

RPOS351: European Politics & Policy
Spring 2011, Class Number 9569
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11.45am-1.05pm in BA130

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Office Hours: 10.30am-11.30am, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Humanities B16

The European Union (EU) is a fascinating political and economic experiment. In only the past 60 years, the EU has grown to include 27 countries, 23 official languages, and 500 million citizens. It is currently the largest economy in the world, with its own voice in global affairs. Despite these successes, European countries have struggled to create a joint constitution and set of political institutions. What are the prospects for this fragile political consensus after the recent financial crisis? How are economic hardship and government debt affecting social equity, reactions to migration, and the role of European states in providing social support, healthcare and education? This course tackles these core questions by analyzing the politics and policy of the European Union and its member states. This course combines elements of global politics, comparative politics and public policy, and is aimed at upper level undergraduates who want to reflect on these topics in some depth.

This course has no formal prerequisites, however, it is highly recommended that students take RPOS102 Comparative and International Politics before taking this course. The course is graded A-E.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- discuss the politics and policies of the European Union, using evidence from contemporary sources to construct coherent arguments in writing and in person which show critical thought and reflection.
- compare, evaluate and explain to others in writing and in person the political institutions, party systems, interest group politics and political cleavages of at least three European countries.
- compare EU-level policy debates with those in other countries and at the global level, and discuss those differences with others.

Required Readings

- H. Wallace, M. A. Pollack, and A. R. Young (2010) Policy-Making in the European Union, Sixth Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- A series of additional required readings will be provided on Blackboard.

What I Expect From You

- Please come prepared. I expect you to read all of the required texts for each class before you come to class. Come to class ready to discuss, debate and disagree with the arguments they contain, with your fellow classmates, and me!
- Please be respectful of other people's opinions. This does not mean that those opinions should or will go unchallenged, but that we all agree to listen carefully to one another and offer constructive criticism.
- Assignments should be submitted to Blackboard by 12 noon on the day of the deadline. 5 points will be deducted from late assignments for every day that they are late, unless there are mitigating circumstances (see below). If for some reason Blackboard does not allow you to upload, simply send the assignment by email to me at hjarman@albany.edu –assignments submitted by email before the deadline are still considered on time, but Blackboard submission is strongly preferred as it stops assignments from getting lost in my inbox.
- Please respect the university's policy on academic integrity, available at: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html. Using someone else's argument without citing their work, quoting an article, book, web site or other source without giving the source, claiming as your work a paper written by someone else, and resubmitting a paper you wrote for another class are all examples of plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered to be a serious matter, even if it was not intentional. Plagiarism could result in any of the following, depending on the seriousness of the case: requirement to rewrite the affected assignment, lowering the assignment or the course grade by a full grade or more, failing the assignment or the course, or withholding permission to withdraw from the course.

Assessment

Formal requirements, in addition to full participation in class discussion on the basis of the assigned readings, are:

1. Weekly Blog Posts 40%
2. Attendance 15%
4. 3 Response Papers 45%

1. Weekly Blog Posts and Comments (40%)

In order to facilitate discussion in class and to prepare us for participating in the Model EU, you will be asked to write one blog post every week of around 500 words that reflects upon what you have read for the week in relation to the topic we are debating, for a total of at least 10 blog posts. I encourage you to read other people's posts and comment on them in your own post, to link to interesting outside sources, and to comment on the readings. At the end of the semester, you will select your 5 best blog posts, edit them, and submit them to me as one document that I will grade. Each blog post should be completed by midnight on Monday so that we can discuss them in class on Tuesday morning- blog posts that are posted late will not count towards your grade, although feel free to make additional posts and comments at any time (especially in

relation to the films we watch). If you find you cannot post due to an IT problem, email your post to hjarman@albany.edu. Posts received by midnight on Monday can count towards your final grade. Please write in your own words (although feel free to quote others)- plagiarism rules apply to your blog submissions too. To help you get a feel for the kind of posts I'm looking for, I'll be commenting on your posts at several points during the semester.

