

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS

Political Science 4347

Spring 2020

Professor

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Meeting Time/Location: Tuesdays 9-11am/Benedict Hall 301

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. 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 free market principles of the entire continent. While these developments may not be surprising and taken for granted today, "taking heads" in the years leading up to these changes could not and did not predict them. 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 they happened and prospects for the 21st century.

The European Union has already completely 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 impart factual knowledge of the European Union, past and present;
- To understand the various theories of regional integration;
- To assess the explanatory value of these theories;
- To use the power of scientific analysis to explain problem solving in the EU; and
- To understand and predict the EU's trajectory.

UTEP Edge Tags: Problem-Solving, Global Awareness, Teamwork, and Critical Thinking

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 (Bb). See the presentation schedule of the syllabus for more details.

Course Obligations

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

Class Discussion of 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. 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: March 3 and Final: May 12)

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 closed book and in-class. A list of potential essays questions will be given one week prior to the exams.

EU Achievement Report (Due: February 11)

You 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. citations and a bibliography (at least seven sources with no more than two internet sources), and
 - g. uploaded on to Bb in a “.doc” format.

Term Paper and Proposal (Proposal Due: March 24 and Paper Due: May 8)

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. 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. citations and a bibliography (at least seven sources with no more than two internet sources), and
 - g. uploaded on to Bb in a “.doc” format.

A proposal will need to be submitted. Early in the semester, a proposal form will be posted on Bb. 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.

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.

Neither will be accepted late except under extraordinary circumstances.

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	February 11	15 percent
Midterm Examination	March 3	25 percent
Term Paper Proposal	March 24	10 percent
Term Paper	May 8	25 percent
Final Examination	May 12	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) Students may tape class discussions for personal use. However the sale or exchange of such tapes is not permitted unless prior permission is given.
- 2) Cell phones must be off during our sessions. They are allowed under emergency circumstances, but please notify the professor ahead of time.
- 3) Some communication from me will be posted on Bb. Please monitor our course webpage on Bb 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 week 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) (formerly known as the Disabled Student Services Office) in 302 Union East 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. 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

Readings

All lecture slides are posted on Blackboard

January 21

Orientation; The Study of European Union Politics (Hoover and Donovan chapters 1 & 2 posted on Bb; McCormick chapter 2)

January 28

A Brief History: From War to Unity (McCormick chapter 3 and then chapter 1)

Part One: Theories of Regional IntegrationFebruary 4

Early Ideas (Rosamond chapters 1 and 2)

Report due February 11February 11

Neofunctionalism and Its Aftermath (Rosamond chapters 3 and 4)

February 18

Repackaging Old Ideas (Rosamond chapters 5)

February 25

Integration Theory's New Avenues of Thought (Rosamond chapter 6 and 7)

March 3 - Midterm Examination**Part Two: Analysis of EU Politics**March 10

Making Decisions in the EU: Who is in charge? (McCormick chapter 4)

March 17 - Spring Break**March 24 Term Paper Proposals Due**March 24

Public Support and a People's Europe (McCormick chapter 5)

March 31

The EU and the Member-states: The Loss of Sovereignty? (McCormick chapter 6)

April 7

Economic Issues and Solutions Part 1(McCormick chapter 7)

April 14

Economic Issues and Solutions Part 2(McCormick chapter 7)

April 21

Quality of Life Issues and Solutions (McCormick chapter 8)

April 28

Foreign Policy Issues and Solutions (McCormick Chapter 9)

April May 5

Prospects for a Federal Europe (McCormick Conclusions)

May 8 - Term Paper Due

May 12 - Final Examination – Time to be determined