

The Politics of European Integration (120H)

UCSD Summer Session I – 2013



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 Meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays – 08:00-10:50
 Location HSS 1106A

Introduction

The EU today plays an increasingly significant, some would argue intrusive, role in the political affairs of European nation states. Whereas the vast majority of Europeans accept that membership of the European Union has been beneficial for their countries and that collective action is essential if contemporary Europe is to maximise its influence on the global agenda, there is considerable concern regarding the impact that integration is having on national sovereignty and identity. Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- an appreciation of the historical context and treaty objectives of the European integration process;
- a basic understanding of the institutional framework and decision-making processes of the European Union;
- an awareness of the current political challenges confronting the European Union.

General Learning Resources

The course text is John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*, 5th Edition, London: Palgrave (2011) and copies should be available in the University bookstore. I will set recommended reading ahead of each class and it will be in your interest to complete these reading assignments. I have also indicated additional primary

sources which I think you will find useful. You can also download a useful official publication from the EU website by Pascal Fontaine which is entitled '[Europe in 12 Lessons](#)' (2010) and should take a look at the [European Union](#) website as this will be an invaluable source of information for this course. You will also find [EUobserver](#) extremely helpful in keeping you informed on current affairs. You should, of course, also make use of the full library resources available to you at UCSD.

Support

I can be contacted via internet and my e-mail address is at the top of the syllabus. I will attempt to get back to you as soon as possible. I will also leave time at the end of each meeting for informal discussion. If at any time you require assistance or would like to speak with me about the course outside of class, please let me know and we will arrange a time for us to meet.

Course Programme

Class will begin promptly at 8.00am so please be there on time. The first part from 8.00 till 9.30 will be a lecture. There will then be a break from 9.30 till 9.50. The second part will be a discussion based around student presentations linked to the case studies. Please note too that if you are to obtain maximum benefit from class, it is essential that you have done the preparatory reading.

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| Tue 2 July | <p>Session 1: Introduction to the European Union</p> <p>Discussion – What is the purpose of the European Union, and how can we best evaluate its effectiveness?</p> |
| Thu 4 July | <p>Public Holiday (no class).</p> |
| Tue 9 July | <p>Session 2: The Constitutional Debate</p> <p>Discussion (Comment 1) – Does the EU need a new treaty?</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>-Textbook: Chapter 3 (Evolution of the EU)</p> <p>Document: EU Council - The Lisbon Treaty. NB. This link will provide you with a full copy of the treaty. You are, however, best advised to look at the summarised version (the treaty at a glance) and the questions and answers section.</p> |
| Thu 11 July | <p>Session 3: European Integration in Theoretical Perspective</p> <p>Discussion (Comment 2) – Is the EU more like a state or an international organisation?</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>-Textbook: Chapters 1 (What is the European Union?) and 2 (The Idea of Europe).</p> <p>-Document: Andrew Moravcsik, 'Preferences and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach', <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, Vol.31, No.4, 1993 pp.473-520.</p> |
| Tue 16 July | <p>Session 4: Institutions and Decision-Making</p> <p>Discussion (Comment 3) – Does the EU require more or less supranational authority?</p> <p>Reading</p> |

-Textbook: Chapters 4 (The European Institutions) and 6 (The EU Policy Process)
 -Document: EU Commission - [How the European Union Works \(2005\)](#)

Thu 18 Jul

Session 5: Enlargement

Discussion (Comment 4) – Should the EU continue to enlarge membership?

Reading:

-Document: BBC News '[EU Enlargement: The Next Eight](#) (July 2012).

-Document: [European Commission: Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2010-2011 \(2010\)](#)

Tue 23 Jul

Session 6: European Governance and Popular Legitimacy

Discussion (Comment 5) – How can the European Union become 'closer to its citizens'?

Reading:

-Textbook: Chapter 5 (The EU and its Citizens)

-Document: EU Commission - [White Paper on European Governance \(2001\)](#)

-Document: EU Commission - [Eurobarometer No.78 \(Spring 2013\)](#).

Thu 25 Jul

Session 7: The European Economic Debate

Discussion (Comment 6) – Can the social market economy survive?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapters 7 (Economic Policy) and 8 (Managing Resources)

-Document: [Europe 2020: A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth \(2010\)](#)

Tue 30 Jul

Session 8: The Common Foreign and Security Policy

Discussion (optional Comment) – Does the EU need a military capacity?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapter 9 (The EU and the World)

-Document: [The European Security Strategy \(2003\)](#)

Thu 1 Aug

Session 9: EU-US Relations

Discussion (optional Comment) – Is there a future for the transatlantic partnership?

Reading

-Document: Javier Solana '[Mars and Venus Reconciled](#)' (2003).

-Document: Robert Kagan, 'Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order', London: Atlantic Books (2003). NB. I do not have access to an electronic copy of this book but used copies can be purchased on Amazon for as little as one dollar.

Course Assessment

Course assessment will comprise six discussion comments, a presentation and a seen examination question.

Discussion Comments

You will be required to submit by e-mail attachment a 500-word analysis on six discussion topics. The deadline for submissions will be 12 noon on the Friday in which the class takes place. No submission extensions will be granted. Should you not submit all six comments, you will have the option to submit comments on one or both of the final two classes. Each comment will carry 10 per cent of the total grade for this course = 60 per cent in total.

Presentation

Each student will be required to present on one of the case studies, and the presentation will should be approximately ten minutes in duration. You will be working with other students and should agree how best to organise your presentations in order that you do not duplicate the content. You may make use of powerpoint slides and other audio-visual material. The presentation will comprise 10 per cent of your final grade.

Seen Examination

The question for the seen examination will be distributed by e-mail on Friday 26 July and you will have one week to prepare your response, which should be approximately 1,500 words in length and must be submitted to me by e-mail no later than 12 noon on Friday 2 August. Please note that unlike the discussion comments, this response should be fully and properly referenced. The seen examination question will comprise 30 per cent of the total grade.

I will complete the grading process on the weekend of 3/4 August and will issue notification of final grades by e-mail on Monday 5 August.

Course Advice

If you can accept that there are no short cuts to the acquisition of knowledge, you will already be on the way to obtaining a good grade for this course. But, in more specific terms, the following advice may be useful:

- attend all class sessions and listen to what points are being highlighted;
- do the recommend reading and come prepared with questions;
- do additional reading when preparing the class comments and do not leave your work until the last minute;
- when writing your class comments and the seen examination, concentrate on explaining rather than describing events and issues;
- remember, although your opinions may be of interest, I would prefer to find out what you have learned;
- spend time organising your thoughts for the examination – a seen question is not an easy option as I will be expecting a higher level of knowledge and analysis than would be expected from an unseen question:
- if there is anything that you do not understand about this course, ask me and I will do my best to assist.

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