

**Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University
Fall 2013/14**

**POLI 3321
POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Time and place:

Monday, 13:35-4:25
Life Science Building-COMMON AREA C244

Instructor:

Ruben Zaiotti
E-mail: r.zaiotti@dal.ca

Office hours:

- Monday 12:00-13:00 (Henry Hicks building, Room 353; Ph: 494-6609)
- Friday 11:00-12:00 (European Union Centre of Excellence, 1376 Lemarchant St.; Ph. 4942980)
- or by appointment

Course Overview

The objective of this course is to introduce students to one of the most ambitious and influential, but also complex and controversial political experiments in regional integration, namely the European Union (EU). The course explores the EU's history, its main institutional structures and how it functions. It also overviews the main theories formulated in the disciplines of comparative politics and international relations to study this political project. These theories will be applied to weigh into key debates about the EU. Does the European Union represent a new and progressive example of regional integration that is moving European politics beyond the nation-state? Is the EU the most effective institutional response to the economic and political challenges of today's world? Should the EU be only an economic bloc, or also political one? Can the Union and its member states have a single and powerful voice on the international arena? Can the EU be democratically accountable? And should it continue to expand its membership, even beyond Europe?

The course is divided in three sections. The first section examines the key principles and objectives of the EU project, overviews the history of European integration since 1945 and presents the most important theories of European integration.

In the second section, students will become familiar with the basic institutional structure of the EU and its decision-making processes. The focus will be on the Union's main institutions

(European Commission, Council of the European Union, European Parliament and European Court of Justice), their role and functions, and how they have changed over time.

The third section looks at the most relevant policy-areas in which the EU is involved: economic policy (the Single Market, the Euro), foreign affairs (the Common Foreign and Security Policy), the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), Justice and Home Affairs, and enlargement.

In concluding, we will consider some of the future directions and challenges facing the Union in years ahead.

Course Format

The course will be based on a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. Lectures will follow the readings, but they will not overlap completely. Since the course will have *no tutorials*, lectures will presuppose familiarity with the readings. It is *essential* for students to complete the reading assignments before the lecture, in order to fully benefit from class discussions

Course Textbook

Michelle Cini and Nieves Borragan, *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press, Fourth Edition, 2013. The book is available at the University Bookstore.

E-readings

In addition to the textbook indicated above, the weekly course readings include a number of *journal articles* and *primary documents* (e.g. European Commission's papers). Both types of readings are available on line. Journal articles can be accessed, *free of charge*, to Dalhousie University students through the Library. In order to access them, you need to go to <http://www.library.dal.ca/Find/?find=journals> and then search for the relevant article.

Resources on the European Union

Dalhousie University hosts a European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE; <http://euce.dal.ca/>). The Center brings in guest speakers as well as hosting symposia and lectures from Dalhousie faculty. Details of each talk will be announced in class or through the course website. The Centre also offers financial support for student exchanges, internships and study tours in Europe. Please contact the centre coordinator for more information (euce@dal.ca).

The Dalhousie libraries and other local university libraries have reasonably good collections on European and EU topics. Relevant documents and information about the European Union are available on the EU's official website (www.europa.eu) and the websites of the EU main institutions, such as the Commission's (www.ec.europa.eu), the Council

(www.consilium.europa.eu/docCenter.asp?lang=en&cmsid=245). News and articles about the EU can be found in publications such as the *EU Bulletin* (available in the government documents area of the Killam library), *Agence Europe* (accessible through Factiva), *European Voice*, *EU Observer*. Archival material, including photos and videos, on the history of the EU can be found on the *European Navigator* website (<http://www.ena.lu/>). Academic journals specifically dealing with the EU, its policies and politics include the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *European Union Politics*, the *Journal of European Integration*, *European Union Foreign Policy Review*. A number of think tanks produce analyses and commentaries on the EU. For a list, see www.eu.thinktankdirectory.org/ More resources will be posted on the course website throughout the term.

