

# Politics of the European Union (Pol 320)

## Syllabus

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Fall semester 2009 / Wednesdays, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

### I. Course purpose

The course aims at strengthening students' knowledge about the European Union, including its origins, development after World War II, institutional structures, law, economy and specific policies. Some significant challenges for the EU today and in future will also be covered. The focus will be not only on providing factual data but also on developing an understanding of how the EU works 'behind the scenes'. This is important because the European Union is neither a state nor a traditional international organization, but a unique political entity. Thus the course is suitable for those who have very little pre-entry knowledge as well as those with basic orientation in EU-related matters.

The course is comprised of 13 weekly sessions, divided into five blocs of two to three sessions each and dealing with different aspects of European integration and the EU (see the Course structure below). The sessions will consist of lectures by the instructor followed by presentations and their critiques by the students. Significant space will be left for discussions about the topics concerned, based on the assigned readings as well as the given lecture and presentations. The course readings have been designed to provide essential context on all key issues and to expand on important theoretical concepts. Both readings and lectures are crucial components of the course and are interrelated. It won't be possible to achieve a good grade without attending the sessions AND completing the assigned readings.

### II. Requirements and assessment

Students are expected to actively participate in discussions during the sessions on the basis of their knowledge acquired from the assigned readings, since this will contribute to their final marks. Each student will be required to give a 15 to 20-minute in-class presentation on a topic related to the respective session. Another student will follow with a 5 to 10-minute constructive critique of the presentation. There will be a midterm examination in the 7<sup>th</sup> session and a final examination in the 14<sup>th</sup> session. To achieve excellent marks in the exams, students should also follow current developments in the EU during the course. The final mark will be calculated as follows:

1. Active participation in sessions – 10%
2. In-class presentation – 20%
3. Critique of presentation – 10%
4. Midterm exam – 20%
5. Final exam – 40%

### III. Course policies

During the course, questions, comments and discussions will always be welcome (even if they contradict the lecturer's opinions). Participation in each and every session is not

required, but missing more than three will considerably impair the participation mark (leaving a session significantly earlier than at the end will be considered an absence).

#### IV. Course structure

Bloc A: Introduction to European integration – What is the EU?

- Session 1 (2 Sep): Introduction to the course; the idea of a united Europe, the EU's significance and general principles
- Session 2 (9 Sep): Historical origins of European integration, early developments
- Session 3 (16 Sep): Theoretical perspectives over European integration

Bloc B: Evolution of Europe: treaties and enlargements

- Session 4 (23 Sep): From Paris to Maastricht, from 6 to 12 members
- Session 5 (30 Sep): From Maastricht to Lisbon, from 12 to 27 members

Bloc C: The EU's institutions and structures

- Session 6 (7 Oct): EU decision-making: Commission, Council of the EU, European Council, European Parliament
- Session 7 (14 Oct): European Court of Justice, advisory bodies, agencies, groups and units; understanding the pillar structure; MIDTERM EXAM

Bloc D: Europe's Functioning and Policies

- Session 8 (21 Oct): EU law & legislation: typology/applicability/enforceability; justice & home affairs
- *MIDTERM BREAK* (28 Oct)
- Session 9 (4 Nov): EU economy and cohesion: single market and its four freedoms, the Euro, agricultural policy, EU funds
- Session 10 (11 Nov): EU in the world: CFSP/ESDP, external policies, trade, foreign aid, missions

Bloc E: The EU today

- Session 11 (18 Nov): Democratic deficit, Europeanization, European identity
- Session 12 (25 Nov): Lisbon treaty and the future of Europe
- Session 13 (2 Dec): Current issues, debate on a topic of choice, summary, wrap-up

Session 14 (9 Dec): FINAL EXAM

#### V. Course materials

For every session, students are essentially required to read pieces of academic text (one or several chapters or papers) as well as relevant documents and resources according to the week-by-week reading assignments as given below. Besides, it is important to follow current EU developments in media. Readings will—as far as possible—be comprised in an easily accessible reader (study pack). Most chapters, documents and other resources are also downloadable or accessible online.

