

SYLLABUS POLS395: THE EUROPEAN UNION

M,W 3:30PM - 4:45PM
 Jack Arends Vis Art Bldg 102

Office hours: T, Th 10:30-12:00
 Office: ZH 113

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Course Objective: European Union has evolved dramatically since its six founding members took steps to create a common market after World War II. European integration was motivated by the need to create political stability and foster economic interdependence. Jean Monnet, one of the founding fathers of the European project, argued that, 'The fusion of economic functions would compel nations to fuse their sovereignty into that of a single European State.' While the introduction of the political, economic and monetary unions have signaled significant steps towards European unification, the issue of state sovereignty is still highly controversial. Just note for example its prevalence in the no vote campaigns in Ireland, France, and the Netherlands which preceded failed treaty referendums.

Throughout its history fears have been vocalized inside European states about the creeping competence of this supranational institution, yet the European project has continued to expand in both scope and depth. Today the European Union has 27 members. It has more inhabitants and a higher GDP than the United States. Its presence as a global actor is increasingly felt not just in international trade and financial institutions but also in the security arena. It is the world's largest official development assistance donor, and has taken the lead in promoting climate change regulation. The EU ambassador to the US has proudly proclaimed that, 'The European Union is the world's most successful invention for advancing peace.'

The first question we will seek to answer in this course is: What is the European Union? Is it an intergovernmental organization; a supranational government? What similarities and differences can be drawn between European governance and US federalism? To answer these questions we will explore integration theory, examine EU institutions, and compare decision making processes across a range of policy areas including economic and monetary policy, employment and social policy, justice and home affairs and foreign policy. Finally, we will discuss the future of the EU in light of recent, rapid waves of enlargement, the failed Constitutional treaty, and stalled Lisbon Treaty ratification.

READING MATERIAL:**The Institutions of the European Union**

Peterson and Shackelton (PS)
 (2nd Edition) 2006, Oxford University Press

Policy Making in the European Union

Wallace, Wallace, and Pollack (WWP)
 (5th Edition) 2005, Oxford University Press

I will provide supplemental reading material on developing topics online. *You will also need to access and analyze European media sources throughout the course*, and will have the opportunity to boost your participation grades by posting these articles on Blackboard or the NIU POLS 395 group on facebook. In addition to English language news sources such as BBC and the International Herald Tribune, you may find the following websites useful: <http://www.euronews.net/> or <http://www.euractiv.com/en/HomePage> Audio-visual material related to the EU can be accessed via the European Union web portal: <http://europa.eu/> or via EU tube: <http://www.youtube.com/eutube>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Written work will determine a significant portion of your grade in this course. Papers which are incoherent due to improper use of grammar will automatically fail. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the University Writing Center <http://uwc.niu.edu> and <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=12184757237> This is an upper level political science class. Your essays should consist of well organized and analytical answers. If you have questions about writing for political science you may find the online guide from Georgetown University useful: http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/Writing_PolSci_Essay.htm Graded assessment in this course will be based on the following:

1. Class Participation (20%)

You are expected to come to class prepared. This means that you have done the reading and visited the discussion forum on Blackboard. You are expected to actively participate in class by both answering direct questions and raising issues for discussion. Participation grades will be split into three categories.

- 'Responsive and substantive' in class discussion 10%. In order for participation to be substantive it must be consistent, relevant, informed by lecture or reading material and delivered respectfully. Debate is encouraged and expected, and everyone's opinion is important.
- Discussion starter' points 5% On random days, I will ask you to write down and /or share with the class a 'discussion starter' question. These questions should relate to the assigned reading for the day. If you are absent or un-prepared to start the discussion you will lose points.
- 'Online participation' through Blackboard or facebook 5%. Have you seen an interesting article that relates to course discussion? Have a comment or question? Post it! Online participation will be divided into three categories: regular, occasional, and rare.

** At the end of the course you be asked to assess the participation of your peers on a scale from 1-5 (1= Is this student in our class ? 2= This students was frequently absent and did not contribute much to this course 3 = This student regularly attended class but made only minimal efforts to participate 4 = This student attended class and regularly participated in a substantive and 'reactive' manner (ie responded to questions raised by the instructor or others) 5 = This student attended class and regularly participated in discussions in both a highly substantive reactive and proactive manner (ie, he/she both reacted to questions raised by others and raised interesting and informed questions and topics for debate. These peer reviews will be compared to evaluations completed by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is not mandatory, but poor attendance will be reflected by a low participation grade. If you have a legitimate reason for needing to be absent: [email to me beforehand!](#)

CLASSROOM DECORUM: Please set your cell phones to vibrate, resist the urge to text message, and refrain from private conversations while both the instructor and your classmates are speaking. Debate is encouraged and expected in this course and everyone's opinion will be respected. Consistent disruptive behavior will negatively affect your participation.