Course on Blackboard

Lecture slides, syllabus, assignment instructions, bibliographic references and other relevant material for this course will be available on Blackboard. Blackboard will also function as main means of communication between the instructor and students. Students will also be able to view their grades, read announcements and contribute to the discussion board. The course on Blackboard can be accessed at <https://dalhousie.blackboard.com/>

Email Policy

Please feel free to contact me by email if you have any questions related to the course. I will reply to legitimate email inquiries within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please resubmit your question(s).

Course Evaluation

The final grade for this course will be based on four components:

| <i>Type of assignment</i> | <i>% of final grade</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Mid-term Test | 20% | October 21 |
| 2) Essay | 35% | November 25 |
| 3) Final Exam | 35% | Examination period |
| 4) Participation | 10% | |

Format of assignments

1) Mid-term Test: The mid-term test will cover material from the lectures and readings discussed in class up until the date of the test. The test will be written in-class on October 21. It is worth 20% of the final grade.

2) Essay: The major writing assignment for this course is a paper of approximately 2,500 words, or 8 pages in length based on one of the topics examined in Part II and III of the course. If you choose a topic that is not covered in these sections, you must first gain the approval of the course instructor. More information on this assignment will be given out in class. It is worth 35% of the final grade. The paper is due November 25 in class.

Best essay on the EU prize

The EU Centre of Excellence at Dalhousie sponsors an annual competition for the best essay on the EU (100\$ prize). The competition is open to all students at Dalhousie. The instructor for POLI3321 will select the best essay(s) from the class to be considered for the prize

3) Final Exam. The final exam will be cumulative and draw from all of the course readings and lectures. The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period. It is worth 35% of the final grade.

4) Class participation

Class participation includes *active and informed* involvement in class discussions and contributions to the discussion board on Blackboard (minimum: 2 contributions). In addition to the contributions to the discussion board, students can choose to give a short presentation in class. The presentation can be based on the same subject examined in the discussion/research paper, but must relate to the topic of the day and be accepted by the instructor. Presentations may be individual or group depending on the number of students in the class. Overall participation is worth 10% of the final grade.

Grading scale

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| A+: 90-100% | C+: 64-67% |
| A: 85-90% | C: 60-63% |
| A-: 80-84% | C-: 56-59% |

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| B+: 76-79% | D: 50-55% |
| B: 72-75% | F: 0-49% |
| B-: 68-71% | |

Late penalty

Late papers will be penalized **2 per cent per day** (including weekends but excluding religious holidays). Extensions will be granted only for documented reasons of illness, or bereavement. The length of the extension will be based on the information in the documentation. In case of illness, students must ask the physician to indicate *explicitly* the length of time during which they were unable to attend to their coursework obligations.

Use of sources and referencing style

Both written assignments must be properly sourced, and should include both a bibliography and citation within the text. Research papers must be based on *academic sources*, that is, articles published in peer-reviewed journals, as well as books. The recommended referencing style is APA (details about this style can be found at http://www.library.dal.ca/Files/How_do_I/pdf/apa_style6.pdf).

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Academic integrity

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality.

Accommodation policy

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain Form A. Request for Accommodation. A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honourarium of \$75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information. Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Part 1 – The EU and its origins

Session 1 (September 9) - Introduction: from Europe to the EU

- Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borraran: Introduction, Cini, Chapter 1

Suggested Readings

- Anthony Pagden, “Europe: Conceptualizing a Continent”, in Anthony. Pagden (ed.), *The Idea of Europe: From. Antiquity to the European Union*, ed. Pagden (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2002). Available at Killam Library (Call number: D 105 I34 2002)

Session 2 (September 16) - From Rome to Lisbon: a (brief) history of the EU

- Derek Urwin, *The European Community: From 1945 to 1985*, Cini, Chapter 2
- David Phinnemore, *The European Union: Establishment and Development*, Cini, Chapter 3
- Clive Church and David Phinnemore, *From the Constitutional Treaty to the Treaty of Lisbon*, Cini, Chapter 4

