

Politics in the European Union, POL 309
Spring 2013
Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00PM–5:20PM
Location: Earth and Space Sciences Building 181

Martijn Schoonvelde
Department of Political Science
Stony Brook University
Email: martijn.schoonvelde@stonybrook.edu
Office: SBS S-737
Office Hours: By appointment

Introduction

This course is designed to give you a good understanding of politics in the European Union. The course will focus on the theories developed in political science to explain the workings of the European Union, the institutional structures of the EU, policy-making in the EU and current issues that.

Required Text

There is one required text for this course which is available at the campus bookstore and online:

- *The Political System of the European Union* (3rd Edition) by Simon Hix and Bjørn Høyland. ISBN-13: 978-0230249820 [in this syllabus referred to as HH]

Supplementary papers [see Course Schedule] will be posted on Blackboard. **All class communication will be sent via Blackboard to your @stonybrook.edu email address so please check that account regularly.**

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on these components. See Table 1 for the breakdown of grades:

- *Class Participation:* (10%)
- *Country Presentations:* (10%)
- *4 Short Essays:* (20%)
- *Midterm Exam: 1* (20%)
- *Midterm Exam: 2* (20%)
- *Final Essay* (20%)

Class Participation: Although attendance will not be taken, students are expected to attend every class. Students who miss class are responsible for all material missed. Beyond attendance, students are expected to have completed all of the assigned reading before class. Completing the reading before class also allows students to engage in thoughtful discussion and makes class more interesting. Please be advised that for most of the weeks the readings are relatively short in length. However, they are dense with theoretical insight. My lectures will focus on explaining these theoretical insights in more detail with the aim of deepening your understanding of the readings, politics and policy-making in the EU and improving class discussion.

Country Presentations Presently, the European Union consists of 27 member states. A detailed history of all of these countries is beyond the scope of this class. However, this class does offer a great opportunity to get to know the political economy of the member states in a bit more detail. To this end, each of you will team up in groups of **two** to give a short presentation on a single member state. The presentation (each Wednesday and some Mondays) should take about 10 minutes and should cover the following topics:

- i brief historical background
- ii institutional characteristics (type of government, electoral system, etc.)
- iii recent economic indicators (GDP, economic growth, structure of the economy)
- iv outcome in the 2009 EP elections in that country
- v representation in the EU under the Lisbon Treaty
- vi a short discussion of benefits and costs for that country of being in the European Union (be creative here)

You are expected to support your presentation with powerpoint slides. Among other sources, use gap-minder.org and stats.oecd.org to obtain data for your presentation. The presentations are graded good / satisfactory / unsatisfactory (both team members will receive the same grade). Please be advised that it is your responsibility to be present on the day of your presentation. It's pretty simple: if you are absent without notifying me you will receive an unsatisfactory grade.

Essays: You will write a total of 5 essays (4 short essays and a longer, final essay). The short essays you will write in groups of two (you are free to choose who to cooperate with and can change partners between essays). Broadly speaking, the structure of the essays is such that you are being asked to evaluate a certain statement (for example, "Further EU Enlargement is the best way forward. Argue for or against."). Each short essay should be between two and three pages long (font size 12, double-spaced). The essays are graded good / satisfactory / unsatisfactory (both team members will receive the same grade). The final essay you will write on your own. It should be between three and four pages long and will be graded on a regular A through F scale. Late essays will not be accepted.

- No matter how short, an essay always follows a certain logical structure. If you don't know how to write an essay, please make sure that you do before the first essay is due. A good place to start is here: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/Structure.html>

Exams There will be two exams covering material from the lectures, discussions, and the textbook. Both exams will consist of essay questions. Make-up exams will be allowed only with a documented excuse (e.g., a Doctors note explaining why you were too ill to take the exam). However, you must let me know if you will miss an exam before it is given. If you cannot reach me in my office before the exam, leave me a message (martijn.schoonvelde@stonybrook.edu).

