pp 118-133, in Federiga Bindi and Irina Aneglescu (eds.), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Assessing Europe’s Role in the World*, (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2012) PHOTOCOPIES

The EU as a “Soft Power” (Giurcanu)

Week 6

- Economic power and trade
- Humanitarian and developmental aid

EXAM # 2

Trips

- Visit to the European Commission (confirmed)

READINGS:

1. Christopher Hill and Michael Smith, *International Relations and the European Union* (second edition) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14 (pp. 247-348).
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Week 7 Final Examination Week

Trips

- July 10: Visit to the Council of Ministers (*confirmed, optional visit*)