

IS 3399

Introduction to the European Union

Spring 2017

Thursday 9.30am – 10.45am

Instructor	Malliga Och	Office	North Gravely 116
Phone	208-282-3717	Office Hours	T 9-11 am
Email	ochmall@isu.edu		TR 11am – 1pm

Since the end of World War II, the European continent has experienced an unprecedented era of peace and prosperity. And the European Union is the main reason for it playing an essential part in European politics, culture, history, and economy. However, the Eurocrisis, the refugee crisis, a rise in terrorist attacks, and most recently Brexit have put the very idea of Europe into question. The semester will be divided into two main sections. The first part of the semester will explore the making of the European Union, finding answers to the following questions: What is the European Union? Why was the EU created? How has the EU change over time? How does the European Union work? What does it mean to be a European citizen? During the second part of the semester, we will take a much more critical approach by asking: is there a future for the European Union and is Brexit the end of the European Union?

This class is offered in a hybrid format which means instructions will be a mix of online readings and exercises in addition to in-class meetings on Thursdays. Rather than a midterm or final exam, you will have assignments throughout the semester that you will need to hand in online while the in-person meetings are designated for simulation, activities, and group work.

Required Readings

All readings are available on Moodle or online. For reference throughout the semester, please consult these sources:

1. The European Union available at http://europa.eu/european-union/index_en
2. How the EU Works (on moodle)
3. EU in 12 Lessons (on moodle)
4. EU parliament: Fact Sheets on the European Union available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/displayFtu.html?ftuld=intro.html> (or on moodle)
5. UK House of Commons: Reading list on Brexit (on moodle)

Videos are available via a class specific youtube channel (please subscribe to the channel):
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_waBggZEp3KjxXYD6GIp7j495qGESFr

Assignments

50%	5% per online assignment	To be completed on Moodle as specified in course schedule below
20%	Reflection Paper on Brexit	April 25
20%	Final Paper	May 5
10%	Attendance	

Online assignments

Throughout the semester, you will complete online assignments which will either be in a multiple-choice or short-answer format. The purpose of these assignments is to ensure you do your weekly readings and that you understand the key concepts.

Reflection Paper

The reflection paper will be 5 pages long (Times New Roman, 12 font size, 1 inch margins, double space). For the paper, you will pick a side in the Brexit referendum and argue why you would vote remain or leave. You need to present at least 3 arguments and provide proper citations.

Final Paper

The final paper will consist of 5 questions on the European Union that you need to answer in a short-essay format. The questions will be drawn from the online assignments and test your ability to apply key concepts of the European Union to issues discussed in class. I will make the questions available at the beginning of the final exam week and you need to complete the assignment by May 5th.

Attendance






Attendance will be taken in every class. You must sign the attendance sheet. If you are late, you need to see me after class to add your name. Because being on time for important appointments (such as a class) is a valuable life skill, being late at three occasions will count as one absence.

- I will accept three excused absences. Any more absences will negatively affect your attendance grade
- Excused means that you emailed me before class with a reason why you cannot attend class

Participation

A successful student-centered seminar requires that students contribute to the learning process in a meaningful way. Students are expected to attend class and actively engage in course activities. Students who make regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions, display a willingness to help others work through course concepts, and/or with particularly sophisticated responses can expect good participation grades. When deciding on your final grade, I will take your participation into account. Students may consult with the instructor at any time for an assessment of participation.

Grading Scale

	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	
	A+	100 – 98		D+	67-69
	A	94-97		D	60 – 66
	A-	90-93		F	0 - 59
	B+	87-89			
	B	83-86			
	B-	80-83			
	C+	77-79			
	C	73-76			
	C-	70-72			

Course policies

Disability Clause

All students with a disability and requiring special accommodations to participate in and to complete this course must contact the Disability Resource Center (Rendezvous Building) for verification of eligibility and for determination of specific accommodations.

