

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS

Political Science 4347

Fall 2020

Professor

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Department of Political Science

Virtual Office Hours on Blackboard: TW 8-8:45am Mountain Time and by appointment

E-mail: ggenna@utep.edu

Class Time/Location:

MW 9 – 10:20am Mountain Time/Synchronous using Blackboard Collaborate

Catalog Description

An advanced study of the political structures emerging from New Europe. Prerequisites: POLS 2310 and POLS 2311 each with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Content

This course surveys the development of the European Union (EU), an experiment in regional level political, economic, and social integration. Since the end of WWII an extraordinary thing has happened: peace has broken out among the European nation-states. Not since the era of *Pax Romana* has Europe existed for so long without intra-continental war. Another development is the democratization and the acceptance of open market principles of the entire continent.

While these developments may not be surprising and taken for granted today by many, “taking heads” in the years leading up to these changes could not and did not predict them. In fact, each time a crisis occurs, these same people predict its downfall. Yet, the EU is still in existence. This semester we will look at these developments closely and attempt to understand not only what has happened in Europe in the latter half of the 20th century, but also why the EU developed and its prospects for the 21st century.

The EU is already an organization that has united Europe, east and west, economically, and it may eventually do so politically. Some argue that the EU is a unique experiment in regional governance, while others believe it is only one of many similarly evolving cases. We will critically examine all the ups and downs of the EU’s development in order to explain whether or not it has, or will, meet its goals.

The course has the following specific goals:

- To enhance your **global awareness** by learning factual knowledge of the European Union, past and present;
- To develop your **critical thinking** skills by understanding the various theories of regional integration and to assess the explanatory value of these theories;

- To advance your **problem-solving** skills through the use of scientific analysis to explain the resolution of EU wide issues and challenges; and
- To understand the EU's trajectory through **teamwork** exercises.

Course Texts

McCormick, John. 2017. Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction, Seventh Edition. London: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-13: 978-1137606259; ISBN-10: 1137606258

Rosamond, Ben. 2000. Theories of European Integration. London: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-13: 978-0312231200; ISBN-10: 0312231202

There will be other required readings found on Blackboard. See the presentation schedule of the syllabus for more details.

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. Many, but not all, computer/laptop systems include a video camera and microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Communication

Because this is a remote learning class, we will not see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

UTEP COVID-19 Policies and Precautions

All students must participate in COVID-19 training at [this site](#) before the start of the semester.

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](#). If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you are on campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](#)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to campus when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times when on campus. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classrooms and buildings. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom and building. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In addition, please follow these hygiene procedures when on campus:

- Wear a face covering at all times (We cannot say this enough ☺).
- Maintain 6 feet of separation at all times, including when talking with other students.
- Follow signage indicating specific entry and exit doors and pathways.
- Do not cluster in groups and keep hallways open.
- Wash hands and/or apply hand sanitizer prior to entering classroom and after leaving a classroom. Do not touch face until after hands are washed/sanitized.
- Use an alcohol wipe, provided outside of classrooms, to sanitize the desk, chair, or table.
- Follow faculty protocols for leaving and re-entering the classroom.

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Course Obligations

There is a mix of obligations the student must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes 1) Team report on a significant EU achievement, 2) one mid-term exam, 3) term paper, and 4) final exam.

- All assignments and exams will be turned in using Blackboard (Bb).
- Please do not send assignments or exam to me via email. Let me know if you are having problems uploading assignments and exams. The UTEP Help Desk is your best resource since my technical qualifications are limited.

- Think ahead regarding when obligations are due. Late assignments or exams will be accepted for a grade if you are experiencing documented emergency circumstances.

Class Meetings and Reading Assignments:

The principal reading obligation is to keep up with the assigned chapters within the course study outline contained in this syllabus. To maximize the learning experience, the reading should be done before the beginning of class.

