

European Union Politics

84:301 | Fall Semester 2023 | 3 credits
MWF, 11:30-12:30pm in Sage 4215

"The tragedy for British politics — for Britain — has been that politicians of both parties have consistently failed, not just in the 1950s but on up to the present day, to appreciate the emerging reality of European integration. And in doing so they have failed Britain's interests."

– British Prime Minister Tony Blair, 2001

BULLETIN COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Examines the history and theories of European integration and provides a detailed introduction to each of the institutions of the European Union. Some of the major issues that the EU has worked through in its short history (e.g., agricultural policy, economic and monetary union, constitution, enlargement) as well as current challenges facing the organization are also covered."

FALL 2023 COURSE DESCRIPTION

Russia, Ukraine, and NATO. Refugees. The rise of far-right groups. Brexit and *Bregret* (yes, that's a thing now). Immigration and multi-culturalism. Questions about commitment to democracy and "European values" from some member states. Runaway climate change, heat domes, wildfires, and the European Green Deal. The European Union faces no shortage of dilemmas lately. But are these challenges really any different from those that have faced the EU in the past? This course gives students a window into the complex, fascinating world of the EU and gives you the opportunity to participate in a simulated debate on its future.

The European Union itself is somewhat of a puzzle: it's not "just" an international organization, yet it's definitely not a state. What is the European Union, how does it work, and how does it influence both the politics of the states that comprise it and the international system as a whole? We explore the historical development of this unique organization and examine each of its institutions in detail in order to unravel the EU's complex policy-making process. We also look at some of the major issues that the EU has worked through in its short history and challenges facing the organization today.

INSTRUCTOR & SUPPORT INFORMATION

Professor Tracy H. Slagter
Ph.D., University of Iowa
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

This textbook is required and is available at University Books & More or from online retailers. Other readings will be available to you on Canvas.

McCormick, John. 2020. *European Union Politics*, 3e. London: Red Globe Press.

Please bring your textbook, readings and syllabus to class with you each meeting.

Want to keep up with European news? Head here every day: <http://politico.eu>

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Although I am willing to sign interested students from any discipline into this course, students who have completed Political Science 101, 115, 308, or 309 will find that those courses provide a useful foundation for concepts and issues addressed in this course. I do not intend to cover material from these courses extensively here, so some knowledge (especially from introductory courses) will be assumed. Students who are struggling with the course because of the lack of background knowledge should see me for background readings and feel free to discuss them with me at any time.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- *Evaluate* and *differentiate* the many theories about European integration;
- *Describe* the major institutions of the European Union and explain their primary functions;

- *Explain* how historical forces have shaped the EU's trajectory;
- *Examine* major EU policy decisions and understand why policy outcomes are shaped the way that they are;
- *Integrate* their course knowledge into a simulated treaty negotiation;
- *Collaborate* with classmates on a joint project; and
- *Defend* their own research and positions against opposing views and research.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an upper-division course in political science, and as such it will be taught in a seminar style as much as is practical. This means that student input is required for the course to be successful. As such, I expect that students will attend class each week prepared to discuss the readings; completing the readings ahead of time is essential. *My ability to teach is severely limited if you do not read.*

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The grading scale I use for this course is **93/90/87**. Grades are determined as follows:

Participation (10%): In an upper-division course, there's nothing worse than a roomful of students who won't say a word. You can participate by making quality contributions in class, injecting yourself into class discussions, asking questions, and stopping by office hours. Although I do not formally take attendance, you will note that several of the assignments below require your presence and *cannot* be made up.

Discussion Primers (20%): These are short online prompts that must be completed in advance of some of our course meetings. More details will follow in class. Note that the due dates for these primers are final; late submissions will not be accepted for a grade. You will see (DP) in the schedule when these are due, and the due dates will also appear in your Canvas "to do" list. The prompts are different for each primer.