Plagiarism

For purposes of this course, plagiarism is understood to refer to: A) Direct quotes without adequate source citation. B) Paraphrase or précis without adequate source citation. All material: fact, theory, or hypothesis, derived from the works of others must be properly cited. Source citations must include: author, title of the work being cited, pages being referred to, and date of publication. For journal articles, proper citation includes the above **plus**: journal title, volume number, and pages in the journal occupied by the article. Models for proper citation format may be found in: Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, University of Chicago Press, 1973. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree.

Late Submission

Please note that I do not accept submissions after one week of the deadline. For every day submitted late, I will deduct 5% points. Exceptions are made for health and family emergencies. However, these exceptions require formal proof and you need to notify me before the assignment deadline about your extraordinary circumstances.

Class Schedule

January 12 **What is the European Union? History and Background**

- Why was the EU founded?
- What type of international organization is the EU?

January 17 **Evolution of the European Union**

Read:

1. EC. EU Enlargement
2. Europea.eu – EU by topic (Enlargement)
3. European Commission:
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership_en

- How many accession waves are there? When did each wave occur and who joined?
- How does the process work for states that are interested in joining the EU?

Online Assignment

January 19 **Focus: Access process and Copenhagen Criteria**

Browse:

1. European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/international/non_eu/candidate/index_en.htm
2. European Commission:
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/check-current-status_en

Discussion: Evaluating the candidate status of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. Will EU membership be in the cards for them and how soon?

January 24 **The process of European Integration I**

Read:

1. EU parliament: Chapter 1.1
2. EU in 12 Lessons: Lesson 2
3. Europea.eu: EU Treaties

- How did EU integration proceed over time?
- What are crucial steps in the EU integration process?
- What are the core elements of each treaty?

Online Assignment

January 26 **Focus: The EU constitution**

Read:

1. ScadPlus: A Constitution for Europe
2. Council on Foreign Relations. The French & Dutch Referendums
3. The Brookings Institute: EU constitution ratification

Discussion: Why did the EU constitution project fail?

Explore: BBC EU Constitution available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3954327.stm>

January 31 **The process of European Integration II**

Read:

1. Civitas. Theories of European Integration
2. Pollack 2005. Theorizing the European Union

Online Assignment

February 2 **Focus: Europe of Two Speeds**

Read:

1. Debating Europe: Argument for and against a 2-speed Europe
2. Debating Europe: Do we need a 2 speed Europe
3. Economist: 2-speed Europe or 2 Europes?

Discussion: The United States of Europe – an ever closer union?

February 7 **Institutional Framework I (Intergovernmental bodies)**

Read: Chapters on European Council and the Council in

1. EU Parliament
2. How the EU Works
3. Europa. eu

- What are the key roles for each intergovernmental body?
- What is the composition of each intergovernmental body?
- Which policy areas are subject to intergovernmental governance?

Online Assignment

February 9 **Focus: EU Common Foreign and Security Policy**

Read:

1. Europa.EU: Foreign and Security Policy
2. CFSP
3. EUParl White paper. Defense Union (browse)

Discussion: How are state interest represented in the EU? What effect does it have on EU integration?

February 14 **Institutional Framework II (Supranational bodies)**

Read: chapters on EU Parliament, EU Commission, and EU Court of Justice in

1. EU Parliament
2. How the EU Works
3. Europa.eu

- What are the key roles for each supranational body?
- What is the composition of each supranational body?
- Which policy areas are subject to supranational governance?

Online Assignment

February 16 **Focus: EU Common Consumer Policy**

Read:

1. EUParl. Consumer Protection in the EU
2. Europa.eu: Consumers

Discussion: How does the EU represent its own interest? What effect does it have on EU integration?

February 21 **The law and policy making process of the EU – single market and policy areas**

Read:

1. European Parliament: Chapter 3, 4 and browse 5
2. EU in 12 Lessons: Lessons 5, 6, and 7
3. EU competences available at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/competences/faq#q2>

- How does the single market work?
- How does the Economic and Monetary Union work?
- What are exclusive and shared competences of the EU?
- What is the principle of subsidiarity?

