

## **21:790:302 The Politics of the European Union**

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Class time: Monday/Wednesday 10.00-11.20 in Conklin 343

Office Hours: Mondays 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
- Current challenges facing the European Union

**On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate broad familiarity with and understanding of core concepts and debates in the literature on EU politics
- Demonstrate knowledge of the EU institutions, processes and mechanisms
- Demonstrate understanding of the roles of and relationships between supranational and national actors in EU politics
- Identify current challenges facing supranationalism

**Skills that will be practiced and developed**

- Mapping the broad structure and content of an area of academic literature and debate
- Critical engagement with texts of various kinds including academic literature, policy documents, NGO reports
- Oral presentation skills
- Student-led research within the framework of the course and designated reading list
- Academic writing skills

**Assignments:** In addition to attendance and active participation in class exercises, students must read the assigned texts. There are three assignments:

- **Mid-term** (33 1/3 %)
- **Presentation/Write Up**-(33 1/3 %)
- **Final paper** (33 1/3 %)

The mid-term will consist of a multiple choice test covering the first part of the course. In the last third of the course, students will prepare presentations on a current topic in the European Union and present to the class. The presentation needs to be handed in in the form of a research paper. The final paper will be an essay assignment.

**Required text:**

In the interest of your finances, I will upload readings to Canvas for every week that you are required to study before class. You will not need to buy a textbook.

**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".

**University health requirement:**

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found

at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

**Inclusive Learning Environment**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). To submit an incident report: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](https://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office

for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or  
[run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu).

▣ Learning Resources:

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)  
Room 140, Bradley Hall  
(973) 353-5608  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)  
Room 126, Conklin Hall  
(973) 353-5847  
nwc@rutgers.edu  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

## Schedule

Session 1: Wednesday January 19, 2022

Introductory meeting: discussion of course aims and content, assessment methods etc.

### *History and institutions of the European Union*

Session 2: Monday January 24, 2022

Europe 1945 – 1957

Session 3: Wednesday January 26, 2022

1958 to the Single European Act

Session 4: Monday January 31, 2022

From European Community to European Union

Session 5: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

The Commission

Session 6: Monday, February 7, 2022

The European Council and the Council of Ministers

Session 7: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

The European Parliament

Session 8: Monday, February 14, 2022  
The Constitution

Session 9: Wednesday, February 16, 2022  
Other institutions

Session 10: Monday, February 21, 2022  
The democratic deficit and legitimacy crisis

Session 11: Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
Revision session

Session 12: Monday, February 28, 2022  
Mid term examining part one of the course

*EU issues and policies*

Session 13: Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
The common agricultural policy and fisheries

Session 14: Monday, March 7, 2022  
EU environmental and climate policy

Session 15: Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
Common Foreign and Security Policy

*Spring break*

Session 16: Monday, March 21, 2022  
Economic and Monetary Union/Financial Crisis

Session 17: Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
Enlargement

Session 18: Monday, March 28, 2022  
Migration

Session 19: Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
Brexit

*Case Study Presentations*

Session 20: Monday, April 4, 2022

Session 21: Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Session 22: Monday, April 11, 2022

Session 23: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Session 24: Monday, April 18, 2022

Session 25: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Session 26: Monday, April 25, 2022

Session 27: Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Session 28: Monday, May 2, 2022

**Grading Matrix:**

**Criteria for A grades**

- Evidence of originality and independent thinking, as appropriate to the task.
- Commanding knowledge of relevant literature, available information, and conceptual issues appropriate to the field.
- Demonstrates the ability to make excellent judgements, as appropriate to the assessment task.
- The work is very well written and presents an excellent synthesis of appropriate available information, coherently structured.
- Where group work is involved there is evidence of an excellent individual contribution.
- Excellent evidence of acquisition of relevant skills and their application.
- Excellent presentation, including referencing

**Criteria for B+ grades**

- Very good knowledge of relevant literature, available information, and conceptual issues appropriate to the field.

- The work is well written and presents a very good synthesis of appropriate available information, coherently structured.
- Draws valid conclusions.
- Where group work is involved there is evidence of a productive individual contribution.
- Very good evidence of acquisition of relevant skills.
- Very good presentation, including referencing.

### **Criteria for B grades**

- Adequate understanding of relevant literature, available information, and conceptual issues appropriate to the field
- Adequate synthesis of available information.
- Work is coherent and adequately structured.
- Where group work is involved there is evidence of a positive individual contribution.
- Evidence of acquisition of relevant skills.
- Good presentation, including referencing

### **Criteria for C+ grades**

- Adequate understanding of relevant literature, available information, and conceptual issues appropriate to the field
- Adequate synthesis of available information.
- Work is coherent with some structural weaknesses
- Good presentation with some referencing weaknesses

### **Criteria for C grades**

- Some evidence of understanding of relevant literature, available information and conceptual issues appropriate to the field
- Acceptable synthesis of available information
- Work is somewhat coherent
- Reasonable presentation with some weaknesses

### **Criteria for D grades**

Major weaknesses in the presentation of the work but a bare pass

### **Assignments:**

**Mid-term:** This is a multiple choice assignment conducted in class.

**Presentation and write-up:** You will give a presentation on a EU issue of your choice based on original research. You will consult academic and policy sources and give a 15 minute presentation. You will then submit a write-up of about 1,500 words of your presentation with citations and bibliography.

**Final research paper:** Essay writing is one of the central modes of assessment in an undergraduate degree in the arts, humanities and social sciences, and is a practice which involves a range of skills which will serve you well in the future beyond your degree ('transferable skills'). These include the ability to write well – clearly, concisely, in a well organized and logical manner, drawing on, summarizing and engaging critically with a range of sources. It takes time to develop good essay writing skills and your abilities will steadily improve over the course of your degree.

The purpose of this exercise is to build upon and consolidate the initial essay writing skills that you started to develop during the earlier stages of your degree. You will be given an assignment of about 2,000 words on a current EU problem and are required to develop a concise, well structured and argued essay making use of relevant academic sources.