

European Union and the Czech Republic

Syllabus

PhDr. Jan Šnidauf
Email: jan@snidauf.info
Metropolitan University Prague
International Relations and European Studies
Winter semester 2008/2009
(full-time studies; seminar)

I. Course purpose

The course aims at providing students with working knowledge of the European Union, particularly in relation to the Czech Republic and its EU membership. The classes are divided into four three-week blocs that represent the major areas of focus: (i) what the EU means and how it is built; (ii) how the Union has been evolving in history; (iii) how the EU works and impacts on its member states; (iv) the Czech Republic's accession to the Union and the role it plays in the EU. Throughout the course prominent issues will be dealt with such as the major institutions, Europe's funding, enlargement rounds, European legal instruments and their significance, the euro, single European market, agricultural policy and European external policies including security, trade, development aid and peacekeeping missions. The special focus on the Czech Republic will look into the pre-accession history and deal with the specificities and problems of intra-European politics. In conclusion a class will examine major contemporary issues of the debate about the EU.

The course is designed as an academic reflection over the vast area of EU-related matters, as much as a means to transmit basic factual knowledge to ensure a complex understanding of these issues. The classes will be comprised of introductory statements followed by students' presentations on the topics in question. Significant space will be left for discussions about the readings and presentations.

II. Requirements and assessment

Students are expected to actively participate in classes and discussions with knowledge of the assigned readings, as this will contribute to their final marks. Each student will be required to give a 10-minute in-class presentation on a topic related to the respective class. In addition, there will be two short quizzes during the semester and a final written examination in the form of short essays about given questions. To achieve excellent marks in the quizzes and final exam, students should follow current developments in the EU throughout the course. The final mark will be calculated according as follows:

1. Quality participation in classes – 20%
2. Individual presentation – 30%
3. Two short quizzes – 20%
4. Final examination – 30%

III. Course policies

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

missing over ¼ of them will impair the participation mark. Missed quizzes can be replaced with home-written papers, unlike the agreed presentations and the final exam.

IV. Course structure

Bloc A: Principles and Architecture of the European Union

- Week 1: Introduction to the course; EU's significance and general principles
- Week 2: Role of major institutions: Councils/Commission/Parliament/Court of Justice
- Week 3: Further institutions; budget; internal mechanisms & levels of governance

Bloc B: From Paris to Lisbon—EU's History and Evolution

- Week 4: Origins of the European idea, early developments, ECSC
- Week 5: The three communities, first enlargements, creation of the EU
- Week 6: Integration, further enlargements, till the Lisbon Treaty

Bloc C: Europe's Functioning—Implications for the Czech Republic

- Week 7: EU law & legislation: typology/applicability/enforceability; justice & home aff.
- Week 8: EU economy: single market and its four freedoms, Eurozone, policies
- Week 9: EU in the world: CFSP/ESDP, trade, aid, missions, other policies

Bloc D: Czech Republic in the EU

- Week 10: Pre-accession cooperation and transition, accession process, negotiations
- Week 11: CR and politics within EU (small vs. big states, Visegrad & other groups)
- Week 12: CR's role in the in the EU: government positions, upcoming presidency

Week 13: Major current issues (EU reform, Turkey...), topics of students' choice, wrap-up

V. Course materials

For every class, students will be required to read pieces of academic text (one or two chapters or papers) and make themselves acquainted with relevant documents or resources. Reading will—as far as possible—be comprised in easily accessible readers (study packs). Most documents and resources are downloadable or accessible online.

A. Required reading:

Students are recommended to get hold of a copy of the following book as they will need to know information even from chapters that are not explicitly stated in the week-by-week readings list and included in the reader.

Pinder, J. and S. Usherwood. *European Union: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2007. 224 pages.

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/facts/default_en.htm
 - o European treaties: http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index_en.htm
 - o Central gateway to documents: http://europa.eu/documents/index_en.htm

- EU glossary: http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index_en.htm
- European News
 - Online only: EurActiv (<http://euractiv.com>), EU Observer (<http://euobserver.com>), EUBusiness (<http://www.eubusiness.com>)
 - Printed and online: European Voice (<http://www.europeanvoice.com>), The Parliament (<http://www.eupolitix.com>)
- Selected think-tanks
 - Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS): <http://ceps.eu>
 - European Policy Centre (EPC): www.epc.eu
 - Brussels European and Global Economic Laboratory (BRUEGEL): www.bruegel.org
 - Centre for New Europe (CNE): www.cne.org
 - European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR): www.ecfr.eu
 - EUMap.org - Monitoring human rights and the rule of law in Europe: <http://www.eumap.org>
 - Europeum (Praha): <http://www.europeum.org/index.php?&lang=en>

C. Readings and resources by week:

Reading and resources considered required are marked by a dot, other materials with a dash. Reading lists for the individual weeks may be slightly changed or complemented during the course.