2. Group Debates (20%)

Groups will compete against each other for points in 4 pre-election style debates (deigned to test your capacity to develop arguments and prepare you for the final exam). You are expected to prepare for these competitions by 1) studying as a group 2) developing questions for opponents. **Although you are assigned to work as groups, you are responsible for your individual grades! This means that not all group members will necessarily receive the same grade. Group members who are not present for the competitions/debates will 0 receive points. In addition, everyone will be asked to evaluate the participation of other group members at the end of the course. Any problems with a group member (ie. a member that is not prepared, does not attend study sessions etc.) need to be brought to my attention immediately.**

3. Essay Questions (30%)

There are take home essay question papers. In order to receive high marks you will need to 1) develop well organized and conceptual responses to the questions which are supported by scholarly arguments and factual information. 2) Cite specific scholars from the books and use factual case study information both from the assigned reading and from current news sources to support your answers.

1. What is the European Union? Compare and contrast different theoretical explanations for the role played by EU institutions in European policy making.
2. Discuss the costs versus the benefits of European enlargement (in light of issues such as institutional effectiveness, the EU budget, European demos).
3. Discuss the capacity of the European Union to exercise governance by comparing and contrasting one policy area in each of the three pillars.

4. Take home comprehensive Final Exam (30)%

Your final exam consists of one comprehensive essay question. To answer this question you will need to apply material introduced from the beginning to the end of the course. You may re-use work from the earlier essays, but the exam must possess the clarity and organization of a stand-alone paper. Answers need to consist of a conceptual arguments supported by factual information and current case studies. You do not need to use external academic sources, but you will need to utilize and cite authors from the course texts.

Here is the question: Discuss factors which limit or enhance the capacity of the European Union and its member states to exercise effective and legitimate governance across the range of policy areas discussed in class.

I will not be handing out a study guide at the end of the course. Therefore you will need to TAKE NOTES! You are also advised to pay attention to the announcements and additional materials on Blackboard.

OUTLINES: I highly recommend drafting an outline ahead of time. I will review and provide comments on outlines which are handed in before the final class. I will not entertain student requests for assistance in drafting their outlines after this point.

LATE ESSAYS will be penalized by 1 letter grade per day. This penalty will only be waived in EXCEPTIONAL circumstances, such as those which would require a student to be absent for an extended period (such as hospitalization) or an unforeseen emergency (such as a death in the family). You should contact me as soon as such circumstances arise and recognize that you will be asked to verify your excuse with documentation. I will not consider common illness such as a cold, a headache, or the flu (even with a doctor's note) to be grounds for an extension on any assignments. **I DO NOT EXCEPT LATE FINAL EXAMS** except in cases where students can demonstrate grounds for an incomplete.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The NIU Undergraduate Catalog states that 'Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written whole or in part by someone else. **Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy materials from books, magazines or other sources without identifying or acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them.**' Plagiarism will be reported to the Department of Political Science and students will be subject to further action by university judicial proceedings. My policy is to fail students caught plagiarizing for the entire course.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE WEBSITE: Students are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to <http://polisci.niu.edu>

UNDERGRADUATE WRITING AWARDS: The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NIU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have some impact on their coursework and for which they may require accommodations should notify the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR) on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building. CAAR will assist students in making appropriate accommodations with course instructors. It is important that CAAR and instructors be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: (Please note: I will not rush through topics. If more time is needed on any particular topic, the schedule will be amended accordingly. Students should check Blackboard regularly for announcements).

M 1.12	W 1.14 Overview of EU Institutions PS:1-2
M 1.19 No Class	W 1.21 Theory of integration WWP: 1-2
M 1.26 Decision making in the EU WWP Chapter 3	W 1.28 The Council PS: 3-4 <u>ESSAY QUESTION 1 DUE</u>
M 2.2 The Commission PS: 5, 8	W 2.4 European Parliament PS: 6, 15
M 2.9 European Court of Justice/Court of Auditors PS:7, 11	W 2.11 Agencies and the European Central Bank PS: 9-10
M2.16 Layers of Interest the EU WWP: 14, 16	W 2.18 GROUP COMPETITION 1 WWP:4-5
M 2.23 Single Market WWP:4-5:	W 2.25 Economic and Monetary Union WWP 6
M 3.2 Continued	W 3.4 GROUP COMPETITION 2
M 3.9 SPRING BREAK	W 3.11 SPRING BREAK
M 3.16 16 CAP WWP :7	W 3.18 The Budget/ Cohesion and Structural Fund WWP: 8-9
M 3.23 Enlargement WWP: 16	W 3.25 , Social Policy and Employment Policy WWP: 10-11
M 3.30 GROUP COMPETITION 3	W 4,1 The Environment WWP:12
M4.6 Biotechnology and Fisheries WWP:13, 14	W 4.8 Trade Policy WWP: 15
M4.13 CFSP WWP:17 PS:13	W 4.15 JHA WWP :18 PS: 12
M4.20 THE LISBON TREATY <u>ESSAY QUESTIONS 2 and 3 ARE DUE!</u>	W4.22 GROUP COMPETITION 4
M4.27 Conclusions PS: 17 WWP:19	W 4.29 REVIEW SESSION
FINAL EXAM DUE TUESDAY MAY 12 at 12:30 PM.	