Online Assignment

February 23 Documentary: Together for new Growth

No Class this week

February 28 **The law and policy making process of the EU – how a bill becomes a law**

Read:

1. EU Parliament: Decision-making procedures
2. How the EU Works: p. 3-9

- How does the lawmaking process work?
- What is the difference between intergovernmental law making and supranational law making?
- Which EU institutions are involved?
- How is the budget approved?

Online Assignment

March 2 **Focus: Parliamentary Representation**

Browse:

1. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>
2. BBC on parliamentary groups:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-parliaments-34574041>
3. BBC Guide to EU parliament:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-11721146>

Discussion: Who is represented in the EU parliament?

March 7 **European Identity and Citizenship**

Read:

1. EU and its citizens (leaflet)
2. Eurobarometer: European Citizenship 2015
3. Europe in 12 lesson: lesson 9

- What does it mean to be a European citizen?
- Is there a common European identity?
- What values do Europeans share?

Online Assignment

March 9 **Focus: What does the European Union mean to you?**

European guest speakers on the EU

March
14

The EU today

Browse: https://ec.europa.eu/priorities/state-union-2016_en

Watch or read Juncker's 2016 State of the European Union Address:

- Transcript on moodle
- Watch: Juncker's full 2016 'State of the Union' address

- What challenges did the EU face in 2016?
- What policy priorities does Juncker name?
- What solution to challenges does Juncker propose?

Online Assignment

March
16

Focus: EU Parliament in Real Time

Read:

- Stay Connected

Online Assignment

Spring break

March
28

Democratic deficit and lack of legitimacy

Read:

1. CSIS. Europe's Struggle for Democratic Legitimacy: Voters Say No to EU Super-State
2. Chopin 2016. Euro zone, legitimacy and democracy: how do we solve the European democratic problem?
3. EC. Europe and the People, pp. 3-8; 39-44 (browse the rest)

- What is the democratic deficit?
- What are the main reasons for the democratic deficit?
- Is the EU democratic?

March
30

Focus: Citizenship Participation

Discussion: Can citizenship participation address the democratic deficit?

April 4

European Crises

Read: Archick 2016. The European Union: current Challenges and Future Prospects

- What are the main challenges for the EU?
- What is at the core of each crisis?
- Which part of the EU or its institutional structure threatens each crisis?

April 6

Focus: EU in the News

Bring a current news article on each of the following topics. Each article should talk about the effects the crisis has on the future or stability of the EU

- Greek debt crisis
- Refugee crisis
- Brexit
- resurgent Russia
- terrorism threat

April 11 **Brexit I – Campaign**

Read:

1. Referendum result: http://www.bbc.com/news/politics/eu_referendum/results
2. BBC <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>

Browse:

1. <http://leave.eu/en/our-campaign>
2. <http://www.strongerin.co.uk/#j3f8jU9RP0eDZEFV.97>
3. House of Commons. Reading List on Brexit

Watch: Brexit Debate

- Why did the UK hold a referendum?
- What were the main arguments for and against Brexit?
- What did the Brexit results indicate? Think voter turnout, regional outcomes and demographic trends.
- What was the aftermath of Brexit in UK politics?

April 13 **Focus:** The rise of nationalism in Europe

To prepare for class, do independent research on the role of nationalism and populism played in the Brexit vote by exploring videos, campaign posters, campaign speeches etc.

Read: selected readings on moodle

Watch: Brexit the Movie

April 18 **Brexit II – Consequences for UK and new relationship with EU**

Read: selected readings on Moodle

Watch: Inside Story - What's the future of the UK in the wake of Brexit?

Discussion: What role did nationalism and populism play in Brexit?

- What is Article 50?
- What happened in the aftermath of Brexit for UK politics and EU politics?
- What are the different options for the UK after Brexit?

April 20 **Focus:** EU-UK relations

Read: selected readings on Moodle

Watch:

- EU post-Brexit: France's vision for the future
- EURONEWS: Brussels summit closes with questions on how the European Union
- Financial Times: Brexit: What we learnt from the EU summit
- The Guardian: What is article 50?

Discussion: What will happen next? Will there be more countries following Brexit? The end of Europe?

Reflection Paper due

April 27 Review session

May 5 **Final Paper Due**