The grading criteria for the blog posts are as follows (max 8 points per post for a total of 40):

7-8 points	<i>Excellent.</i> The blog entry is focused and reflects extensively on the readings and current events, offering some original insights. The entry considers multiple points of view, reflecting in-depth engagement with the topic.
5-6 points	<i>Satisfactory.</i> The blog entry is reasonably focused, and reflects on the readings and current events. Although new insights are offered, they are not fully developed. The entry reflects moderate engagement with the topic.
3-4 points	<i>Underdeveloped.</i> The blog entry is mostly description or summary, without consideration of alternative perspectives, and no original insights. The entry reflects passing engagement with the topic.
1-2 points	<i>Limited.</i> The journal entry is unfocused or rehashes previous comments, and displays no evidence of student engagement with the topic.
0 <i>No Credit.</i>	The post was late, or consists of one or two disconnected sentences.

2. Attendance (15%)

Attendance will be taken in all lectures and regular attendance is expected barring mitigating circumstances.

3. Response Papers (45%)

During the semester, you will write three response papers which address one area of EU policy. The paper should take the form of a focused response to the question rather than a discussion of a broad topic. It is better to make a few coherent points well than to cram in irrelevant information just for length. The paper length is deliberately short to encourage students to edit and revise their work. Make every word count!

Please submit these papers to Blackboard. The deadlines for the response papers are as follows:

Response paper 1: February 17th at noon.

Response paper 2: March 24th at noon.

Response paper 3: April 28th at noon.

In order to receive a good grade I strongly recommend that you do the following:

- Start by reading the Blackboard readings relevant to your topic, and supplement these with related readings: search the library catalog, online academic databases such as JSTOR, EBSCO or Google Scholar for journal articles, and Lexis Nexis for newspaper

articles. Use this evidence to back up your argument. Look at the web sites of relevant organizations e.g. the OECD for useful data and reports.

- Draft your paper well before the deadline and edit it several times. It is obvious when a paper has been written at the last minute or has not been edited.
- Read your paper aloud to see if the prose flows well.
- Run spelling and grammar checks before you submit your paper.

Length and Formatting:

- Each paper should be no more than 3 pages long plus a bibliography.
- Papers should be formatted using a plain 12 point font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman) and double-spaced with page margins of no more than 1 inch.
- Please write the question on the first page, write your name in the header of the paper so that it appears on all pages, and number all pages.
- Please include in-text references in the Harvard style (Author, Publication Year: page number) e.g. (Young, 1998:63) as well as a bibliography at the end of the paper which lists all of the publications that you cite.

What You Can Expect From Me

- Instructor accessibility: I will hold regular office hours each week in Humanities B16 on Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5pm. Please try to come and see me during those hours.
- If you can't come to office hours due to a conflict with another class or a work commitment (and only for those reasons), I can arrange an alternative meeting time with you –but be aware that you might have to wait a bit longer for an appointment. Many problems can be solved if you bring them to my attention early enough, so please come to me sooner rather than later.
- Grading: If you submitted your assignment on time, you have the right to get the graded work returned to you within a reasonable timeframe (approximately one week), with a set of written comments.
- Right to appeal: if you believe your grade is wrong for whatever reason, I encourage you to visit me in my scheduled office hours to talk about the problem. However, I ask that you do so within two weeks of receiving the grade. Appeals about assignments that are more than two weeks old will not be considered unless there are mitigating circumstances. Making an appeal is no guarantee that your grade will be raised: it may go up, down or stay the same depending on the results of the review.
- Mitigating circumstances: From time to time, unforeseen circumstances mean that students will have to miss classes or assignments. In such circumstances, please let me know the situation as soon as it is practical, so that alternative arrangements can be made.
- Alternative class requirements: Please contact me at the start of the course if you require alternative assessment arrangements e.g. extra time to finish assignments. If you are new to the university, you may wish to contact UAlbany's Disability Resource Center for advice, <http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml>

The SUNY Model EU

Two teams of 4 students drawn from this class will be our delegates to the SUNY Model EU competition to be held at SUNY New Paltz, 14th-16th April 2011. They will join teams of students from all over Europe in debating the latest hot topics in EU politics. This year we will be representing delegations from the UK and the Netherlands.

