

European Union Politics
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Spring 2016

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:30
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This course is an introduction to the history, political institutions, and policy of the European Union. It is oriented toward upper division students who have already taken European Government or its equivalent. I assume some familiarity with the political institutions of Western Europe, though pertinent information will be reviewed where relevant. The creation and development of the European Union is one of the most fascinating political events of the last 50 years. It represents a unique opportunity to study the evolution of a political system without having to rely solely on historical documents. In the past half-century, the EU has grown from a set of weak and poorly defined institutions with a limited policy domain and an emphasis on national sovereignty into an extensive political system with increasingly strong supranational actors influencing all aspects of political and economic life. The focus of the course will be an examination of the way the EU works today.

Outcomes and Goals:

Students will demonstrate on examinations, in the country study and policy study term papers, and in an oral presentation:

- the ability to map out the institutions of the EU, policy making, and citizen politics
- advanced analyses of policy areas and country-actors in the EU
- exhibit mastery of the reading material through the written summaries due with each module

Grading:

A total of 1000 points will be available.

- Two exams worth 200 points each will consist of a short answer section (short, three to four sentence IDs) and essay questions.
- Six reading summaries worth 50 points each will be worth a total of 300 points
- A research project (including a 3000 – 3500 word research paper) will be worth 300 points:

50 points will be distributed via a topic submission in Module 2

50 points will be distributed via an annotated bibliography due in Module 7

200 points will be possible with the term paper itself due in Module 8

Term research project:

Undergraduate students will be required to write a 3000 to 3500 word term paper which will account for 200 points (this is a formal writing assignment). The topic will be defined during the first few weeks of the course and **MUST** be approved by the professor via the paper topic assignment.

The paper is to be a formal research paper: thesis driven, with citations and a bibliography. *I have extremely high expectations on the quality of the paper and each of you should understand that grammatical and spelling errors, as well as poor organization, incorrect information, insufficient or poor sources, and unsupported theses will result in a reduced*

grade. All papers should be *carefully* edited. **Any papers that fail to** meet the length requirements will be docked 10 points per 150 words you are short. In other words, if you write a 2500 word paper rather than a 3000 word paper, I will take 40 points off your possible 2000 points *off the top*. If your paper is 1500 words, I will take 100 points OFF THE TOP. Do not fail to write a paper that fulfills the terms of the assignment.

Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination, including furnishing that information to another student. Cheating will result in a zero on the examination. Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment. Finally, plagiarism is “the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion” (Faculty Handbook, State University of West Georgia, August 2004, page 75). If you copy and paste, or use someone else’s words, I will *catch you* and you will *fail this class*.

Also be forewarned: all assignments including the term papers will be evaluated using Turnitin, which detects whether you have stolen another’s words. I will catch you if you plagiarize, and I will fail you.

Required texts:

Bache, Ian, Simon Bulmer, and Stephen George. 2015. *Politics in the European Union*. Fourth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The book may be purchased here

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0199689660?psc=1&redirect=true&ref_=ox_sc_act_title_2&smid=A2MZMG0JK9LPC2

This book is absolutely required. The FOURTH EDITION is required. The earlier edition is too old. I do not have a loaner copy. You will need to purchase a paperback copy via an online bookseller.

Class policies

Read the instructions in each module.

Ask course related questions in the discussion board called “Ask Your Professor,” not via email (unless it’s personal!). If it is personal (for example, grade or absence related), please use the class mail tool. Do not email me unless you cannot access the course. I will not respond to emailed questions about the class. ALL CLASS COMMUNICATION HAPPENS INSIDE THE CLASS.

University Policies:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule of class activities

Below you will find the schedule of class activities. All activities and assignments in each module are due on the “due date”. Quizzes will close automatically after noon on each “due date”. Discussions will be closed manually at the same time. Drop boxes will cut off automatically as well.

Late assignments are not accepted.

Begin Date	Due Date	Module	Assignments	Book Readings
Module 1 contains the syllabus and the “Ask Your Professor” discussion board. Please read the syllabus as soon as you have access to the class.				
January 8	January 22, Noon	Module 2	Reading summary for Module 2	Chapters 1-4
January 22	February 5, Noon	Module 3	Reading summary for Module 3 Short essay Paper topic	Chapters 4-8
February 5	February 19, Noon	Module 4	Reading summary for Module 4	Chapters 9-11
February 19	March 5, Noon	Module 5	MIDTERM	
March 5	March 26, Noon	Module 6	Reading summary for Module 6	Chapter 12-15
March 22	April 9, Noon	Module 7	Reading summary for Module 7 Annotated Bibliography	Chapter 16-18, 20
April 9	April 23, Noon	Module 8	Reading summary for Module 8 Term Paper	Chapters 22, 23, 26, and 27
April 23	May 2, Noon	Module 9	FINAL EXAM	