

POLS 3301 European Union

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

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Course Meeting Times
TR 9:25-10:40 RH 215

Office Hrs: SH 603N
TR 12:30 – 2:30 and *by appointment*

Course Prerequisites: POLS 1310 or junior standing

Course Overview and Objectives

The European Union is partly a regime and partly an idea. In this course we will examine the structures and functions of European governance, both at the nation-state and at the EU level, and tackle some of the concepts behind, impediments to, and consequences of, European integration in both theory and form. We will discuss what *Europeanness* means, whether there is a distinct European identity, and how EU enlargement may present both challenges and unique opportunities for crafting either / both. Students will become familiar with the politics of both large and small member states and how these politics ‘map onto’ governance at the EU level. Additionally, students will work throughout the semester on an original research project that utilizes the European Union Collection at the Ottenheimer Library. This 100% depository is one of only a handful located in the Mid-South, and it is the only full depository in the state of Arkansas.

Required Readings

1. Crepaz, Markus M.L., and Jürg Steiner. 2009. *European Democracies* 6th Ed.
2. Ginsberg, Roy H. 2007. *Demystifying the European Union*
3. Online Articles on WebCT

Assignments and Grading Breakdown

10% In-Class Participation and Discussion
35% Midterm Examination
10% In-Class Presentation
45% Research Paper

Description of Assignments and Grading Policy

-- The midterm examination will test your knowledge of the course concepts. The test date is firm. Only in cases of extreme emergency should students expect that a make-up will be warranted. In any event, students should contact me before the due date to let me know if they are unable to fulfill this or any other class requirement. Late assignments will receive automatic deductions of a third of a letter grade per day they are late.

-- Participation and discussion constitutes 10% of your final grade. You should come to each class section prepared to engage the readings listed for that day. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off when in class.

-- The in-class presentation is worth 10% of your grade. After the midterm, each of you will present on some aspect of EU governance in a state of your choice. When it is time for you to present, I will expect the rest of the class to know general information about their own states' interests regarding the issue at hand. I will discuss these presentations at some length in the first week of class and you will pick your country at that point.

-- The final paper is worth 45% of your final grade. The paper is a research project and will require extensive use of the EU materials at the Ottenheimer library. At various points in the semester, we will visit the library during class time to provide some built-in research time. The topic for this paper is up to you, but generally speaking it must address some issue of importance to the European Union and must address at least two countries' attitudes toward this issue. The choice of countries is up to you. One of the countries may be the one you selected at the beginning of the course. The papers should be about 10-12 pages in length with normal formatting. I will speak at greater length about this project after the first midterm, but students are encouraged to begin thinking about which countries interest them sooner than this.

-- Course readings are all required. The main texts are available at the University bookstore. Online readings are accessible through WebCT and should be read prior to the day they are assigned. All the reading material, as well as lectures and discussions, will be fair game for examination.

-- WebCT will be updated regularly with new course information and those notes from lecture I wish to make readily available for downloading. Please be sure to check it often.

Plagiarism/Cheating

Those found to have cheated in the class will receive an automatic failing grade for the assignment or test in question, which may result in a failing grade for the course.

Student Disability Services

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center, telephone 501-569-3143 (v/tty). For more information, visit the DRC website at at <http://ualr.edu/disability/> .

Grade Breakdown

Letter Grades (% Range)	
A (90-100%)	Student demonstrates an excellent understanding of the course concepts and communicates clearly their larger significance. Student has engaged fully with the readings and the result is a cogent and thoughtful response / paper.
B (80-90%)	Student has engaged with the readings and demonstrates an ability to apply them to his/her answers or writing, but demonstration of the larger significance of the response is lacking; less thoughtful.
C (70-80%)	Student demonstrates a working knowledge of the course material, but response does not provide evidence of critical engagement with the readings; not demonstrably thoughtful.
D (60-70%)	Student does not demonstrate an adequate mastery of the course material and readings.
F (Below 60%)	Student demonstrates little understanding of course concepts and readings.