Class Schedule and Reading List

Date	Topic	Readings / Deadlines
Thursday 20 th January	Introduction to the EU	“The EU: A Guide for Americans”, Blackboard.
Tuesday 25 th January	Becoming Europe I, How and why the European institutions were formed	WPY Ch 1 “The History of the European Union”, http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm
Thursday 27 th January	Becoming Europe II, from EC to EU	
Tuesday 1 st February	Film & Discussion: Goodbye Lenin	WPY Ch 3
Thursday 3 rd February	The Current EU Policy Process in Comparative Perspective	
Tuesday 8 th February	Executive power: The Council vs. the Commission	WPY Ch 4 Euractiv, 2009. 2009-2014, A Centre Right European Parliament, September 2 nd .
Thursday 10 th February	Legislative Power: the European Parliament & the Legislative Process	
Tuesday 15 th February	Judicial Power: Law and the Courts	WPY Ch 2 Implementing Lisbon: narrowing the EU's 'democratic deficit'? CEPS policy brief, 09 March 2010. James Kanter. 2006. Support Wanes for EU Court. New York Times, May 2 nd .
Thursday 17 th February	Manufacturing Democracy: Institutions, Governance and Networks	
****Winter Break****		
Tuesday 1 st March	The Euro and the Global Financial Crisis I: Stimulus	WPY Ch 7 Stefan Schultz. 2010. ‘Five Threats to the Common Currency’, Spiegel Online, November 2 nd .
Thursday 3 rd March	The Euro and the Global Financial Crisis II: Austerity	

Tuesday 8 th March	Economic Integration: Establishing the Single Market	WPY Ch 5 Nikki Tate and Tony Barber. 2011. 'Star Crossed Levers', Financial Times, January 9 th .
Thursday 10 th March	Film & Discussion: Panorama-Carry on Banking!	
Tuesday 15 th March	Health Policy	WPY Ch 11 Scott L. Greer. 2009. The Politics of European Union Health Policy, excerpts.
Thursday 17 th March	Social Policy	
Tuesday 22 nd March	Migration, Employment, Unrest	Jan Rath. 2011. Debating Multiculturalism. Harvard International Review, January 6 th , http://hir.harvard.edu/debating-multiculturalism Jocelyne Cesari, Ethnicity, Islam, and les banlieues: Confusing the Issues, Nov 30, 2005, http://riotsfrance.ssrc.org/Cesari/
Thursday 24 th March	Film & Discussion: La Haine	
Tuesday 29 th March	The Environment & Energy I	WPY Ch 13 Edward Chow. 2009. 'The European Gas Crisis', Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 7 th . Vessela Tcherneva. 2009. 'Bridging Europe's Solidarity Gap', European Council on Foreign Relations, February.
Thursday 31 st March	The Environment & Energy II	
Tuesday 5 th April	Agriculture and GM Foods I	WPY, selections from Chs 8 & 14 Paulette Kurtzer. 2007. Consumer Activism, EU Institutions, and Global Markets: the Struggle Over Biotech Foods. <i>Journal of Public Policy</i> 27(2):103-128.
Thursday 7 th April	Agriculture and GM Foods II	
Tuesday 12 th April	Foreign Policy, Security and Borders	WPY Ch 18 Ian Manners, "Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?" <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> , Vol. 40, No. 2 (2002), pp. 235- 58.
Thursday 14 th April	Foreign Policy, Security and Borders	
****Spring Break****		
Tuesday 26 th April	Trade and Commercial Policy	WPY Ch 16 Alan Hardacre. 2011. Rule Changes Expose Tension Over Trade Policy. <i>European Voice</i> ,

		January 13 th .
Thursday 28 th April:	Trade and Commercial Policy	
Tuesday 3 rd May	The EU in Crisis?	WPY Ch 20

RPOS351: Questions for Response Papers

Who were the ‘founding fathers’ of Europe? To what degree are their ideas accepted or challenged by modern EU institutions and policies?

“The EU is an economic giant but a political dwarf”. Evaluate this statement by comparing the EU’s single market to its social policies.

To what extent is the EU democratic? Answer with reference to the EU’s institutions.

Has multiculturalism failed in Europe? Illustrate your answer with reference to events in at least one EU member state.

