

Political Science 1317
Politics of the European Union
FALL 2023
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:15 AM
Room #G37 Benedum Hall

Instructor: Dr. Anthony Ocepek
Office: 4614 Wesley Posvar Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 – 1:00
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Course Description:

What is the European Union (EU) and what are the current challenges facing an institution that over the decades created one of the most integrated, economically and politically, regions globally? This course is designed to help you learn about the EU as an institution and its effects, the historical progress of European integration, and the challenges that it currently faces. First, we focus on the theories used within political science to explain European integration and then explore the history of the EU. Afterward, we shift our focus towards the institutional structures that comprise the EU. The final section of the course then examines issues of major importance, such as the Brexit crisis, Euroskepticism, and the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War, that currently confront Europeans in the context of the EU and the future of European integration.

The objective of this course is to enable you to develop a critical understanding of the nature of the politics and society within the EU and enable you to critically assess the EU and how you perceive its role in the world when compared to other state or organizational actors. Because of the amount of material to be covered, this will be primarily a lecture course, though with frequent classroom discussion and simulations. You will be required to read some research on the European Union and will be asked to discuss this material in class.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Identify and define key concepts within the discourse on the EU and Europeanization.
2. Be able to utilize these concepts to articulate a defense for or against Europeanization and the role of the EU on specific issues of importance in the region.
3. Develop skills in researching specific topics and how to convey this research through classroom simulations.

Reading Materials:

Required Textbooks:

Jonathan Olsen. 2021. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. New York: Routledge, 7th edition. I refer to this book in the syllabus as “**Olsen.**” I have uploaded scanned copies of required chapters to Canvas in the Module titled Olsen: The European Union. If you are purchasing the text online or other third-party, please make sure you purchase the **7th edition**.

Required Supplemental Readings:

For some weeks, the course has specific required readings that complement the general textbook readings. Please see the course syllabus to learn which readings you are required for each respective week. Required readings for the class are available on Canvas in the Module titled Supplemental Course Readings. (Note: the syllabus is also available for viewing on Canvas).

Recommended:

Additionally, please subscribe to email updates from a major provider of international news, such as the *New York Times*, *Politico EU*, *Economist*, *BBC*, *Financial Times* or *Wall Street Journal*.

Course Requirements:

Your grade for this class can be broken down as follows:

Country snapshots	5%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Short Response Essays	15%
Midterm Exam	35%
Model EU Project & Simulation	35%

Country Snapshots

During this course, you will choose one EU member country to follow. Four times during the semester you will be asked to submit a brief summation of current events in the country up to that point with particular focus given to current government news and policies, actions taken by political parties, etc. These snapshots must be 12pt, Times New Roman font, 1” margins, single spaced, and no more than a half page in length.

Attendance/Participation:

Attendance is required for each lecture. If you notify me **in advance** your absence may be excused. However, you are responsible to submit any assignments that are due for that day. Makeup opportunities for essays, presentations, and exams will only be allowed in the case of

excused absences such as illness, a family emergency, or university-sponsored travel (with a signed note from the appropriate university authority). Each unexcused absence **after the first three unexcused absences** will subtract 1% from your total Attendance/Participation grade (10%).

Please make sure that you have read the required material for the designated day. Additionally, you are expected to participate in the class by asking/responding to questions during the lectures and as well as engaging in the varied in-class activities and discussion groups.

Short Response Essays:

You will be required to write two short response essays. The essay must be 12pt, Times New Roman font, 1" margins and at most 2-4 pages double-spaced. For these essays, you will be provided a prompt by the instructor two weeks prior to the due date of the response essay. The response essays are structured to help you familiarize yourself with the EU member state that you choose at the beginning of the semester. Instructions offering greater detail of the expectations for the essay and the grading rubric will be made available on Canvas and reviewed during lecture. —**late papers will not be accepted except for those with excused absences.**

Midterm Exam:

The Midterm Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions (in which students will be asked to write a few sentences for each question), and a longer written response essay. The tests are designed to be comprehensive, but never to be tricky.

Model EU Project & Simulation:

In lieu of a final exam, this course has a final simulation project. Working either individually or in pairs, you will prepare a position paper and draft proposals on the topic under consideration for the country that you chose for the country snapshots. During the final week of classes, we will then meet and hold our Model EU simulation where collectively the class will work towards writing and adopting a resolution on the policy topic under consideration.