Intergovernmental Conference (40% total, with separate components): The major project of this course is simulation wherein students represent selected governments in the European Union and attempt to come to consensus on a major policy issue. This semester, students will attempt to negotiate the U.K.'s reentry into the European Union, which is why many non-textbook readings on this syllabus focus on Brexit. Students will be allowed to choose a country to represent, but that choice may be constrained by the requirements for the simulation. More details will be provided in class. Note that this project *will require time outside of class* like any research assignment and will have both written and oral components.

Examination (30%): There will be one exam in this course. It is open note, but not open book/materials. The exam must be taken at the time and on the date it is scheduled unless you have a documented medical excuse or must be absent for a University-sponsored activity (in which case I ask for a signed letter from your coach or other University official).

NOTE TO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. 84:245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your instructor directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here:

<https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

GRIEVANCES

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom or online experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are typically invited to speak with the Chair

of the Department of Political Science. However, since I am both the instructor and the Chair, I invite you to speak with our Assistant Chair, Dr. David Siemers (siemers@uwosh.edu). He will listen to you, suggest remedies, and/or direct you to the appropriate resources.

STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT (1990)

Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990:

<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have or think you may have a learning difference or a disability—mental health, medical, or physical impairment—that would limit your access to learning or demonstrating your knowledge in this course, please contact the Dean of Students Office. If you already have an accommodation, please let me know in the first week of class. Note that you *may* audio-record this class if it helps you.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE: Some days on this schedule are reading-heavy. Where possible, we will divide the readings so that each of you has a more manageable reading load. I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule and course requirements to meet the needs and pace of this particular group. I will notify you well in advance if I do. You should also feel free to communicate with me about the workload at any time.

- September 6 Introduction to the course, assignments, and overall expectations
READ: Please print your syllabus, read it, and bring it to class.
- September 8 Defining “European Union”
READ: McCormick, Chapter 2 (What is the European Union?)
- September 11 Theorizing European Integration
READ: McCormick, Chapter 1 (Understanding Integration)
- September 13 Theorizing European Integration (DP)
READ: Haas (“Uniting of Europe”) and Stone Sweet (“Integration, Supranational Governance...”)
- September 15 The Six
READ: McCormick, Chapter 4 (First Steps)
- September 18 Early Visions (DP)
READ: Spinelli & Rossi (“Ventotene Manifesto”), Churchill (“Tragedy of Europe”), Schuman (this is short; you can find it here: <https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/1945-59/schuman-declaration-may-1950-en>)
- September 20 Getting to the Single European Act
READ: McCormick, Chapter 5 (Building the Community)
- September 22 Different Visions of a European Future (DP)
READ: Monnet (“A Ferment of Change”) De Gaulle (“Concert of European States”)
- September 25 Liberal Intergovernmentalism and the SEA (DP)
READ: Moravcsik, Andrew. “Negotiating the Single European Act: National Interests and Conventional Statecraft in the European Community.” *International Organization* 45 (1991): 19-56.
- September 27 Maastricht and the Euro
READ: McCormick, Chapter 6 (From Community to Union)