##### A. Readings and resources by week

Readings for the individual weeks may be slightly changed or complemented during the course. Below, simplified references are made to the following books:

- Bomberg, E. (ed.). *The European Union: How Does it Work?* Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Dinan, D. *Ever Closer Union*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005.
- McCormick, J. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
- Pinder, J. and S. Usherwood. *European Union: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

### **Session 1 (2 Sep): Introduction to the course; the idea of a united Europe, the EU's significance and general principles**

- Winston Churchill, "The Tragedy of Europe", speech in Zurich, 1946  
(<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)  
(PLEASE READ THIS FOR THE 1ST SESSION TO HAVE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION)
- Ash, Timothy G., "Today's European Union is 27 states in search of a story", *The Guardian*, 4 January 2007,  
(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/story/0,,1982467,00.html>)  
(PLEASE READ THIS FOR THE 1ST SESSION TO HAVE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION)
- Otto von Habsburg on the meaning of Europe (video):  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaCG0GBpE30>)

### **Session 2 (9 Sep): Historical origins of European integration, early developments**

- McCormick, chapter 2: The Idea of Europe (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>).
- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 2: How the EU was made  
(<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)
- The Schuman declaration of 9 May 1950  
([http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/decl\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/decl_en.htm))
- Pioneers of European Unity, <http://www.historiasiglo20.org/pioneers/> (see Aristide Briand, Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Jean Monnet)

### **Session 3 (16 Sep): Theoretical perspectives over European integration**

- Jones, R. *The Politics and Economics of the European Union*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2001. Chapter 2 [scanned copy available]
- Haas, E. B. 'The Uniting of Europe' in Nelsen, B. F. and A. Stubb. *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*. Lynne Rienner, 2003. [scanned copy available]
- Rosamond, B. 'The uniting of Europe and the foundation of EU studies: revisiting the neofunctionalism of Ernst B. Haas', *Journal of European Public Policy*, 12:2 April 2005, pp. 237-254.  
([http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/staff/rosamond/publications/the\\_uniting\\_of\\_europe/\\_uniting\\_of\\_europe.pdf](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/staff/rosamond/publications/the_uniting_of_europe/_uniting_of_europe.pdf)).

### **Session 4 (23 Sep): From Paris to Maastricht, from 6 to 12 members**

- Dinan, chapter 4: From European community to European Union, 1985-1993
- McCormick, chapter 3: The Evolution of the EU (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)
- Europa.eu – Treaties and Law ([http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index_en.htm))
- Soundtrack: Edward Heath on UK's accession to EEC  
(<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/audio/discours/heath.mp3>)

### **Session 5 (30 Sep): From Maastricht to Lisbon, from 12 to 27 members**

- Dinan, chapters 5 & 6: Enlargement, 1994-2005; Constitutional change, 1994-2005.
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 2: How did we get here? (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)
- Europa.eu – Treaties and Law ([http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index_en.htm))
- OECD, *EU Enlargement* [http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,3343,en\\_33638100\\_34612999\\_34898091\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,3343,en_33638100_34612999_34898091_1_1_1_1,00.html)
- *A Shift in Europe's Political Cultures?*, Euractiv.com, 6 July 2004 (<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/european-elections-1999-2004-shift-europe-political-cultures/article-128504>).

### **Session 6 (7 Oct): EU decision-making: Commission, Council of the EU, European Council, European Parliament, role of Member States**

- Bomberg (ed.), chapters 3 & 4: The EU's Institutions; Member States. (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)
- Institutions (europa.eu): [http://europa.eu/institutions/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm)
- Websites of the institutions
- Protocol on the role of national parliaments (Treaty of Amsterdam) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11997D/htm/11997D.html#0113010016>
- EU budget (europa.eu): [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/index_en.htm)

### **Session 7 (14 Oct): European Court of Justice, advisory bodies, agencies, groups and units; understanding the pillar structure; MIDTERM EXAM**

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 3: How the EU is governed. (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)
- McCormick, chapter 4: The Institutions of the EU (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>).
- Websites of the institutions
- Protocol on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality (Treaty of Amsterdam) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11997D/htm/11997D.html#0105010010>)