There are three components of this project. First, each student must write a position paper for their EU member state on the policy topic under consideration that is at most 1-3 pages single-spaced. Second, each student must write at least 2 draft resolutions for their EU member state on the policy topic under consideration. These documents must be 12pt, Times New Roman font, 1" margins and must be turned into the instructor on **November 30th, 2023, by midnight.** Finally, the last component of the project consists of your participation in the simulation during the final week of classes. Awards for best position papers and draft proposals, as well as participation in the simulation, will be presented. Instructions offering greater detail of the expectations for the position papers, draft resolutions, and simulation will be provided during course lecture and made available on Canvas.

Grading Scale:

Each assignment will be evaluated on a scale of one hundred points. The correlation of the scale with the letter grade for the final course grade is as follows:

93-100% A	87-89% B+	77-79% C+	67-69% D+	0-59% F
90-92% A-	83-86% B	73-76% C	63-66% D	
	80-82% B-	70-72% C-	60-62% D-	

Important Information:

Office Hours:

I offer multiple hours per week. If you cannot make these hours, I can schedule appointments via e-mail. I will advise the class should my hours not be available as normal. If you are struggling with a text or the class, or simply have more questions than we can get to in class, I am happy to work with you. During weekdays, please allow me a period of 12 hours to respond to any email. Emails sent during the weekend will be responded to by the following Monday.

Class Discussions:

For you to get the most out of this class, it is important that you keep current with the readings and are willing to participate in class discussions. The classroom is intended to be an open space for discussion, where all ideas and questions are valid. Being a course examining a range of international political issues, serious and often conflict-prone issues will be discussed. It is important that all people in the class—instructors and students—treat everyone’s viewpoint with respect. This doesn’t mean that viewpoints won’t be critically assessed, but it does mean that no one should feel afraid to voice their opinion in the class. However, no personal attacks or *ad hominem* arguments (i.e. “you’re wrong because you have red hair”) will be tolerated. Due to the size of the course, however, this may be difficult, and I will attempt to ensure ample opportunities for students to share their perspectives and critiques within small group settings in addition to the overall lecture.

Extensions and Alternate Dates:

In general, we will not allow extensions on assignments or alternate exam dates. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time or be present for an exam, please discuss this with your TA as soon as you can.

Late Policy:

A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late. After one week, it will no longer be accepted.

Academic Standards:

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>). Turning in the work of another and calling it your own violates the academic standards of this class. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated by the instructor, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. More information and the complete policy can be found at <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>.

Disability Resources and Services:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412-648-7890, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users), drsrecp@pitt.edu, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodation for this course. For more information, please see <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

General Rules:

- Please be on time for class
- Please keep your cell phone turned off during class
- No food will be permitted in lecture, Drinks are perfectly OK (I will always have my cup of tea/coffee)

Important Dates:

Thursday, September 7 – 1st Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, September 12 – Response Essay #1 Prompt Distributed

Thursday, September 21 – 2nd Country Snapshot Due

Thursday, September 28 – Response Essay #1 Due

Thursday, October 5 – 3rd Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, October 17 – Midterm Examination

Tuesday, October 24 – Response Essay #2 Prompt Distributed

Thursday, October 26 – 4th Country Snapshot Due

Thursday, November 9 – Response Essay #2 Due

Thursday, November 16 – 5th Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, November 21 & Thursday, November 23 – **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Thursday, November 30 – **Position Papers, Draft Proposals Due**

Tuesday, December 5 & Thursday, December 7 – Model EU Simulation

Course Schedule:

Following is the reading and assignment schedule for this course. Note that reading assignments list what must be read by that class meeting. Please complete all readings for each date **prior to coming to class**.

Part I: What is the European Union?

Week #1 – Introduction to Course & What is the European Union?

Tuesday, August 29: Introduction/Course Overview

Thursday, August 31:

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 1 – “What is the European Union?”
2. Garton Ash, Timothy. 2020. “Europe (including Britain) can still be a superpower.” *The Guardian*, Published on March 2, 2020.

Week #2 – Theoretical Perspectives on Integration, Part I

Tuesday, September 5:

Readings:

1. Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2019. *European Union Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 6th edition. Chapter 4 – “Neo-functionalism”.

Thursday, September 7:

***** 1st Country Snapshot Due *****

Readings:

I. Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2019. *European Union Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 6th edition. Chapter 5 – “Intergovernmentalism”.