Week 1: Introduction to the course; EU's significance and general principles

- 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 CLASS TO HAVE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION)
- Otto von Habsburg on the Meaning of Europe (video): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaCG0GBpE30>

Week 2: Role of major institutions: Councils/Commission/Parliament/Court of Justice

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 3: How the EU is governed.
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 3: The EU's Institutions.
- McCormick, chapter 4: The Institutions of the EU.
- Institutions (europa.eu): http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm
- Websites of the institutions

Week 3: Further institutions; budget; internal mechanisms & levels of governance

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 5: Agriculture, regions, budget.
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 4: Member States.
- McCormick, chapter 6: The EU and its citizens.
- EU budget (europa.eu): http://ec.europa.eu/budget/index_en.htm
- Protocol on the role of national parliaments (Treaty of Amsterdam) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11997D/htm/11997D.html#0113010016>

- Protocol on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality (Treaty of Amsterdam) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11997D/htm/11997D.html#0105010010>

Week 4: Origins of the European idea, early developments, ECSC

- McCormick, chapter 2: The Idea of Europe.
- Pioneers of European Unity, <http://www.historiasiglo20.org/pioneers/> (see Aristide Briand, Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Jean Monnet)

Week 5: The three communities, first enlargements, creation of the EU

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 2: How the EU was made.
- McCormick, chapter 3: The Evolution of the EU.
- History (europa.eu): http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm
- Edward Heath on UK's accession to EEC <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/audio/discours/heath.mp3>

Week 6: Integration, further enlargements, till the Lisbon Treaty

- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 2: How did we get here?
- University of Essex, *EU Enlargement* (presentation) <http://courses.essex.ac.uk/gv/qv373/Lecture-20.ppt>
- *The Lisbon Treaty: 10 easy-to-read fact sheets*. Fondation Robert Schuman, 2007.
- *A Shift in Europe's Political Cultures?*, Euractiv.com, 6 July 2004.
- OECD, *EU Enlargement* http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,3343,en_33638100_34612999_34898091_1_1_1_1,00.html
- Kurpas, S. *The Treaty of Lisbon – How much ‘Constitution is left?* CEPS Policy Brief, 2007. http://shop.ceps.eu/downfree.php?item_id=1568

Week 7: EU law & legislation: typology/applicability/enforceability; justice & home aff.

- Factsheets:
 - Overview: European Union law <http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/OS/OS6.htm>
 - The direct effect of Community law and its primacy <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l14547.htm> <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l14548.htm>
 - Typology of legal instruments: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s90003.htm> (see sections “Regulations”, “Decisions” & “Directives”)
 - Eur-Lex – process and players (includes process diagrams): http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/droit_communautaire/droit_communautaire.htm
- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 7: ‘An Area of Freedom, Security and Justice’
- Summary of legislation (europa.eu): http://europa.eu/scadplus/scad_en.htm
- Area of freedom, security and justice (europa.eu) http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/intro/fsj_intro_en.htm

Week 8: EU economy: single market and its four freedoms, Eurozone, trade, policies

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 4: Single Market, Single Currency.
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 6: Economic and Related Policies.

- EU policies (europa.eu): http://europa.eu/pol/index_en.htm
- Communication of the European Commission: A single market for 21st century Europe http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0724en01.pdf

Week 9: EU in the world: CFSP/ESDP, aid, missions, other policies

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapters 9-10: The EU and Europe; The EU and the World
- Bomberg (ed.), chapter 7: A Secure Europe?
- A Secure Europe in a Better World (European security strategy) <http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>
- EU in the world (europa.eu): 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>

Week 10: Pre-accession cooperation and transition, accession process, negotiations

- Presidency conclusions, Copenhagen European Council 1993, section 7 <http://www.infoeuropa.ro/docs/copenhagen.pdf>
- Svejnar, J. *Czech Republic and Economic Transition in Eastern Europe*. Elsevier Science & Technology Book, 1995. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview.
- Partnership for the accession of the Czech Republic (europa.eu) <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/e40107.htm>
- European Commission white paper: Preparation of the Associated Countries of Central and Eastern Europe for Integration into the Internal Market of the Union http://aei.pitt.edu/1120/01/east_enlarg_wp_COM_95_163.pdf
- Center for Regional Development of the Czech Republic: Pre-Accession Programmes <http://www.crr.cz/index.php?lssel=199>

Week 11: CR and politics within EU (small vs. big states, Visegrad & other groups)

- Visegrád Declaration of 2004 <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/download.php?ctag=download&docID=35>
- *Large and small Member States in the European Union: reinventing the balance*. Euractiv 19 May 2003. <http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/large-small-member-states-european-union-reinventing-balance/article-117682>

Week 12: CR's role in the in the EU: government positions, Czech Council presidency

- *Is the Czech Republic the new "bad-boy" of the European Union?* Czech Radio, 25 May 2008. <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/102265>
- (reading will be assigned in respect to the current situation)

Week 13: Major current issues (EU reform, Turkey, etc.), topics of choice, wrap-up

- Pinder & Usherwood, chapter 11: So far so Good ... But What Next?
- Bomberg (ed.), chapters 8,10: EU as a Global Actor; Constitutionalism and Democracy
- "Enlargement myths" (europa.eu): http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/questions_and_answers/myths_en.htm

- Social agenda: Opportunities, access and solidarity: towards a new social vision for 21st century Europe (communication of the European Commission)
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0726en01.pdf

D. Recommended reading

- Baldwin, R. *The Economics of European Integration*, Second Edition McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2006.
- Bomberg, E. (ed.). *The European Union: How Does it Work?* Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Brent, F. N. and A. Stubb. *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*, Third Edition. Lynne Rienner, 2003.
- 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.
- McCormick, J. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. 264 pages.
(Note: published June 2008, to be available in late summer. Do not confuse with the 2005 edition)
- 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.

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
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 (2nd edition).