### **Session 8 (21 Oct): EU law & legislation: typology/applicability/enforceability; justice & home affairs**

- Factsheets:
  - o Overview: European Union law <http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/OS/OS6.htm>
  - o The direct effect of Community Law and the primacy of Community Law: [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/decisionmaking\\_process/l14547\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/decisionmaking_process/l14547_en.htm)  
[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/decisionmaking\\_process/l14548\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/decisionmaking_process/l14548_en.htm)
  - o Typology of legal instruments: [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/decisionmaking\\_process/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/decisionmaking_process/index_en.htm) (see “Community Regulations”, “Decisions” & “Directive”)
  - o Eur-Lex – process and players (includes process diagrams): [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/droit\\_communaire/droit\\_communaire.htm](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/droit_communaire/droit_communaire.htm)
- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 7: ‘An Area of Freedom, Security and Justice’ (<http://snaidaufer.info/public/aau/2>)
- Summary of EU legislation: [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index_en.htm)
- Area of freedom, security and justice (europa.eu): [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/intro/fsj\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/intro/fsj_intro_en.htm)

## **MIDTERM BREAK (28 Oct)**

### **Session 9 (4 Nov): EU economy and cohesion: single market and its four freedoms, the Euro, agricultural policy, EU funds**

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 4: Single Market, Single Currency (<http://snaidauf.info/public/aau/2>)
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 6: Economic and Related Policies (<http://snaidauf.info/public/aau/2>)
- EU Activities (europa.eu): [http://europa.eu/pol/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/pol/index_en.htm)
- Communication of the European Commission: A single market for 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe ([http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007\\_0724en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0724en01.pdf))

### **Session 10 (11 Nov): EU in the world: CFSP/ESDP, external policies, trade, foreign aid, missions**

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapters 9-10: The EU and Europe; The EU and the World (<http://snaidauf.info/public/aau/2>)
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 7: A Secure Europe? (<http://snaidauf.info/public/aau/2>)
- European Security Strategy: A Secure Europe in a Better World (<http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>)
- EU in the world (europa.eu): [http://ec.europa.eu/world/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/index_en.htm)
- Factsheet: European Security and Defense Policy (<http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/download/EX.4.ESDP.pdf>)

### **Session 11 (18 Nov): Democratic deficit, Europeanization, European identity**

- Simon Hix, 'The End of Democracy in Europe?' 'working paper LSE, 2003 ([http://personal.lse.ac.uk/hix/Working\\_Papers/Hix-End\\_of\\_Democracy\\_in\\_Europe.pdf](http://personal.lse.ac.uk/hix/Working_Papers/Hix-End_of_Democracy_in_Europe.pdf))
- Andrew Moravcsik, 'In Defence of the Democratic Deficit: Reassessing Legitimacy in the EU,' Journal of Common Market Studies, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 603-24, 2002 (<http://www.princeton.edu/~amoravcs/library/deficit.pdf>)
- Lukáš Sedláček, Bridging the Gap to the European Identity (<http://www.boell.cz/web/52-535.html>)

### **Session 12 (25 Nov): Lisbon treaty and the future of Europe**

- *The Lisbon Treaty: 10 easy-to-read fact sheets*. Fondation Robert Schuman, 2007 (<http://www.robert-schuman.org/doc/divers/lisbonne/en/10fiches.pdf>)
- Kurpas, S. *The Treaty of Lisbon – How much 'Constitution is left?* CEPS Policy Brief, 2007 ([http://shop.ceps.eu/downfree.php?item\\_id=1568](http://shop.ceps.eu/downfree.php?item_id=1568)).
- Discussions on the EU's future, The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/15/world/europe/15iht-voices.html>)