Table 1: Grade Breakdown

94–100	A	87–89	B+	77–79	C+	67–69	D+
90–93	A-	84–86	B	74–76	C	60–66	D
–	–	80–83	B-	70–73	C-	0–59	F

Classroom Policies

Electronic Devices: Students are permitted to bring electronic devices to class but use of these devices must be limited to acceptable classroom activities. Laptop computers may be used solely for note taking. Any internet activity (including checking email), gaming, or other use that does not directly pertain to this class is unacceptable. Likewise, students are expected to silence their cell phones and refrain from talking, texting, or otherwise using their phones for the duration of the class period. If you feel you will not be able to abide by this policy, please leave your electronic devices at home so you won't be tempted.

Email: Writing a professional email is an important skill one should master before graduation. All emails to me, the instructor, should include the following: a subject line briefly explaining the topic of the email and that it pertains to POL309; a greeting more professional than “Yo” or “Hey;” a clear question or request; and should identify the sender by name. Most emails will be returned within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, although circumstances may arise which delay response time. Please follow this link (to the website of political scientist Chris Blattman) if you want to know more about email etiquette: <http://bit.ly/dgs03J>

A List of Do's and Don'ts

Do's:

- Attend all classes.
- Read all of the assigned material before class.
- Participate in class discussion.
- Ask for help as soon as you feel yourself falling behind—not the evening before an exam.

Don'ts:

- Don't ask me how to get an A in this course. The syllabus clearly states how to achieve this desired outcome—accumulate 94% (or more) of the total available points.
- Don't ask me if something we are discussing in class is important. Assume if we are talking about it that it is important.
- If you miss class for any reason, don't ask me if you missed something important. Assume you missed something important and figure out how you are going to obtain that information.

Course Schedule

* *This syllabus serves a general plan for the course; deviations (announced) may be necessary.*

Week 1

January 28 & 30: Introduction

- Borderlines: photography special: <http://on.ft.com/THppyN>
- HH Chapter 1

Week 2

February 4 & 6: Theories of Integration: Intergovernmentalism versus Supranationalism

- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1993. "Preference and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach." *Journal of Common Market Studies* v 31, 2: 473–524.
- Tsebelis, George and Geoff Garret. 2001. "The Institutional Foundations of Intergovernmentalism and Supranationalism in the European Union" *International Organization* v 55, 2: 357–390.

Week 3

February 11 & 13: Executive Politics

- Tuesday 12 February, 11:59PM, **Essay 1** due (through safe-assign on blackboard)
- HH Chapter 2

Week 4

February 18 & 20: Legislative Politics

- HH Chapter 3

Week 5

February 25 & 27: Judicial Politics

- HH Chapter 4

Week 6

March 4 & 6: Public Opinion and Elections

- HH Chapters 5 & 6
- Tuesday 5 March, 11:59PM, **Essay 2** due (through safe-assign on blackboard)

March 11 & 13:

Week 7 March 11 & 13: Review And Loose Ends

- Monday 11 March: Review and Loose Ends
- **Wednesday 13 March: MIDTERM EXAM 1**

Week 8:

March 18 & 20: SPRING BREAK

Week 9:

March 25 & 27: Interest Groups and Lobbying

- HH Chapters 7

Week 10:

April 1 & 3: The Single Market

- HH Chapter 8

Week 11

April 8 & 10: Monetary Union and the Euro Crisis

- HH Chapter 10
- *The Economist* Special Report on the Euro Crisis: <http://www.economist.com/node/21536872>
- Tuesday 9 April, 11:59PM, **Essay 3** due (through safe-assign on blackboard)

Week 12

April 15 & 17: Interior Policies

- HH Chapter 11

Week 13

April 22 & 24: Foreign Policies

- HH Chapter 12
- Tuesday 23 April, 11:59PM, **Essay 4** due (through safe-assign on blackboard)

Week 14

April 29 & May 1: Review and Loose Ends

- April 29: Review and Loose Ends

- **May 1: MIDTERM EXAM 2**

Week 15

May 6 & 8: Conclusion and Review

- HH Chapter 13

Tuesday May 7, 11:59PM, **Essay 5** due (through safe-assign on blackboard)

Finals Week

May 13, 11:59PM: FINAL ESSAY DUE

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health & Technology Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.