Suggested readings

- The Marshall Plan declaration (1947), available at: www.marshallfoundation.org/marshall_plan_information.html
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- Schuman Declaration (1950), available at http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/decl_en.htm
- European Commission, *White Paper on completing the Internal Market* (1985). Available at http://europa.eu/documents/comm/white_papers/pdf/com1985_0310_f_en.pdf (skim)
- The Treaty of Lisbon (2007). Available at http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm

Session 3 (September 23) – Theories of the European Union

- Carsten Stroby Jensen, *Neo-functionalism*, Cini chapter 5
- Michelle Cini, *Intergovernmentalism*, Cini chapter 6
- Ben Rosamond, *Theorizing the EU After Integration Theory*, Cini chapter 7

Part 2 – The EU institutional framework

Session 4 (September 30) – EU institutions – part 1

- Morten Egeberg, *The European Commission*, Cini, Chapter 10
- Jeffrey Lewis, *The Council of the European Union*, Cini, Chapter 11

Suggested readings

- Basic treaties of the European integration. Available at: http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index_en.htm

Session 5 (October 7) – EU institutions – part 2

- Charlotte Burns, *The European Parliament*, Cini, Chapter 12
- Illias Kapsis, *The Courts of the European Union*, Cini, Chapter 13

October 14 – Thanksgiving (no class)

October 21 – Midterm exam

Part 3 – How the EU works and what it does

Session 6 (October 28) – How the EU works: policies and policy-making

- Alex Warleigh-Lack and Ralf Drachenberg, *Policy-Making in the European Union*, Cini, Chapter 14
- Tanja Boerzel and Diana Pancke, *Europeanization*, Cini, Chapter 9

Session 7 (November 4) - Economic policy

- Michelle Egan, *The Single Market*, Cini, Chapter 19
- Amy Verdun, *Economic and Monetary Union*, Cini, Chapter 22
- Dermot Hudson and Uwe Puetter, *The EU and the Economic Crisis*, Cini, Chapter 27

November 11 – Remembrance day (no class)

Session 8 (November 18) - External relations

- Mike Smith, *European Union External Relations*, Cini, Chapter 16
- Robert Dover, *The European Union's Foreign, Security, and Defense Policy*, Cini, Chapter 18

Suggested readings

- Andrew Moravcsik, *The Quiet Superpower*, Global Europe (14 September 2009). Available at <http://www.globeurope.com/standpoint/quiet-superpower>

Sessions 9 and 10 (November 25) – Enlargement and Freedom, Security and Justice

- Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán and Ana E. Juncos, *Enlargement*, Cini, Chapter 17
- Emek Ucarer, *Area of Freedom, Security and Justice*, Cini, Chapter 21

Suggested Readings

- European Commission, *Justice, Freedom and Security in Europe since 2005: An Evaluation Of The Hague Programme And Action Plan* (2009), Available At: http://Ec.Europa.Eu/Justice_Home/Doc_Centre/Doc/Com_2009_263_En.Pdf

Session 11 (December 2) – The future of the Union

- European Ideas Network, *The World in 2025: How the European Union will need to respond*, available at <http://www.europeanideasnetwork.com/'the-world-in-2025'>

- Joschka Fischer, *From confederacy to federation: thoughts on the finality of European integration*. Speech at the Humboldt University in Berlin, 12 May 2000. Available at http://www.ena.lu/speech_joschka_fischer_ultimate_objective_european_integration_berlin_12_2000-020005639.html
- Andrew Moravcsik, *Europe works well without the grand illusions*, *The Financial Times* June 14 2005. Available at www.princeton.edu/~amoravcs/library/works_well.doc
- Wolf, Martin, *A more efficient Union will be less democratic*, *The Financial Times* June 15 2005. Available at <http://www.openeurope.org.uk/media-centre/article.aspx?newsid=901>

Suggested readings

- European Commission. *Turkey 2009 Progress Report*, Available at http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2009/tr_rapport_2009_en.pdf
- Stijn Smismans: *Democracy and Legitimacy in the EU*, Cini, Chapter 25
- Lauren McLaren, *Public Opinion and the European Union*, Cini, Chapter 26
