

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS

Political Science 4347

Spring 2022

Professor

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Meeting Time/Location: Thursdays 9-10:20am/Quinn Hall 203

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. 2020. Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction, Eighth Edition. Red Globe Press. ISBN-13: 978-1352011197 ISBN-10: 1352011190

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

Other required readings are on Blackboard (Bb) and listed on the presentation schedule.

Study and Project Teams

Students will form teams of three to four members for the weekly discussion sessions and term paper project. Students are welcome to self-organize and the instructor will assist students that need to join a team. Team memberships are due by January 27 at 9am. More information will come from the instructor.

Hybrid Course Details

This is a hybrid course meaning that about half the content will be online and the other half in person. All lectures will be asynchronous voiceover presentations posted on Bb, which the instructor will have available by Tuesdays at 9am (MST) of each week. Thursdays (9-10:20am, MST) are the days that we will meet in person for the group discussion sessions. Questions covered during discussion sessions are on the course schedule found at the end of the syllabus.

Course Obligations

The following is the mix of obligations the student must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course:

- 1) Weekly group discussion reports
- 2) Individual report on a significant EU achievement
- 3) Midterm exam
- 4) Team term paper
- 5) Final exam

Weekly Group Discussion of Assigned Topics:

Each Thursday, we will meet to discuss the week's topic. To prepare for these group sessions, students must keep up with the assigned chapters and voiceover presentations. All topics, readings, and discussion questions are listed in the course schedule found at the end of this syllabus. To maximize the learning experience, the readings and studying the presentations should be done **before** the beginning of the group discussions. Class attendance is expected and participation should contribute to the learning process.

Teams will upload weekly reports by each Friday on Bb.

- 1) Clear presentation of the week's discussion question and its relevance.
- 2) The group's answer to the question.
- 3) Reaction of at least one other group's answer to the question.
- 4) Written from an objective prospective.
- 5) 2 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, all team names, and date),
 - e. page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
 - f. uploaded on to Bb in a “.doc” format.

In addition, students are expected to follow European current events during the semester. 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 online (*Le Monde*, *die Zeit*, etc.). Also, see McCormick appendix 4. These contemporary reports may be helpful in developing ideas for your team term paper.

Exams (Midterm: March 4 and Final: May 13)

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 answers will be uploaded onto Bb. A list of potential essay questions will be given the Monday (February 28 & May 9) of the exam week and answers are due on the following Friday (March 4 & May 13). The instructor will email students which questions to answer on the Thursday (by 5pm, MST) before the exam is due (March 3 and May 12).

Individual EU Achievement Report (Due: February 18)

Students individually 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 EU achievement 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.

Team Term Paper and Proposal (Proposal Due: March 25 and Paper Due: May 6)

Students are asked to analyze, within their teams, how the European Union solved a specific problem. The choice of the issue is up to the teams. The instructor 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, team names, 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.

Teams will submit a proposal. 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 Bb.

The following books can help students who are interested in making the most of their writing in political science:

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.

Assignments are to be uploaded onto Bb by 11:59pm (MST) of the day they are due

No assignments 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
Weekly Group Reports	Each Friday	10 percent
Individual Report	February 18	15 percent
Midterm Examination	March 4	20 percent
Team Term Paper Proposal	March 25	5 percent
Team Term Paper	May 6	25 percent
Final Examination	May 13	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

Technology Requirements

Some of the course content is delivered via the Internet through the Bb 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 Bb; 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

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. 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 Precautions

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Information regarding UTEP testing and other COVID related issues can be found at <https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/testing/>. If you test positive of COVI-19, please inform UTEP EH&S at 915-747-7162 or COVIDaction@utep.edu.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear facemasks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area and frequently on campus. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support: Technology Resources

- **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Bb, 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 Policies

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

- Some communication from me will be posted on Bb. Please monitor our course page on Bb regularly.
- 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>
- 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

Course Schedule for Voiceover Presentations, In-Class Activities, Exams, and Assignment Due Dates

All presentations are posted on Bb

Week (Date)	Topic/Presentation	Readings	In-Class Activity
Week 1 (January 18)	The Study of European Union Politics	Hoover and Donovan chapters 1 & 2 posted on Bb; McCormick chapter 2	How can the scientific method help us explain European Union politics?
Week 2 (January 25)	A Brief History: From War to Unity	McCormick chapter 3 and then chapter 1 See also appendix 2	Identify and describe an event and explain its significance.
Part One: Theories of Regional Integration			
Week 3 (February 1)	Early Ideas	Rosamond chapters 1 & 2	What is the difference between ideological approaches to explaining EU politics vs. scientific theorizing?
Week 4 (February 8)	Neofunctionalism and Its Aftermath	Rosamond chapters 3 & 4	What are the strengths and weaknesses of neofunctionalism?
Week 5 (February 15)	Repackaging Old Ideas	Rosamond chapter 5	What are differences and similarities between this week's theories and neofunctionalism?
Individual Report due February 18			
Week 6 (February 22)	Integration Theory's New Avenues of Thought	Rosamond chapters 6 & 7	Select one theory discussed this week and highlight its strengths and weaknesses.
Week 7 Midterm Examination – Due March 4 – Upload onto Bb			

Week (Date)	Topic	Readings	In-Class Activity
Part Two: Analysis of EU Politics			
Week 8 (March 8)	Making Decisions in the EU: Who is in charge?	McCormick chapter 4 & appendix 3	Which EU institutions are intergovernmental and which are supranational? Why does knowing the difference matter?
March 14-18 - Spring Break			
Week 9 (March 22)	Public Support and a People's Europe	McCormick chapter 5	Why would Europeans support European integration? Why are euroskeptics not in favor?
Team Term Paper Proposals – Due March 25 – Upload onto Bb			
Week 10 (March 29)	The EU and the Member-states: The Loss of Sovereignty?	McCormick chapter 6	Explain which theories predict the end of state sovereignty in Europe and which ones speak to their enduring power?
Week 11 (April 5)	Economic Issues and Solutions	McCormick chapter 7	Does the evolution of the EMU fit the theory of liberal intergovernmentalism?
Week 12 (April 12)	Quality of Life Issues and Solutions	McCormick chapter 8	Can liberalism explain European cooperation on quality of life issues?
Week 13 (April 19)	Foreign Policy Issues and Solutions	McCormick chapter 9	Which theory discussed in this course can best help predict future integration of foreign policy?
Week 14 (April 26)	Prospects for a Federal Europe	McCormick Conclusions	What advice would you give EU leaders to improve support for European unification?
Week 15 Team Term Paper – Due May 6 – Upload onto Bb			
Final Examination – Due May 13 - Upload onto Bb			