This class requires that you participate in scheduled synchronous Blackboard Collaborate sessions. This means that we will have live professor presentations and class discussions on each MW 9-10:20am, except for exam days. The purpose of these sessions are for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in discussion with your classmates. Students are expected to participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard. If you are unable to attend a Collaborate session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate. Class attendance is expected and participation should contribute to the learning process.

In addition, students are expected to follow European current events during the semester in the media. Some suggested periodicals include the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Christian Science Monitor*. One good online news source is www.euobserver.com. Students with knowledge of foreign languages are encouraged to read international newspapers on the WWW (*Le Monde*, *die Zeit*, etc.). This reading will be important in developing ideas for your term paper.

Exams (Midterm: October 5 and Final: December 9)

There are two exams for the course: a mid-term and a final. Both exams will require essay answers that will test knowledge of key concepts and terms and assess analytical thinking of theories and facts. The mid-term will cover the material in the part one of course and the final will be comprehensive (parts one and two). The exams are open book, open notes and will be submitted online through Bb. A list of potential essays questions will be given one week prior to the exams.

Team Report (Due: September 9)

A team of no more than three students will report on a significant EU achievement. A significant achievement would any decision, law, regulation, etc. that advanced European integration. Citing an entire treaty will be too much for this assignment since EU treaties often have multiple achievements. Instead, you can report on one achievement found in the treaty. Pick an achievement that is exciting to you!

The report will need to include the following:

- 1) Clear description of the achievement.
- 2) Clear description of how the achievement advanced integration.
- 3) Some thoughts about how well the achievement worked.

- 4) Written from an objective prospective.
- 5) 5 pages (\pm one page) in length.
- 6) Formatted in the following manner:
 - a. double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
 - b. new times roman font (12 point),
 - c. 1 inch margins,
 - d. title page (title, course, name, and date),
 - e. page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
 - f. stapled with no plastic cover of any type, and
 - g. citations and a bibliography (at least seven sources with no more than two internet sources).

Term Paper and Proposal (Proposal Due: October 12 and Paper Due: December 4)

Students are asked to individually analyze how the European Union solved a specific problem. The choice of the issue is up to the student. I will provide guidance in getting started, organized, and will continue to offer support as the course progresses. The idea is to find an interesting problem, describe how member-states of the EU resolved the problem and explain why they chose their particular solution.

A proposal will need to be submitted. Early in the semester, a proposal form will be posted on Blackboard. The completion of this form will be your proposal. Also, a more detailed list of the term paper's criteria will also be posted on Blackboard.

The term paper will need to include the following:

- 1) An analysis of the resolution of an issue of a European Union issue.
- 2) Address this basic question: Why did the member-states choose their particular solution in resolving their problem?
- 3) The clear use of one theory presented in the course.
- 4) Clear hypothesis tested using empirical evidence.
- 5) Written from an objective prospective.
- 6) 10 pages (\pm one page) in length.
- 7) Formatted in the following manner:
 - a. double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
 - b. new times roman font (12 point),
 - c. 1 inch margins,
 - d. title page (title, course, name, and date),
 - e. page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
 - f. stapled with no plastic cover of any type, and
 - g. citations and a bibliography (at least seven sources with no more than two internet sources).

For students who are interested in making the most of their writing in political science, I suggest the following:

Michaels, Anne Edwards. 2001. Writing to Learn in Political Science. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

Schmidt, Diane E. 2005. Writing in Political Science, 3rd edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Grade Weights

Each obligation will be given a score out of a total 100 points and have the weights found below in determining students' final grades. No “extra credit” points will be given in this course.

