

The Politics of the European Union

21:790:302

Mondays and Wednesdays

4:00-5:20pm

Instructor: Alejandro Giménez-Santana, PhD

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description:

Analysis of the development of European integration from the immediate postwar period through the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty; emphasis on economic integration and monetary union; legal integration; and the question of sovereignty, intergovernmental cooperation regarding interior and justice affairs, common foreign policy, and defense.

Learning Goals:

Through class discussion, interaction with the instructor, and class presentations, students will practice their communication skills. The writing assignments aim to help students critically analyze course material, develop their own arguments, collect primary documents/evidence, and relate these materials to the current issues surrounding the European Union.

Prerequisite:

This course assumes no previous experience in the use of geographic information systems (GIS). The basic ability to use a desktop computer and Microsoft Word and Excel applications is required.

Required Reading:

Olsen, J. and McCormick, J. (2017). *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. Westview Press.

Assignments:

- Participation – you are expected to regularly contribute to class discussions based on the readings, lectures, and your own research for your paper.
- In-class essays – there are two essay exams
- Class facilitation – The class will feature student-led discussions based on the assigned reading(s). The purpose of the discussion sessions is to provide opportunities for students to exchange opinions, interpretations, and ideas about the readings and the topics they address. A good discussion is one where the participants feel that they have learned something new, something that they would not have learned by simply reading the materials on their own.

Note: the value of each discussion section ultimately rests on a willingness to come prepared to talk. Thus, all students are expected to do all of the assigned readings. Failure to do so will impair your ability to follow, benefit from, and actively participate

Instructions: On Monday, September 10th, I will distribute a sign-up sheet where you may list two of your preferences for class facilitation. I will announce the groups on Wednesday, September 12th.

- a. A class facilitation should begin brief presentation (approximately 7 to 10 minutes) to introduce one of the readings. The briefing should end with a conclusion that ties together the issues raised in the reading and relates them to the general themes of that week's discussion.
 - b. The briefing will be followed by an open discussion led by the group. As part of this, you will prepare a list of questions designed to provoke discussion on the readings (while they primarily should focus on the assigned reading, they also may consider links to previous readings as well as any recent developments). To assist your classmates in preparing for discussion, when possible your questions should include brief quotes and/or page numbers for their reference.
 - c. The exact format will be determined by the students leading the week's discussion – e.g., you may generate discussion using the questions you have prepared; you may call on classmates to ask questions they have prepared; you may choose to engage in a group activity; you may wish to impose a role-playing format on a portion of your discussion to help illuminate different perceptions of the issue(s) at hand. If you choose to have your classmates present questions or participate in an activity (briefing, debate) that requires preparation, you must give them advance notice and instruction
- Presentation – You will present on an EU-related issue to the class in a 15-minute presentation, which will be the basis of your research paper. I will provide feedback and suggestions for your continued research and final paper.
 - Research Paper – you will write a research paper on the topic about which you presented. A rubric will be handed out midway through the semester, and the paper will be due at the time of the final exam.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to read assigned readings before each class and be prepared for class discussions and assignments.

Course Structure:

Classroom learning is a group activity that depends upon everyone's full participation in order to succeed. Be prepared to begin class on time; silence or turn off and put away cell phones; read and be prepared to discuss homework; submit assignments on time; and assist fellow classmates.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation: 20%
In-Class Essays: 30% (15% each)
Class facilitation: 15%
Student Presentation: 10%
Final Research Paper: 25%

100% TOTAL

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A	90–100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

COURSE POLICIES:

- 1. Classroom policy:** All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor's permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated.
- 2. Academic Integrity:** As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>. Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university's policy will result in appropriate action.
- 3. Attendance** is mandatory for this course and will be taken each class. Missing classes without proper documentation (i.e. a doctor's note) will affect your participation grade. Any student who misses **six** or more sessions through any **combination** of **excused** and **unexcused** absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a fellow student on what you missed (do not email me asking what you missed). Excessive lateness will also affect your grade.
- 4. No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies will result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day.

5. **Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an “F” for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code. Please see Rutgers’ Academic Integrity Policy.
6. Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
7. **Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
8. **Your grade** is your responsibility and is non-negotiable. If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester ends asking for a better grade.
9. All students are required to sign the **Rutgers Honor Code Pledge**. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.”
10. Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be asked to leave.
11. All assignments must be completed specifically for this course. You cannot hand in something you used in another course.

DATE	TOPIC	READING(S) DUE
W 9/5	Introduction	
Section 1: European History & Institutions		
M 9/10	What is the EU?	Ch. 1
W 9/12	Origin and development of the EU	Origin and development of the EU
M 9/17	NO CLASS	History of the EU
W 9/19	NO CLASS	Ch. 2 *Summary Due*
M 9/24	1958 to the Single European Act	Ch. 3
W 9/26	Maastricht, Lisbon, and the Eurozone	Ch. 4
M 10/1	The European Commission	Ch. 5
W 10/3	The Council of the European Union	Ch. 6
M 10/8	The European Parliament	Ch. 7
W 10/10	A European Constitution	“A Constitution for the European Union”
M 10/15	In-Class Essay #1	
Section II: EU Policies and Issues		
W 10/17	Enlargement	“Lessons from Migration after EU Enlargement”
M 10/22	Economic Policy and the Single Market	Ch. 12
W 10/24	Cohesion, Justice, and Policies	Ch. 13
M 10/29	Agricultural and Environmental Policy	“The Common Agriculture Policy at a Glance”
W 10/31	Financial Crisis (2009)	“The European Sovereign Debt Crisis”
M 11/5	Immigration	“EU Refugee Policies & Politics in Times of Crisis”
W 11/7	Russia, Ukraine, & the EU Guest Speaker: Dr. Iuliia Hoban (Radford Univ.)	“The EU and Ukraine: Taking a Breath”
M 11/12	Brexit	“The Brexit Vote: a divides nation, a divided continent”
W 11/14	The EU and the World	Ch. 15
M 11/19	In-class Essay #2	
W 11/21	NO CLASS – (Friday day schedule)	
M 11/26	Student Presentations	
W 11/28	Student Presentations	
M 12/3	Student Presentations	
W 12/5	Student Presentations	
M 12/10	Student Presentations	
W 12/12	Student Presentations	