Which is preferable- stimulus or austerity? Illustrate your answer with reference to events in at least one EU member state.

Are there common European values? What are they? How are they expressed through EU institutions and policies?

To what extent is the EU *sui generis*? Answer with reference to the distribution of executive, legislative and judicial power in the EU and US.

The EU has 27 member states, 23 official languages, and 500 million citizens. How have EU officials and member states attempted to create a sense of a united Europe? To what extent have they succeeded?

Why is agricultural policy so contentious in the EU? Answer with reference to events in at least one European member state.

“Americans are from Mars...Europeans are from Venus”. Evaluate this statement with reference to the EU’s foreign policy.

“Over the last 40 years, trade has proved to be one of the most effective tools to foster development.” Evaluate this statement in relation to EU trade policy towards developing countries.

To what extent does the EU suffer from an “East-West divide”? Answer with reference to at least one policy area of your choice.

Evaluate the role of the European Court of Justice in establishing European Union health policy. To what extent should courts influence domestic policies?

'EU Environmental policy looks great...until you try to implement it.' Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the EU's environmental policy.

Additional Readings & Links by Topic (great for papers!)

Institutions and Theory

"The History of the European Union" (1945-1980s), Europa Website.

http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm

Christian Egenhofer, Sebastian Kurpas, Louise van Schaik, "*The Ever-Changing Union: An Introduction to the History, Institutions and Decision-Making Processes of the EU*", CEPS, Brussels, http://shop.ceps.eu/BookDetail.php?item_id=1791 (free download)

EU Web Portal: <http://europa.eu/>

European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

Council of the European Union: <http://consilium.europa.eu/>

Court of Justice of the European Communities: <http://curia.europa.eu/>

Moravcsik, Andrew (1991). "Negotiating the Single European Act: National Interests and Conventional Statecraft in the European Community," *International Organization*, Vol. 45, No.1, 19-56.

Zysman, John and Wayne Sandholtz (1989). "1992: Recasting the European Bargain." *World Politics*, Vol. 41, 95-128.

Pollack, Mark (1997). "Delegation, agency, and agenda setting in the EC," *International Organization*, 51(1): 99-134.

Garrett, Geoffrey (1995). "The Politics of Legal Integration in the European Union," *International Organization*, 49: 171-81.

Mattli, Walter, and Anne-Marie Slaughter (1995). "Law and Politics in the European Union: A Reply to Garrett," *International Organization*, 49: 183-90.

Alter, Karen J. (1998). "Who are the Masters of the Treaty? European Governments and the European Court of Justice," *International Organization*, 52: 125-52.

Andrew Moravcsik (1993). "Preferences and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach," *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 31: 473-524.

Andrew Moravcsik, and Kalypso Nicolaidis (1998). "Explaining the Treaty of Amsterdam: Interests,

Influence, Institutions," *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 37: 59-85.

Laura Cram (1994). "The European Commission as a Multi-organisation: Social Policy and IT Policy in

the EU," *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1: 195-217.

Euractiv, 2009. 2009-2014, A Centre Right European Parliament, September 2nd. Available at <http://www.euractiv.com/en/eu-elections/2009-2014-centre-right-european-parliament/article-183383>

Democracy & Citizenship

Implementing Lisbon: narrowing the EU's 'democratic deficit'? CEPS policy brief, 09 March 2010. http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/724273258_Implementing%20Lisbon%20-%20narrowing%20the%20EU%20democratic%20deficit.pdf

Strength in numbers? An evaluation of the 2004-2009 European Parliament, CEPS issues paper, 15 May 2009, at http://www.epc.eu/pub_details.php?cat_id=2&pub_id=479

Fifth Report on Citizenship of the Union (1 May 2004 – 30 June 2007) Brussels, 15.2.2008, COM(2008) 85 final

Sergio Carrera and Anja Wiesbrock "Whose Citizenship to Empower in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice? The Act of Mobility and Litigation in the Enactment of European Citizenship" <http://www.ceps.eu/book/whose-citizenship-empower-areafreedom-security-and-justice-act-mobility-and-litigation-enactme>