Course Requirement	Due	Weight
Team Report	September 9	15 percent
Midterm Examination	October 5	25 percent
Term Paper Proposal	October 12	10 percent
Term Paper	December 4	25 percent
Final Examination	December 9	25 percent

All grades (including the final grade) are based on the following distribution of points:

Points	Letter
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Course Policies

The following policies are in place in order to better manage the learning environment:

- 1) Cell phones must be off during class sessions. They are allowed under emergency circumstances, but please notify the professor ahead of time.
- 2) Chatting, e-mailing, internet browsing, or any activity not related to official class activity is prohibited.
- 3) Some communication from me will be posted on Blackboard. Please monitor our course webpage on Blackboard regularly.
- 4) Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. For further information, please refer to <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>
- 5) Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first two

weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Outline of Lecture Topics

- I. Orientation
- II. The Study of European Politics
 - a. The Scientific Method of Analysis
 - b. The Idea of Europe
- III. A Brief History: From War to Unity
 - a. European Coal and Steel Community
 - b. European Economic Community
 - c. European Community
 - d. European Union
 - e. Expansion and Constitution
- IV. Theories of Regional Integration
 - a. Early Ideas
 - i. Federalism
 - ii. Functionalism
 - iii. Transactionalism
 - b. Neofunctionalism and Its Aftermath
 - i. Rationale
 - ii. Critiques
 - c. Repackaging Old Ideas
 - i. Multi-Level Governance
 - ii. Institutionalism
 - iii. Policy Networks
 - iv. Supranational Governance
 - d. Integration Theory's New Avenues of Thought
 - i. Neorealism
 - ii. Power Transition Theory
 - iii. Two Level Games
 - iv. Liberal Intergovernmentalism
 - v. Consociationalism
 - vi. Constructivism
- V. Analysis of EU Politics
 - a. Making Decisions in the EU: Who is in charge?
 - i. Institutions
 - ii. Power and Rules
 - b. The EU and the Member-states: The Loss of Sovereignty?
 - i. Power Distribution in Europe
 - ii. Member-states and Policy Making
 - c. Public Support and a People's Europe

- i. European Identity
 - ii. Public Support
 - iii. Democratic Deficit
 - iv. European Elections
 - d. Economic Issues and Solutions
 - i. The Single Market
 - ii. Monetary Integration
 - e. Quality of Life Issues and Solutions
 - i. Common Agricultural Policy
 - ii. Regional Policy
 - iii. Social Policy
 - iv. Environmental Policy
 - f. Foreign Policy Issues and Solutions
 - i. NATO/Common Foreign and Defense Policy
 - ii. External Relations
- VI. Prospects for a Federal Europe
 - a. The Impact of Brexit
 - b. Public Opinion Trends
 - c. Details of Further Deepening and Explanation

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings (All lecture slides are posted on Blackboard)

Date	Topic	Readings
August 24	Orientation; The Study of European Union Politics	Hoover and Donovan chapters 1 & 2 (posted on Blackboard); McCormick chapter 2
August 26 & 31	A Brief History: From War to Unity	McCormick chapter 3 and then chapter 1
Part One: Theories of Regional Integration		
September 2 & 9	Early Ideas	Rosamond chapters 1 and 2
Team report due September 9 by 5pm		
September 14 & 16	Neofunctionalism and Its Aftermath	Rosamond chapters 3 and 4
September 21 & 23	Repackaging Old Ideas	Rosamond chapter 5
September 28 & 30	Integration Theory's New Avenues of Thought	Rosamond chapters 6 and 7
October 5 Midterm Examination Due by 5pm		
Part Two: Analysis of EU Politics		
October 7 & 12	Making Decisions in the EU: Who is in charge?	McCormick chapter 4
October 12 Term Paper Proposals Due by 5pm		
October 14	Public Support and a People's Europe	McCormick chapter 5
October 19 & 21	The EU and the Member-states: The Loss of Sovereignty?	McCormick chapter 6
October 26 & 28	Economic Issues and Solutions Part 1	McCormick chapter 7
November 2 & 4	Economic Issues and Solutions Part 2	McCormick chapter 7
November 9 & 11	Quality of Life Issues and Solutions	McCormick chapter 8
November 16 & 18	Foreign Policy Issues and Solutions Part 1	McCormick Chapter 9
November 23 & 25	Foreign Policy Issues and Solutions Part 2	McCormick Chapter 9
November 30 & December 2	Prospects for a Federal Europe	McCormick Conclusions
December 4 - Term Paper Due by 5pm		
Final Exam due December 9 by 5pm		