PS338—The European Union: Politics and Political Economy

Fall 2012
TR 4:00-5:15
Ingraham 19
Email: ringe@wisc.edu

Professor Ringe
Office: 201B North Hall
Office Hours: TR 2:30-3:45 and by appt.

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Course Description and Objectives:

In 1951, six countries in Western Europe joined together in the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the predecessor to what is known today as the European Union (EU). This organization has played a central part in Europe’s political and economic development since the end of WWII and has evolved into an “ever closer Union” of twenty-seven European countries. What started out as an attempt to avoid the devastation and horrors of the Second World War in the future now constitutes one of the most complex and intriguing political systems in the world.

In the process of European integration, the “nation-states” of Europe have become the “member-states” of the EU. They have “pooled” their sovereignty to a historically unprecedented degree, most recently by adopting a single currency known as the Euro and by creating new cooperative structures in the areas of both internal and external security. The integration process remains in flux, making the EU very much a moving target for those who seek to study it and evaluate its successes and failures.

The EU’s existence and development raises many questions. Why would a number of independent and, in some cases, historically antagonistic countries, decide to join forces if this means giving up much of their national sovereignty? What is gained, and what is lost, in this process? What does the EU look like, and how does it work? What are its achievements and limitations? What is its role in Europe and the world today, and what will it be in years to come? Understanding the EU is central to understanding the continent’s recent past, present, and future.

This course consists of four parts. First, we will seek to understand the historical background against which the EU was created. Second, we will examine the evolution of the European Union over time. Third, we will investigate the way in which the European Union is organized, as well as its policies, its political economy, its relationship with the member states, and its role in international politics. Finally, we will explore various theories throughout the semester that seek to explain the integration process and outline different “visions for Europe.”

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance of and careful attention during classes and discussion sections.
2. Reading and thinking about the assigned materials so you are able to participate in both class and section discussions. Even when I mostly lecture during a class period, I expect you to consider the readings carefully and thoughtfully before we meet.
3. It is required that you visit one or both of these websites daily to stay up to date with EU news: euobserver.com and euractiv.com. One easy way to remember to do this is to sign up for their daily newsletters, which will be sent to your email address. To ensure that you are following EU news on a regular basis, we will have two short “news quizzes” on two randomly chosen dates.
4. Two exams on October 16 and December 13.
5. A “simulation” exercise of a European Council meeting, scheduled for November 27 and 29. This simulation will be graded on the basis of a 2-page simulation “brief” due on the day of the exercise and successful participation.
6. A 7-page final paper, due on December 18, 2012, at 11:59pm, written on the basis of articles appearing in major newspapers and news magazines during the course of the term. Acceptable sources are EU Observer, Euractiv, the Financial Times, the New York Times, the Washington Post, other US newspapers of similar
stature, the Economist, and major European newspapers (e.g. Le Monde, London Times, Guardian, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Der Spiegel, El Pais). If you are unsure if a source is an appropriate fit, please ask me or your TA. The paper must relate the topic of the articles to the class readings. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and in 12 point “Times New Roman” font. I expect all papers to be well-written, grammatically correct, free of spelling errors, correctly footnoted, and to include a properly-written bibliography. Papers that do not meet these standards will be penalized when graded.

Research Option: Students who are interested in research and/or who are considering applying to a graduate program in the social sciences or international affairs may write a 20 to 25-page research paper for this class. This is both useful practice and may become a writing sample that could be included in your application package for graduate school. Students interested in this option should discuss their projects with me by October 2 at the very latest. If I accept your request, the research paper will replace the 8-page paper and weigh more heavily on the final grade (see below). Research papers will be due on the same day as the 8-page papers.

Extra Credit: Students in this class can obtain extra credit by attending lectures hosted by the European Studies Alliance and writing a one-page single-spaced summary of a talk. Eligible events will be announced in class.

Grading:

| Attendance and participation: | 13% |
| Exams (2): | 24% each for those writing the 7-page final paper, for a total of 48%; 19% each for those writing a research paper, for a total of 38% |
| Simulation: | 10% |
| News quizzes (2): | 2% each, for a total of 4% |
| Final paper: | 7-page paper: 25%; research paper: 35% |

A few important notes (please read carefully!):

- Anything covered in lecture, discussion section, or readings is fair game for the exams. So just doing the reading on the last night before the exam means an almost certain failing grade. Come to class, come to your discussion sections, and do your readings carefully and on time. Note that even readings that have not been explicitly addressed in lecture or discussion section may be covered in the exams!
- Email is the best way to contact me. However, I do not discuss grades via email.
- Your TAs and I are happy to talk through your paper drafts before you turn them in during office hours or by appointment. Given the size of the course, however, we are not able to review rough drafts outside of office hours.
- I allow discussion section switching only under exceptional circumstances, i.e., when you would have to drop this class entirely if you could not switch into another section. You will have to present documentation to this effect.
- I will not provide any detailed lecture or other class notes. Actively taking notes during class time is an important skill and learning tool. To facilitate your note-taking, however, I will upload an outline of my lecture to our Learn@UW course website on the night before the relevant class meeting. This outline will allow you to anticipate the topics discussed, and to “fill in” the information provided in the lecture. Please note, however, that the lecture outlines will in no way be a substitute for you attending lecture. If you don’t come to class, you will be missing important information that will be required knowledge on the exams.
- If you know that you will be absent from class for religious or other reasons that can be known in advance, please let your TA know. Also let us know if you have to miss class due to sickness or family emergencies.
- All assignments are due on the relevant date at the beginning of class! Materials may be turned in late, but I deduct one letter grade for every day that the assignment is late.
- My policy on re-evaluating grades is the following:
  - You must wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints.
You must draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work, i.e. it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.

