

Dr. Petia Kostadinova

Virtual Student drop-in hours: T, Th
2:00-3:00pm and by appnt.

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Pols 342: 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. A little over 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) similar to 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 theories about EU democratic development. 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 would be better prepared for this course.

Face Masks: Masks covering both the mouth and nose must be worn at all times, including when speaking, by all students, faculty, and staff while on campus and inside any building regardless of vaccination status. If you do not wear a mask, you will be asked to leave the classroom and will not be allowed back in class unless or until you wear a mask. If you have forgotten your mask, you may pick one up from one of the student information desks on campus during the first two weeks of campus. If a student refuses to put on a mask, for the safety of all, class will be dismissed. Students who do not comply with the mask-wearing policy will be reported to the Dean of Students. Eating and drinking are not allowed in classrooms.

Virtual student drop-in hours

Student drop-in hours are dedicated times when professors are available to meet with students to answer questions about the class. Given the rapidly shifting dynamic of the Covid-19 pandemic, I will be conducting student drop-in hours virtually, via Zoom. The meeting links are accessible through the class Blackboard site. If needed, I am also available to meet with students virtually by appointment, outside of student drop-in hours. **If students prefer to come to my office in person during drop-in hours, they must properly wear a face mask.**

Required Texts:

Kenealy, Daniel, John Peterson, and Richard Corbett (eds). *The European Union: How does it work?* Oxford University Press. 5th edition ISBN 9780198807490

Additional **required** readings (marked with *) are 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:

Discussion/readings questions	10%
Participation in debates and/or political groups presentations	10%
Current News Presentation	5%
Quiz on EU member states	10%
Reflections	35%
Research Paper:	30%

Grading Scale

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

In-person attendance is strongly encouraged. There is no option for a virtual meeting during class times and class lectures will not be recorded/posted. Attending class would also allow students to actively engage in class discussion which would benefit their learning outcomes. There are several assessment activities and assignments that require class participation. This said, attendance/roll call will not be taken, and attendance to class lectures alone is not part of the class assessment mechanisms. **Students who do not feel well/have been exposed to Covid should not come to class.**

Discussion/Readings questions: For each topic (per the schedule), students are asked to pose/ask a question relevant to that topic. The question could be about what you don't understand from the readings, about whether a particular news event relates to what you read, or anything else of relevance. These questions could be posed anytime but must be submitted before the last day on which we discuss a particular topic. **Questions will be graded on S/U basis. Late submissions will not be graded and will result in zero points. Each submission is worth 1 percentage point towards the final grade for the class. These should be submitted through Blackboard.**

Debates: There will be **two** in-class debates on the dates noted below. During each debate a small group of students (in two teams) will represent the pros and cons of each issue while the rest of the class will represent the views of one EU country. Participation in all debates is mandatory (i.e. you must not only do your part but you may not miss class except in a documented emergency). The instructor will assign roles in each debate. Additional instructions are provided on Blackboard. This assignment will be graded as S/U. **This assignment will be finalized after the drop/add period for the semester.**

Presentations on political groups in the European Parliament: the instructor will assign students who are not participating in the debates (above) as presenters. Separate instructions are provided. This assignment will be graded as S/U. **This assignment will be finalized after the drop/add period for the semester.**

Current News Assignment: Each student will be assigned one day to lead a discussion of current EU-related news and event(s). The instructor will randomly assign students for this. A day before class meets, each student is required to post on Blackboard electronic links to articles/news items that are relevant to their topic. Everyone is expected to read the stories before discussion. This assignment will be graded as S/U. **This assignment will be finalized after the drop/add period for the semester.**

Quiz on the current member states of the European Union will take place on **Sept 9**, towards the end of class. Students will be expected to know the 27 countries that are EU members and the year that each country joined. **The quiz will be worth 10 percentage points towards the final grade for the class.**

Written Reflections and their subsequent discussion play a central part in student learning in this class. There are **four** such reflections, of varying lengths, as indicated in the schedule below. Reflections must be submitted through Blackboard and will be checked for plagiarism. **Together, the four reflections are**

worth 35 percentage points towards the final grade for the class.

The responses to the posed questions must be the student's original work/thinking, and they do not require references, citations, or sources other than the assigned readings. **Reflections will be graded on a S/U basis**, i.e. a timely submission that answers the posed question will receive the maximum points. The instructor will provide feedback as needed with the goal of improving student learning.

On the days that the reflections are due, we will make time during class to talk about your thoughts and opinions on the posed questions.