### **Session 13 (2 Dec): Current issues, debate on a topic of choice, summary, wrap-up**

- Readings to be specified

### **Session 14 (9 Dec): FINAL EXAM**

## B. Online resources:

- Reference
  - o **European Parliament fact sheets** (a comprehensive authoritative official resource on the European Union, available online and printed)  
Online version:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/expert/displayFtu.do?language=EN&id=74&ftuld=index.html>
  - o European treaties: [http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index_en.htm)
  - o Central gateway to documents: [http://europa.eu/documents/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/documents/index_en.htm)
  - o EU glossary: [http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index_en.htm)
- European News
  - o Online only: EurActiv (<http://euractiv.com>), EU Observer (<http://euobserver.com>), EUbusiness (<http://www.eubusiness.com>)
  - o Printed and online: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>), The Parliament (<http://www.eupolitix.com>)
- Selected think-tanks
  - o Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS): <http://ceps.eu>
  - o European Policy Centre (EPC): [www.epc.eu](http://www.epc.eu)
  - o Brussels European and Global Economic Laboratory (BRUEGEL): [www.bruegel.org](http://www.bruegel.org)
  - o Centre for New Europe (CNE): [www.cne.org](http://www.cne.org)
  - o European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR): [www.ecfr.eu](http://www.ecfr.eu)
  - o EUmap.org - Monitoring human rights and the rule of law in Europe: <http://www.eumap.org>
  - o Europeum (Praha): <http://www.europeum.org/index.php?&lang=en>

## D. Recommended reading

- Archer, C. *The European Union*. London: Routledge 2008.
- Baldwin, R. *The Economics of European Integration*, Second Edition McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2006.
- Howorth, J. *Security and defence policy in the European Union*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Machlup, F. *A History of Thought on Economic Integration*. London 1977.
- Nelsen, B. F. and A. Stubb. *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*, Third Edition. Lynne Rienner, 2003.
- Nugent, N. *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. Fifth edition. Durham, NC: Duke University Press 2003.
- Scharpf, F. *Governing in Europe – effective and democratic?* Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Smith, M.E. *Europe's Foreign and Security Policy: the institutionalization of cooperation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Stirk, Peter M.R. and David Weigall (eds.). *The Origins and Development of European Integration. A Reader and Commentary*. London 1999.
- Wallace, H. and W. Wallace (eds.). *Policy-making in the European Union*, Oxford 2000.
- Wiener, A. and T. Diez. *European Integration Theory*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

#### E. Additional reading:

- Bigo, D. Internal and External Aspects of Security. *European Security*, Vol. 15, No. 4.
- Duchene, F. *Jean Monnet. The First Statesman of Interdependence*. New York 1994.
- European Commission. *The Internal Market - Ten Years without Frontiers*. European Commission, 2003.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/10years/docs/workingdoc/workingdoc\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/10years/docs/workingdoc/workingdoc_en.pdf)
- Everts, S. (et al.). *A European Way of War*. London: CER, 2004.
- Gardner, H. (ed.). *NATO and the European Union: new world, new Europe, new threats*. Aldershot and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004.
- Gerbet, P. *La construction de l'Europe*. Paris 2007.
- Gillingham, J. *European Integration, 1950-2003: Superstate or New Market Economy*. Cambridge 2003.
- Kurpas, S. et al. *The Treaty of Lisbon: Implementing the Institutional Innovations*. CEPS, EPC & Egmont, 2007. [http://shop.ceps.be/downloadfree.php?item\\_id=1554](http://shop.ceps.be/downloadfree.php?item_id=1554)
- Milward, A. *The Reconstruction of Western Europe, 1945-1951*. London 1984.
- Pelkmans, J. *European Integration. Methods and Economic Analysis*. Financial Times, Prentice Hall, last edition, Part 2.
- Reid, T. R. *The United States of Europe*. New York: Penguin Press, 2004.
- Rifkin, J. *The European Dream*. Polity Press, 2004.
- Rosamond, B. *Theories of European Integration*. New York 2000.
- Sandholtz, W. and A. Stone (eds.). *European Integration and Supranational Governance*. Oxford 1998.
- Schimmelfennig, F. and U. Sedelmeier (eds.) *The Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe*. London: Cornell University Press, 2005.
- Smith, H. *European Union Foreign Policy: What it is and What it Does*. London and Sterling, VA: Pluto Press, 2002.
- Spinelli, A. *The Eurocrats. Conflict and Crisis in the European Community*. Baltimore 1966.
- Stirk, Peter M.R. *A History of European Integration since 1914*. London 1996.
- Urwin, D. *The Community of Europe: A History of European Integration Since 1945*. London 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).
- Vachudova, A. M. *Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage, & Integration after Communism*. Oxford University Press, 2005.