Reading Schedule

***The order of readings in the syllabus is subject to change. Please check the course website regularly for announcements.

-- PART I EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS --Week 1

1/13 Introduction to the course

1/15 *Europe Past, Present, Future*

A. Ch. 1 *European Democracies* (ED)

Week 2

1/20 *Imperatives Behind European Integration*

A. Ch. 1 *Demystifying the European Union* (DtEU)

B. Country Selection

1/22 *Integration in Theory and in Practice*

A. Ch. 2 DtEU

Week 3

1/27 *Economic and Legal Foundations of the EU*

A. Ch. 3 DtEU

B. Ch. 5 ED

1/29 *Foundations continued*

A. WebCT “Introduction: Federalism and Building the European Union.” by Michael Burgess

-- PART II EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY --

Week 4

2/03 *Legislative-Executive Dynamics in Europe*

A. Ch. 4 ED

B. WebCT “Basic Choices in Democratic Regime Types” by Matthew Soberg Shugart and John M. Carey

2/05 *Aggregating Interests in Europe*

A. Ch. 2 ED

B. WebCT “The Rise of New Issues and New Parties” by Ronald Inglehart

Week 5

2/10 *Elections and European Parliaments*

A. Ch. 3 ED

B. WebCT “Political Career Paths and the European Parliament” by Susan Scarrow

C. WebCT “The Party of European Socialists: Networking Europe’s Social Democrats” by Robert Ladrech

2/12 *Interest Groups and the State*

- A. Ch. 8 ED
- B. WebCT “Social Partner or Social Movement: European Integration and Trade Union Renewal in Europe” by Graham Taylor and Andrew Mathers

Week 6

2/17 *Social Movements*

- A. Ch. 7 ED
- B. WebCT “Testing the Limits of European Citizenship: Ethnic Hatred and Male Violence” by R. Amy Elman.

2/19 *Agency in the EU*

- A. Ch. 4 DtEU

Week 7

2/24 *The Structures of EU Decisionmaking*

- A. Ch. 5 DtEU

2/26 *Democratic Deficit?*

Week 8

3/03 Midterm Review

3/05 *Midterm Examination*

-- PART III EUROPEAN POLICY CHALLENGES --

Week 9

3/10 *Policy in Europe*

- A. Ch. 9 ED

3/12 *EU Outputs*

- A. Ch. 6 DtEU
- B. *skim* WebCT “Economic and Monetary Union: Pillar of a Federal Polity” by John Pinder

Week 10

3/17 *EU Foreign and Security Policy*

- A. Ch. 7 DtEU
- B. WebCT “Europe’s Tied Hands” by Lorenzo Vidino

3/19 *tentative Library Day*

Week 11

No Classes Spring Break!

Week 12

3/31 *Presentations*

- A. Students present on EU policy in their own state

4/02 *TBA*

Week 13

4/07 *Presentations*

- A. Students present on EU policy in their own state

4/09 *The New Europe*

- A. Ch. 10 ED
- B. Ch. 11 ED
- C. *skim* WebCT “Challenges of EU Enlargement” by Jan Zielonka

Week 14

4/14 *Turkey?*

- A. Ch. 14 ED (section on Turkey)
- B. WebCT “Turkey’s Accession to the European Union: Debating the Most Difficult Enlargement Ever” by Ioannis N. Grigoriadis

C. WebCT “The Challenge of Integration in Europe” by Sarah Spencer

4/16 *Student Presentations*

A. Students present on EU enlargement

Week 15

4/21 *Student Presentations*

A. Students present on EU enlargement

4/23 *Evaluating the EU from Within*

A. Ch. 8 DtEU

B. *skim* WebCT “Anticipating the Institutional Consequences of Expanded Membership of the European Union” by Bruno de Witte

Week 16

4/28 *Evaluating the EU from Without*

A. Ch. 9 DtEU

4/30 *Evaluating Lisbon and Course Wrap-Up*

5/07 **Papers Due in my office SH 603N by noon**