21:790:302 The Politics of the European Union

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11.30-12.30

Focus: This is an upper division course focused on the politics of the European Union. The course is intended to provide students with insights into:

• The historical background and precursors of the European Union
• The institutions of the European Union
• The main policy processes of the European Union
• The member states of the European Union
• European foreign relations

Assignments: In addition to attendance and active participation in class exercises, students must read the appropriate chapters and the assigned texts. Your class participation will account for 20 % of your grade. Irregular attendance will be graded as an F, regular attendance will be graded as B and regular attendance with active and well prepared participation in class (such as citing the course readings or quality media reports) will earn you an A. If you fail your class participation component, your final course grade will drop by one grade.

Students are required to either participate in the simulation exercise during which we will simulate an EU Council of Ministers negotiation session or to give a presentation. Either exercise requires a written report of 1500 words which will account for 20% of your final grade.

There are several written requirements:

• Mid-term October 15th (30%)
• Presentation/Write-up of Simulation exercise (20 %)
• Final Paper (30 %)

Fair warning: Late arrival for your scheduled class is not tolerated. I will not sign in anybody who arrives more than 20 min late. I reschedule exams and extend deadlines only if you provide documentation of extenuating circumstances and if you notify me in advance. I will prosecute to the fullest any breach of the university’s integrity policy or any act of plagiarism by reporting it to the appropriate authorities. Plagiarism is defined by the university as “the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the passing off of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism”.

Required text:


Session 1: Tuesday, September 3, 2013
Introductory meeting: discussion of course aims and content, assessment methods etc.

History and institutions of the European Union

Session 2: Thursday, September 5, 2013
Europe 1945 – 1957
Ch 5/6

Session 3: Tuesday, September 10, 2013
1958 to the Single European Act
Ch 7/10

Session 4: Thursday, September 12, 2013
From European Community to European Union
Ch 11/12/13

Presentation:
1. The Maastricht Treaty
2. The pillar system

Session 5: Tuesday, September 17, 2013
From 1992 onward
Ch 14/16

Presentation:
1. The Treaty of Amsterdam
2. The Treaty of Nice
3. Monetary Union

Session 6: Thursday, September 19, 2013
A European Constitution?
Ch 18

1. Democratic deficit
2. Legitimacy
Session 7: Tuesday, September 24, 2013
German Election Special

Presentations:
1.
2.

Session 8: Thursday, September 26, 2013
The European Institutions – the Commission
Ch 20

Presentation

Session 9: Tuesday, October 1, 2013
The European Council and Council of Ministers
Ch 21

Presentation

Session 10: Thursday, October 3, 2013
The European Parliament
Ch 22

Presentation

Session 11: Tuesday, October 8, 2013
The European Court of Justice
Ch 23

Presentation case study examples
1.
2.

Session 12: Thursday, October 10, 2013
Revision session

Session 13: Tuesday, October 15, 2013
Mid term assessing first part of the course

EU issues and policies

Session 14: Thursday, October 17, 2013
Policy making in the EU
Ch 25
Session 15: Tuesday, October 22, 2013  
Common Foreign and Security Policy  
Ch 33

Session 16: Thursday, October 24, 2013  
Economic and Monetary Union  
Ch 28

Session 17: Tuesday, October 29, 2013  
Enlargement  
Ch 34

Presentation case study Croatia

Session 18: Thursday, October 31, 2013  
Agriculture  
Ch 26

Presentation case study

Session 19: Tuesday, November 5, 2013  
Environmental Policy  
Ch 30

*EU simulation exercise – modelling the EU process*

Session 20: Thursday, November 7, 2013  
Role play preparation

Session 21: Tuesday, November 12, 2013  
Role play preparation

Session 22: Thursday, November 14, 2013  
EU simulation

Session 23: Tuesday, November 19, 2013  
EU simulation

*Theories*

Session 24: Thursday, November 21, 2013  
Theories of European Integration  
Ch 1
Session 25: Tuesday, November 26, 2013
Theories of Governance
Ch 2

Session 26: Tuesday, December 3, 2013
EU and the World Trade Organization
Blackboard

  Presentation case studies
  1.
  2.

Session 27: Thursday, December 5, 2013
Trade and Aid
Ch 32

  Presentation case studies
  1.
  2.

Session 28: Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Home reading for last assignment