Your grade will be fully re-evaluated. This means that your TA or I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes – this is not a risk-free process!

- The exam days are set (as are the days of the simulation exercise). Clear your schedules now. There will be no make-up assignments unless you can provide proper documentation that your absence is due to a) a genuine family emergency, b) illness or injury, or c) travel away from Madison for university-related (!) obligations. If an exam is missed for a valid reason, you will receive a substitute assignment. The substitute assignment is an essay of 10 pages based on the material covered in the exam and will be due two days after the date of the missed exam. In order to qualify for the make-up assignment, you must notify me by the time the exam starts.

- McBurney students: please present your McBurney Visa to me by the second week of class. We have to know who you are as soon as possible to ensure that we can accommodate your needs appropriately.

- Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses that will get in you great trouble. Professors know their areas of expertise well enough to detect it, and there are now thoroughly reliable software programs to check if plagiarism has occurred. Please use proper citation form for all materials obtained from primary and secondary sources. If you are caught cheating, you will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript. This will make it extremely difficult for you to gain entrance to graduate or professional schools and will jeopardize your opportunities with a large number of employers in the future.

The following books should be purchased at the university bookstore:


All other readings listed in the syllabus are also required and available for download on our Learn@UW course website.

Some useful websites and online resources:

- The European Union On-Line: europa.eu
  - The European Commission: ec.europa.eu
    - EU Commission Press Room RAPID: europa.eu/rapid
      (you can sign up here to receive daily emails with EU press releases)
  - The Council of the European Union: consilium.europa.eu
  - The European Parliament: europarl.europa.eu
  - The European Court of Justice: curia.europa.eu
  - Eurostat: ec.europa.eu/eurostat
  - Eurobarometer: ec.europa.eu/public_opinion
- Delegation of the European Commission to the USA: euronion.org
  - Especially useful: http://www.euronion.org/eu/Table/EUROPEAN-UNION-A-TO-Z-INDEX/
- Archive of European Integration (AEI): aei.pitt.edu
- Resource Links, EUCE Pittsburgh: http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/resource-links
- European NAvigator: www.ena.lu
September 4: Introduction

Readings: none

September 6: Europe after the War: Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom

Readings:

September 11: Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 1-15
• The “Truman Doctrine Speech”: President Harry S. Truman’s Address Before a Joint Session of Congress, March 12, 1947.

September 13: The German Problem and Early Visions of Europe

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 16-32
• Nelsen and Stubb: Spinnelli and Rossi (ch. 1), Churchill (ch. 2), Schuman (ch. 3)

September 18: The Early Years and Early Theories of Integration

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 33-59
• Nelsen and Stubb: Preambles to Paris and Rome Treaties (ch. 4), Monnet (ch. 5), Haas (ch. 16), Lindberg (ch. 17).


Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 61-87
• Nelsen and Stubb: De Gaulle (ch. 6), Hoffmann (ch. 18)


Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 89-125
• Nelsen and Stubb: Delors (ch. 9)

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 125-57
• Ross: Introduction (pp.1-15); Prologue: Europe comes Alive (pp. 16-50)
• Nelsen and Stubb: Preamble to SEA (ch. 7)

October 2: Maastricht

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 157-171
• Ross: “After 1992” Begins (pp. 78-106).
• Nelsen and Stubb: Preamble to Maastricht Treaty (ch. 10)

October 4: The Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 173-204
• Nelsen and Stubb: Preamble to Nice Treaty (ch. 11), Moravcsik (ch. 22)

October 9: The Constitutional Treaty and the Road to Lisbon

Readings:
• Gilbert: pp. 205-222
• EUSA (European Union Studies Association) Review, Fall 2008, pp. 4-12.

October 11: The Treaty of Lisbon

Readings:
• Andrew Duff (MEP): “True Guide to the Treaty of Lisbon”
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 1-19.

October 16: EXAM #1

October 18: The European Commission

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 23-48
• Ross: Inside the Berlaymont (pp. 51-77)
October 23: The Councils

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 49-54, 61-68

October 25: The European Parliament

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 54-61, 68-74, 137-158

October 30: The Court of Justice of the European Union

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 75-101

November 1: The European Single Market and the Euro

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland pp. 189-217, 245-272

November 6: Guest Lecture by Professor Mark Hallerberg, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

Readings: TBA

November 8: Enlargement

Readings:
• EUSA (European Union Studies Association) Review, Summer 2012, pp. 2-5.

November 13: Policy-Making in the EU

Readings:
• Nelsen and Stubb: Hooghe and Marks (ch. 24)
November 15: Key EU Policies

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 218-244

November 20: Internal Security

• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 273-301

November 27: Simulation (simulation briefs due)

Readings: none

November 29: Simulation (cont.)

Readings: none

December 4: The EU and its Member States

Readings:

December 6: The EU and Its Citizens

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 105-129, 159-186

December 11: Democracy in the EU

Readings:
• Hix and Hoyland: pp. 130-137

December 13: Exam #2

December 18, 11:59pm: Final paper due.