Stefano Micossi: Democracy in the European Union CEPS Working Document No. 286/February 2008 <http://www.ceps.eu/files/book/1618.pdf>

Roberto Foa: Europe's democratic surfeit, <http://www.esharp.eu/Web-specials/Europe-s-democratic-surfeit>

Foreign Policy, Migration and Borders

Sergio Carrera "Towards a Common European Border Service" at <http://www.ceps.eu/book/towards-common-european-border-service>

Making migration work: the role of employers in migrant integration, 22 May 2008, CEPS working paper: http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/608394341_EPC%20Working%20Paper%2030%20Making%20migration%20work.pdf

Amnesty International: The Dublin II trap: transfers of asylum seekers to Greece, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR25/001/2010/en/e64fa2b5-684f-4f38-a1bf-8fe1b54d83b5/eur250012010en.pdf>

Christopher Hill, "Renationalizing or Regrouping: EU Foreign Policy since 11 September 2001," *Journal of Common Market Studies* 42(March 2004): 143-163.

Goldirova, Renata. "EU passport-free zone blamed for wave of new migration," *euobserver.com*.

Caviedes, Alexander (2004): "The open method of co-ordination in immigration policy: a tool for prying open Fortress Europe?" *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11(2): 289-310.

Vucheva, Elitsa. "EU still 'digesting' 2004 enlargement five years on," *euobserver.com*, 01.05.2009.

Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier (2002). "Theorising EU Enlargement: Research Focus, Hypotheses, and the State of Research," *Journal of European Public Policy*, 9(4): 500-528.

Economy

Podcasts: BBC: Crossing Continents, Greece and Ireland http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/b00rykzx/Crossing_Continents_Greece_and_Ireland

CBS: Greece, a Nation's Social Crisis <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjG3qZpoypg>

Charles Grant: The strategic consequences of the Euro crisis,

http://www.europesworld.org/NewEnglish/Home_old/Article/tabid/191/ArticleType/articleview/ArticleID/21728/language/en-US/Default.aspx

Kubosova, Lucia. "Commission paper calls for courage in globalization debate," *euobserver.com*.

Kubosova, Lucia. "Trade unions fight back on de-regulation initiative," *euobserver.com*, 2 p.

Willis, Andrew. "Denmark and Malta top internal market scoreboard," *euobserver.com*, 20.02.2009.

Willis, Andrew. "EU wary of US protectionism threat," *euobserver.com*, 30.01.2009.

Phillips, Leigh. "Commission gets back into antitrust ring with Microsoft," *euobserver.com*, 15.01.2008.

McGowan, Lee, and Stephen Wilks (1995). "The First Supranational Policy in the European Union: Competition Policy," *European Journal of Political Research*, 28: 141–69.

Meunier, Sophie (2000). "What Single Voice? European Institutions and EU-U.S. Trade Negotiations," *International Organization*, 54: 103–35.

Phillips, Leigh. "Commission claws back 200m in misused farm subsidies," *euobserver.com*, 30.09.2009.

Social and Health Policies

New York Times, "Safety Nets Not Enough to Allay Fears in Europe," 1 April 2009; "Aided by Safety Nets, Europe Resists Stimulus Push," 26 March 2009; "Harder Edged Warnings About Britain's Economy," 14 April 2009. (CS).

Kubosova, Lucia. "OECD: Europe should stop backing early retirement," *euobserver.com*, 2 p.

Goldirova, Renata. "Same-sex couples score victory on pension rights," *euobserver.com*, 02.04.2008.

Phillips, Leigh. "Brussels abandons plans to protect gays and lesbians," *euobserver.com*, 22.04.2008.

Mahony, Honor. "EU launches gender gap awareness campaign," *euobserver.com*, 2009.

Bibliography of work on the Open Method of Coordination, see web page of The European Union Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, OMC Research Forum: <http://eucenter.wisc.edu/OMC/open12.html>.

Multiculturalism

"Filmmaker says movies can solve the EU's image problem", Euractiv, October 28th 2010, <http://www.euractiv.com/en/culture/filmmaker-says-movies-can-help-solve-eus-image-problem-news-499244>

BBC: An Islamic History of Europe, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0IaCK-7z5o>