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Pols 349: European Union: Politics and Institutions

Out of the ashes of WWII was born one of the most daring experiments in political and economic cooperation in human history. Just 50 years after its establishment, the European Union (EU), an organization comprising of 27 member states (several more are in accession negotiations), has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exceeding that of the United States, and is the most generous donor of development assistance, in addition to being the most important economic, military and political partner of the United States. The first section of this course overviews the historical development of the EU, starting with cooperation in the coal and steel sectors and growing into a supra-national organization with several layers of institutional structures. We then proceed to discuss the functioning of the EU's institutions, while paying attention to the theories explaining their existence. The last section looks at several examples of policy-making at the EU, focusing primarily on the economic and monetary union. This is an introductory course of the EU and no previous knowledge of this organization is assumed. Student having a solid background in western civilization and post-WWII European history will be better prepared for this course.

This course fulfills the writing-in-the-discipline requirement of the Dept. of Political Science.

Required Texts:

Desmond Dinan. Ever Closer Union, An introduction to the European Community. Lynne Rienner Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-1-58826-607-1

Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb. The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, 3rd Edition, Lynne Rienner Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-1-58826-231-8

Both textbooks are available in paperback and an order has been placed through the UIC bookstore.

Additional **required** readings (marked with *) will be placed on electronic course reserves or will be available through Blackboard. In addition to the readings, students are expected to keep up with events related to the European Union, through a variety of news sources, such as the BBC, Financial Times, and the EurActiv website.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation in class discussions:	10 %
Current News Assignment	2%
Two Exams	28 %
Three Papers:	60%

Grading Scale

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 E: < 60

Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend every class meeting, and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and relevant European news events. Sign-up sheet will be passed towards the end of every class period. You are allowed to miss one class without a proper excuse. Each absence (after the one you are allowed to) will count for half a point deduction from your attendance score. It is solely your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. If you forget to sign, even if you attended the class, you will lose credit. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate.

Participation in class discussions is required. Throughout the course students are encouraged to raise questions and relevant discussion topics in class, and students are expected to contribute to class discussions. To prepare for discussions, it is important that assigned readings be completed prior to the corresponding class period.

Note: I make a strong distinction between attendance and participation. Attending every class, without ever speaking up, does not constitute participation. To receive credit for participation, students are required to ask questions, raise issues, express opinions, etc. regarding the topics covered, as well as respond to the questions. *Students who do not feel comfortable speaking in class must contact me by the end of the second week of class at the latest to arrange for alternative methods of participation.*

The joint attendance and participation grade will depend on both class attendance and meaningful participation in discussions. Regular attendance without meaningful participation will result in less than perfect attendance and participation score.

Current News Assignment: Each student will be assigned one day to lead a discussion of current EU-related event(s). So that there is no repetition, students will be expected to pick a topic ahead of time (during the second week of class) and gather events/news related to that topic. Forty-eight hours before their scheduled discussion, each student is required to submit electronic links to articles/news items that are relevant to their topic. The links will be distributed to the entire class and everyone is expected to read them before discussion.

Exams: There will be two relatively short exams, consisting of short answer, multiple choice, identification, true/false and fill-in the blank questions. The purpose of the exams is to ensure that students are keeping up with the readings and will be relatively short. Study guides for the exams will be provided about a week before each exam. Each exam will be worth 14% of the class grade, 28% total for both exams.

Make-up for the examinations: If a student cannot attend either of the exams, s/he needs to notify me as soon as physically possible by phone or e-mail. My e-mail is available 24 hours a day. Students who fail to notify me prior to the examination will not be allowed to take it. Make-ups will be given only to students who have been unable to take a regularly scheduled exam due to a medical or personal condition, which has incapacitated them. Written documentation explaining the situation is required for make-up exams. I need to receive the documentation *before* I allow any student to take a make-up. Make-up exams will be substantially different than the in-class one and could be take-home. If any make-up exams are necessary, they will be given during the final week of classes at a time that is convenient for both the student and the instructor.

Papers: Each student is required to produce three papers on topics related to the history, institutions, culture, identity, politics or policies of the European Union. Each paper will be around 2000 words. In addition to providing a paper copy, students will be required to submit each paper through Turnitin.com, and additional instructions and password will be provided later in the semester. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. The papers that you will write for this class may not substantially duplicate a paper for another class or a thesis work.

Students with disabilities must inform the instructor of the need for accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

Course Drops: Only a student can initiate the dropping of a course. The student can drop a course through Banner up through the 10th day of the semester; there is no academic penalty nor does a 'W' appear on the transcript. After the 10th day and through Friday of the 10th week, the student may drop courses by seeing a college academic advisor. These late drops are indicated by 'W' on the transcript and are limited to a total of four for the student's entire UIC career.

Enrollment in class: Campus policy requires that students be properly registered for a class in order to earn academic credit for that class.

Incompletes will not be allowed except in a case of a medical emergence resulting in hospitalization.

Academic Honor: Students are expected to adhere to the UIC Student Honor Code. **Students violating the honor code will receive zero (0) points for the assignment or exam in question, and may receive an 'E' for the class.**

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Aug 22-24	The History of the European Union I (1945-1972) Read: Dinan Chap. 1-2, N & S readings #1-#6.
Aug 29-31	The History of the European Union I (cont.) and II (1973-1992) Read: Dinan, Chap. 3-4, N & S readings #7-#8.
NO CLASS SEPT 5 LABOR DAY	
Sept 7-12	The History of the European Union II (cont.) and III (1993-2010) Read: Dinan, Chap 5-6, N & S readings #9 - #12.
Sept 14-19	Institutions of the European Union: The Commission Read: Dinan, Chap. 7
Sept 19	Paper 1 due: 4:00pm via Turnitin.com (electronic copy); 5:00pm in BSB 1118 (paper copy) – slide under door

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M, W 1:00-2:15 2BSB 1115

- Sep 21-26** **Institutions of the European Union: The Council**
Read: Dinan, Chap. 8
- Sept 28-Oct 3** **Institutions of the European Union: The European Parliament**
Read: Dinan, Chap. 9
- Oct 5-10** **Institutions of the European Union: The Court of Justice and Others**
Read: Dinan, Chap. 10, N & S #22
- Oct 12** **EXAM ONE IN CLASS**
- Oct 17-19** **Integration Theory I**
Read: N & S readings #13-#18, #22
- Oct 19** **Paper 2 due: 4:00pm via Turnitin.com (electronic copy); 5:00pm in BSB 1118 (paper copy) – slide under door**
- Oct 24-26** **Integration Theory II**
Read: N & S readings #20, #23-#24, #25, #26.
- Oct 31** **Treaty Revisions: The SEA, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice & Lisbon**
Read: Dinan, Chap 4 - 6 (re-read), N & S readings #21, #27
- Nov 2-7** **Introduction to Policy-Making in the EU**
Read: Dinan, Chap. 12 & 15
- Nov 9-14** **Monetary Union and the Euro.**
Read: Dinan Chap. 13 & 14, N & S reading #19
- Nov 16** **Agriculture and Cohesion**
Read: Dinan Chap. 12
- Nov 21-23** **External EU Relations and Security Issues.**
Read: Dinan Chap. 16, 17
- Nov 28** **Democratic Deficit, Is the EU a Democracy?**
Read: TBA*
- Nov 28** **Paper 3 due: 4:00pm via Turnitin.com (electronic copy); 5:00pm in BSB 1118 (paper copy)**
- Nov 30** **EXAM TWO IN CLASS**

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time with adequate advance notice to students