Week #3 – Theoretical Perspectives on Integration, Part 2

Tuesday, September 12:

***** Essay #1 Prompt Distributed *****

Readings:

I. Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2019. *European Union Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 6th edition. Chapter 6 – “Theorizing the European Union after Integration Theory”.

Thursday, September 14:

***** IN-CLASS ACTIVITY *****

Week #4 – A Brief History of the EU

***** 2nd Country Snapshot Due *****

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 2 – “Origins”.
2. Olsen, Chapter 3 – “Stagnation and Renewal”.
3. Olsen, Chapter 4 – “Unity and Upheaval”.

Week #5 – Understanding Governance in the EU, Part I

Tuesday, September 26:

Readings:

I. Olsen, Chapter 5 – “The European Commission”.

Thursday, September 28:

***** Response Essay #1 Due *****

Readings:

I. Olsen, Chapter 6 – "The Council of Ministers and the European Council".

Week #6 – Understanding Governance in the EU, Part 2

Tuesday, October 3:

Readings:

I. Olsen, Chapter 7 – "The European Parliament".

Thursday, October 5:

***** 3rd Country Snapshot Due *****

***** IN-CLASS SIMULATION ACTIVITY *****

Week #7 – Understanding Governance in the EU, Part 3

Tuesday, October 10:

Readings:

I. Olsen, Chapter 8 – "The Court of Justice of the European Union".

Thursday, October 12:

Readings:

I. Olsen, Chapter 9 – "The European Central Bank and other EU bodies and Agencies".

Week #8

Tuesday, October 17:

***** Midterm Examination *****

Thursday, October 19:

FILM - After Brexit: The Battle for Europe

Part II: Political Issues and the European Union

Week #9 – Euroscepticism and its Implications

Tuesday, October 24:

***** Essay #2 Prompt Distributed, Model EU Simulation Overview *****

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 10 – “Representing Public Opinion in the EU”.

Thursday, October 26:

***** 4th Country Snapshot Due *****

Readings:

1. Sniderman, Paul, Michael Bang Petersen, Rune Slothuus, and Rune Stubager. 2014. *Paradoxes of Liberal Democracy: Islam, Western Europe, and the Danish Cartoon Crisis*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Ch. 1 & 5.

Week #10 – Brexit and Its Implications

Tuesday, October 31:

Readings:

1. Clarke, Harold, Matthew Goodwin, and Paul Whiteley. 2017. *Brexit: Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 1, 2, & 7.

Thursday, November 2:

***** IN-CLASS SIMULATION ACTIVITY *****

Week #11 – The Eurozone Crisis

Tuesday, November 7:

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 11 – “Public Policy and the Budget of the EU”. **Read only 192-96.**
2. Olsen, Chapter 12 – “The Single Market, Monetary Union, and Regional Development Policy.”

Thursday, November 9:

***** Response Essay #2 Due *****

Readings:

1. Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2019. *European Union Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 6th edition. Chapter 26 – “The Euro Crisis and European Integration”. **Read only 389-396; 400-405.**

Week #12 – The EU and the World

Tuesday, November 14:

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 15 – “Security and Global Power”
2. Ringhof, Julian and José Ignacio Torreblanca. 2022. *The Geopolitics of Technology: How the EU can become a Global Player*. Published by European Council on Foreign Relations, May 17, 2022. **Read 1-8; skim 10-23.**

Thursday, November 16:

***** 5th Country Snapshot Due *****

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 16 – “The EU and the World”. **Read 270-274.**
2. Krastev, Ivan and Mark Leonard. 2023. *Fragile unity: Why Europeans are coming together on Ukraine (and what might drive them apart)*. Published by European Council on Foreign Relations, March 16, 2023. **Read 1-15.**

Week #13

***** THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS *****

Week #14 – Environmental Policies and the EU

Tuesday, November 28:

Readings:

1. Olsen, Chapter 13 – “Agricultural and Environmental Policy”. **Read 223-232.**

Thursday, November 30:

***** Position Papers and Draft Proposals Due to instructor by midnight *****

Readings:

I. Vogel, David. 1997. *Trading Up: Consumer and Environmental Regulation in a Global Economy*. Cambridge, UK: Harvard University Press, Ch. 1 & 3. **Read I-II & 56-77.**

Week #15

Tuesday, December 5 & Thursday, December 7: **Model EU Simulation**