Papers: Each student is required to produce a research paper on a topic related to the history, institutions, culture, identity, politics or policies of the European Union. Students will consult with the instructor on an appropriate topic, and will be given time to think about topics; the parameters of this assignment are very broad. Each paper should be around **5000** words. Papers should be turned in typed on a 12p font; double-spaced, with 1 inch margins. Students will be required to submit their papers through SafeAssign on Blackboard. No paper copies need to be turned in. 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 are encouraged to consult with the instructor on the topic of their paper. Papers will be graded on an A-F scale. **The paper is due on or before Dec 9, at 3:00pm via SafeAssign**

The papers that you write for this class would be eligible to be submitted for the departmental annual writing contexts – in the Spring semester. These contest will be announced later in the academic year but students should be aware that any paper written for a class during this academic year would be eligible for submission in these competitions.

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. Refer to go.uic.edu/AcademicGuidelines.**

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Aug 24	Introduction to class Read: the syllabus
Aug 26	Introduction to the EU

Read: Kenealy chapter 1

Aug 31

EU History

Read: Kenealy chapter 2

Assignment

*Reflection 1 due by 3:00 pm via Blackboard – conversation in class
In 200-300 words, describe why are you taking this course, what you knew about the EU before taking this course; and further what knowledge you expect to advance by taking this course.*

Assignment

*Pose 1 question about EU history on the respective discussion board forum.
Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Sept 7*

Sept 2

EU History (continued)

Read: (continue) Kenealy chapter 2

Sept 7

EU History (continued)

Read: (continue) Kenealy chapter 2

Assignment

*Reflection 2 due by 3:00 pm via Blackboard – conversation in class
In around 500 words, select one important event from EU history and explain why, in your opinion, this is an important event.*

Sept 9

Member states of the EU

Read: Kenealy chapter 4

Assignment

Quiz on the current member states of the EU (and their accession date) in class.

Sept 14

Institutions of the European Union: The Commission

Read: Kenealy chapter 3

* Cini, chapter 8

Assignment

Pose 1 question about the European Commission on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Sept 14

Sept 16

Institutions of the European Union: The Council

Read: Kenealy chapter 3

* Cini, chapter 9

Assignment

*Pose 1 question about The Council on the respective discussion board forum.
Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Sept 16*

Sept 21-23

Institutions of the European Union: The European Parliament

Read: Kenealy chapter 3

* Cini, chapter 10

Assignment

Presentations on EP political groups

Assignment

Pose 1 question about the European Parliament on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Sept 23

- Sept 28** **Institutions of the European Union: The Courts**
Read: Kenealy chapter 3
 * Blauberger and Keleman 2017
- Assignment* *Pose 1 question about the Courts (or other institutions) on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Sept 28*
- Sept 30** **NO CLASS: Instructor at a conference**
- Assignment* *Submit your idea for a paper topic, via email to the instructor by 4:00pm. This assignment is in lieu of class and will not be assigned a separate grade.*
- Oct 5** **Institutions in Theory and Practice: A democratic union?**
Read: Kenealy chapter 7
- Assignment* *Reflection 3 due by 3:00pm via Blackboard*
Pick one of the EU institutions covered in class. In around 500 words explain this institution and its importance for the EU
- Assignment* *Pose 1 question about Institutions in Theory and Practice on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Oct 5*
- Oct 7** **Democracy in the EU**
Read: Kenealy chapter 7
- Assignment:* *In-class debate on Democracy in the EU*
- Oct 12** **Introduction to Policy-Making in the EU**
Read: Kenealy chapter 6
- Assignment* *Pose 1 question about Introduction to Policy Making on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Oct 12*
- Oct 14** **Monetary Union and the Euro**
Read: Kenealy chapter 5
 *Wallace, Polack, and Young, ch 5 & ch 7
- Assignment* *Pose 1 question about Monetary Policy and the Euro on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Oct 14*
- Oct 19** **Economic Policy: EU budget and the Eurocrisis**
Read: Kenealy chapter 5
 * Wallace, Polack, and Young, ch 9;
- Oct 21-28** **EU Enlargement, and the near abroad**
Read: Kenealy chapter 8
 * Cini and Borragan, ch. 26; Wallace, Polack and Young, ch. 17;
Lavenex 2017; Celata and Coletti 2016

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Pose 1 question about Enlargement: history and practice on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Oct 28</i>
Nov 2	<i>In-class debate on enlargement</i>
Nov 4-9	EU as a Global Actor Read: Kenealy chapter 9 * additional readings TBA on Blackboard
<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Pose 1 question about EU as a global actor on the respective discussion board forum. Question must be posted by 3:00pm on Nov 9</i>
Nov 11-16	Refugee Crisis Read: * additional readings TBA on Blackboard
Nov 18-23	Brexit Read: Kenealy chapter 10 * additional readings TBA on Blackboard
Nov 25	NO CLASS
Nov 30	Recap and conclusions
<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Reflection 4 due by 3:00pm via Blackboard</i> <i>In around 500 words discuss what you think would be the most lasting knowledge about the EU that you acquired in this class</i>
Dec 2	Individual meetings about papers

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