

Department of Political Science  
Dalhousie University  
Fall 2012

Syllabus  
POLI 3321 01  
POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



**Time and place:**  
Tuesday, 11:35-1:25  
LSC-Common Area C244

**Instructor:**  
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**Office hours:** Tuesday 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

**Information about the course:**

Is Europe a future super-power or a region in decline? Is it becoming a federation, or is it a group of squabbling governments? The process of European integration has important economic, political and cultural dimensions. Integration began in the 1950s when six West European countries - France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg - signed the Treaty of Paris (1951) and Treaties of Rome (1967), creating first

the European Coal and Steel Community (1952) and then the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (1958).

The European Communities became the European Union in 1993 (The Treaty of Maastricht). It has grown in size and complexity. Since its 2004 and 2007 enlargements, there are 27 member states, and the EU is set to enlarge still further in the future. It has become a significant actor in world politics and the global economy. The sovereignty of the traditional nation-states of the Europe has been eroded as these have taken part in the collective decision-making centered on Brussels.

This European level of governance involves key EU institutions that we will study in this class. These include the European Commission, the bureaucracy and political driving force of integration; the Council of Ministers, which consists of ministers representing each EU member state; the European Council, the meetings of heads of state or government; the directly elected European Parliament; and the European Court of Justice.

EU governance is complex. The roles of the various institutions, and those of member states and other actors, vary with policy areas. For example, national governments traditionally have more power in relation to foreign policy, though the authority of EU institutions in this area has grown considerably in recent years. The rules have been defined since the 1950s in a succession of treaties, including the Treaty of Rome (which established the EEC), the Maastricht Treaty (which pushed European economic and political integration forward in the early 1990s), and, most recently, the Lisbon Treaty (agreed in 2007 and in force since 2009), which has replaced the proposed Constitutional Treaty rejected by the French and Dutch electorates in referendums in 2005..

## **Outline**

The class is divided into three sections.

The first section of the class looks at **the historic evolution** of the EU and the changing structure of the union. It includes an examination of the central debates that have influenced the recent history of Europe. Many arguments emphasize either *inter-governmentalism* (the idea that national governments remain the key players) or *integration or supranationalism* (the idea that a European “level” of governance is being created to replace much of what traditionally governments have done). This part of the class traces the history of European integration from the 1950s to the present, by way of the Rome and Maastricht treaties. The section is concluded by an in-class test.

Then follows a section on **EU institutions** - the Commission, Council of Ministers, European Parliament, European Council, and Court of Justice - and the complex processes by which decisions are made. This section will also be concluded by an in-class test.

In the third section the focus will be on specific **EU policies**. In these weeks examples of the main policy areas of the EU will be discussed. These are selected from several areas: - common (or communitarized) policies in which national governments make common decisions binding on all of them, for example in agriculture and the environment, and the common trade policies;

- the foreign and security policies of the EU, in which common processes are inter-woven with power retained by nation-states; and the controversial areas of Justice and Home Affairs, including immigration policy, which is now increasingly communitarized. Part of the third section is an in-class test that covers the internal common policies.

There is a final paper which is related to the last two sessions on the EU's external policies, including enlargement.

### **Textbook**

There are readings for each week of the class (see outline below).

There is one textbook:

Ian Bache, Stephen George and Simon Bulmer, eds., *Politics in the European Union*. Third Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

It is available from the Student Union Bookstore.

Students are strongly advised to read extensively. There are a number of useful introductory texts on European integration that can be read or consulted in parallel.

Recommended additional texts include:

Desmond Dinan, *Ever Closer Union. An Introduction to European Integration*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2010.

Elizabeth Bomberg, John Peterson and Richard Corbett, eds, *The European Union: How Does it Work?* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borragan (eds.), *European Union Politics*. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press, 2010.

Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair Young (eds.), *Policy-making in the European Union*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press, 2010.

### **Grading**

- (1) There are three in-class tests that each count 20%
- (2) Final paper 30%
- (3) Participation 10%

### **Information and readings**

The various EU institutions, and national governments and other organizations, have useful websites. The main EU source is the Commission website [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu). This has

links to all aspects of current and past EU policies and institutions. The Council website is <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/docCenter.asp?lang=en&cmsid=245>

You can also access EU documents through the website of the European Commission in Washington, DC, at [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org) or the Commission Delegation to Canada at <http://www.delcan.ec.europa.eu/>

The textbook is the basic source throughout the class. In addition to books found through Novanet, there are good sources in academic journals which can be accessed electronically. Good journals in this area include the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and *Journal of European Integration*. Also useful on a weekly basis and as a search tool is *The Economist* ([www.economist.com/search](http://www.economist.com/search)).

*Agence Europe*, a Brussels based daily, can be accessed through the database Factiva which can be accessed through the Dalhousie libraries.

*EUobserver* is available online: <http://euobserver.com/>

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### **Outline** (chapter readings refer to the textbook)

#### **September 11**

The Start of European Integration in the 1950s: The European Communities (ECSC, EEC and EURATOM)

Readings: Chapters 5-9

#### **September 18**

From Rome to Maastricht: The creation of the European Union

Chapters 10-13

#### **September 25**

Post-Maastricht developments: Amsterdam, Nice and Lisbon and the eastern enlargement

Chapters 14-18

#### **October 2**

**First in-class test covering history.**

#### **October 9**

Institutions and decision-making:

(1) European Commission, European Council and Council of Ministers

Chapters 19-21

**October 16**

Institutions and decision-making:

(2) European Parliament, European Court of Justice, and Organized Interests  
Chapters 22-24

**October 23**

**Second in-class test covering institutions**

**October 30**

Policy-Making, Agriculture and Single Market  
Chapters 25-27

**November 6**

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), Cohesion, Environment Policy, and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)  
Chapters 28-31

**November 13**

**Third in-class test covering internal EU policies**

**November 20**

Trade and Development Aid

**November 27**

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

**December 4**

Enlargement policy

**Final paper due on 7 December at the latest**, dealing with some current aspect of EU Enlargement policy or the EU as an international actor (trade policy, development aid policy, CFSP or Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)).

Suggested length: about 3-4,000 pages.

You chose topic, but it must be accepted by instructor.