- September 29 March Toward Lisbon
READ: McCormick, Chapter 7 (Crisis and Opportunity)
- October 2 Understanding the U.K. in Europe (DP)
READ: Nicol, Danny 2001. "The United Kingdom's First Two Attempts to Join the EEC." Chapter 2 in *EC Membership and the Judicialization of British Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- October 4 Constitution via Treaty?
READ: McCormick, Chapter 8 (The Treaties)
- October 6 Breaking Up is Hard to Do (DP)
READ: Huysmans, Martijn. 2019. "Enlargement and Exit: the Origin of Article 50." *European Union Politics* 20:2, 155-175.
- October 9 EU vs. Council of Europe vs. NATO
READ: TBA
- October 11 States in the EU
READ: McCormick, Chapter 9 (Member States)
- October 13 The European Commission
READ: McCormick, Chapter 10 (Commission)
- October 16 Demystifying the Commission (DP)
READ: Schuette, Leonard. "Forging Unity: European Commission Leadership in Brexit Negotiations." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 59 (2021): 1142-1159 **AND** Ladi, Stella and Sarah Wolff. "The EU Institutional Architecture in the Covid-19 Response: Coordinative Europeanization in Times of Permanent Emergency." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 59 (2021): 32 - 43.
- October 18 The Council of Ministers
READ: McCormick, Chapter 11 (Council of Ministers)
- October 20 European Parliament
READ: McCormick, Chapter 12 (European Parliament)
- October 23 Legislative Actors in the EU
READ: McCormick, Chapter 16 (Parties and Interest Groups)
- October 25 Demystifying European Elections (DP)
READ: Braun, D. "The Europeanness of the 2019 European Parliament elections and the mobilising power of European issues." *Politics*, 41 (2021): 451-466 **AND** Schimmelfennig, Frank. "Brexit: differentiated disintegration in the European Union." *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25 (2018): 1154 - 1173.
- October 27 The European Council
READ: McCormick, Chapter 13 (European Council) plus maybe article on Council?
- October 30 The Origins of the ECJ (DP)
READ: Alter, Karen J. 1998. "Who are the 'Masters of the Treaty?' European Governments and the European Court of Justice." *International Organization* 52: 121ff.

- November 1 Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
READ: McCormick, Chapter 14 (CJEU)
- November 3 Review/Catch-up
- November 6 🐾 **Examination** (in class)
- November 8 Intergovernmental Conference Assignment introduced
Please see Canvas for full details; country assignments will be posted after class discussion
- November 10 European Public Policy
READ: McCormick, Chapter 19 (Public Policy)
- Note that from this point forward we may adjust the syllabus to ensure that everyone has adequate preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference at the end of the semester. We may decide to spend more or less time on some of these topics, eliminate some altogether, or find alternative readings. These are things we will discuss as a group; please listen closely in class and watch Canvas for any changes to the readings or schedule.*
- November 13 European Economic Policy and the Euro
READ: McCormick, Chapters 20 and 21 (Economic Policy and Euro Zone)
- November 15 The Common Agricultural Policy
READ: McCormick, Chapter 23 (CAP)
- November 17 **NO CLASS** | Dr. Slagter traveling with Model UN Team
- November 20 **NO CLASS** | Dr. Slagter traveling with Model UN Team
- November 22 **NO CLASS** | Thanksgiving Break
- November 24 **NO CLASS** | Thanksgiving Break
- November 27 **NO CLASS** | Dr. Slagter traveling with Model UN Team
- November 29 European Environmental Policy
READ: McCormick, Chapter 24 (Environmental Policy)
- December 1 Cohesion Policy
READ: McCormick, Chapter 22 (Cohesion Policy)
- December 4 Justice & Home Affairs
READ: McCormick, Chapter 25 (Justice & Home Affairs)
- December 6 Authoritarian Europe? (DP)
READ: Kelemen, R. Daniel. 2020. "The European Union's Authoritarian Equilibrium." *Journal of European Public Policy* 27: 481-499.
- December 8 Prepare for final project; today, we'll do a run-through of what to expect for the final weeks of class, how to best participate, how to dress, etc. Always keep in mind the goal of the Intergovernmental Conference: to find a so-called "EU Common Position" on the candidate country. (This is not easy to do, even with an old friend like the U.K.)

👑 **Final Drafts of Negotiating Positions DUE to Canvas today by 11:59pm.** Note that these papers will be available to all Conference participants as soon as all papers are received by the Commission (Slagter).

December 11 Intergovernmental Conference | **ATTENDANCE REQUIRED**

December 13 Intergovernmental Conference | **ATTENDANCE REQUIRED**

December 15 Intergovernmental Conference | **ATTENDANCE REQUIRED**