

Political Science 1384
Topics in Comparative Politics – EU Simulations
FALL 2023
Tuesdays, 6:00PM – 8:30PM
Room #233 Lawrence Hall

Instructor: Dr. Anthony Ocepek

Office: 4614 Wesley Posvar Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 – 1:00

Or by appointment: ano38@pitt.edu

Course Description:

The European Union (EU), one of the most integrated, economically and politically, regions globally, is currently faced with a myriad of challenges ranging from collective security to socio-economic concerns. Through a series of hands-on interactive simulations throughout the semester, this course helps you to learn in greater detail about the EU as an institution and explore some of these key challenges. First, to ensure students have a solid understanding of the EU, the course briefly outlines the theories used within political science to explain the driving forces behind EU integration and then overviews the key institutional bodies within the EU that help to set its policy agendas. The course then explores three of these policy areas individually, exploring the evolution of each within the context of the EU, and then culminating in a hands-on simulation where you help determine the EU's direction for each of the examined policy agendas.

The objective of this course is to help you to develop a critical understanding of the nature of the EU's institutional bodies and some of the key questions that are currently impacting the policy agendas of the EU. You will also, through the simulations during the semester, develop your own research, presentation, and debate skills. Because of the amount of material to be covered, this will be primarily a lecture course, though with frequent classroom discussions, time set aside to help you prepare for this course's simulations, as well as the simulations themselves.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Identify and define key concepts of the EU and its institutional bodies.
2. Be able to utilize these concepts to understand the role of the EU in setting its policy agendas.
3. Develop skills in researching specific topics and how to convey this research through interactive simulations.

Reading Materials:

Required Textbooks:

This course uses one primary text:

Wallace, Helen, Mark A. Pollack, Christilla Roederer-Rynning, and Alasdair R. Young. 2020. *Policy-Making in the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 8th edition. I refer to this book in the syllabus as “**WPRY**” If you are purchasing the text online or other third-party, please make sure you purchase the **8th edition**.

As we will not be utilizing the entire texts in the course, electronic copies of the chapters included in the syllabus are made available on Canvas. It is still encouraged that you purchase the text for your own future reference on topics that are not discussed within the course.

For many weeks, the course has other required readings that complement the textbook readings. Please see the course syllabus to learn which readings you are required for each respective week. Required supplemental readings for the class are available on Canvas in the module 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	10%
Attendance/Participation	15%
EU Simulation #1 – Environmental Policy	25%
EU Simulation #2 – Technological & Digital Policy	25%
EU Simulation #3 – Foreign, Security & Defense Policy	25%

Country Snapshots

During this course, you will choose one EU member country to follow. Five 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 page in length.

Attendance/Participation:

Attendance is required for each lecture. If you notify me **in advance**, your absence may be excused. Excused absences include illness, a family emergency, or university-sponsored travel (with a signed note from the appropriate university authority). Each unexcused absence **after the first two unexcused absences** will subtract 1% from your total Attendance/Participation grade (15%).

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.

***Note that attendance for the simulations is mandatory. If you know that you will not be able to attend the scheduled date of a simulation, please contact the professor as soon as possible.**

EU Simulations:

In lieu of exams and traditional essays, this course consists of three interactive simulations on key policy agendas of the EU: Environmental Policy, Technological & Digital Policy, and Foreign, Security & Defense Policy. Working individually, you will prepare a position paper and draft proposals on the topic under consideration for the EU member state you will choose to follow for the semester. On the scheduled dates for the simulations, we will then meet and hold our simulation using the Model EU format where you will represent your country's government. 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 the day of the simulation. The final grading component for the simulations consists of your active participation in the simulations. 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:

Tuesday, September 5 – 1st Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, September 19 – 2nd Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, October 3 – 3rd Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, October 10 – EU Simulation #1: Environmental Policy

Tuesday, October 17 – 4th Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, October 31 – EU Simulation #2: Technological & Digital Policy

Tuesday, November 7 – 5th Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, November 21 – **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Tuesday, November 28 – 6th Country Snapshot Due

Tuesday, December 5 – EU Simulation #3: Foreign, Security & Defense Policy

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

***** INTRODUCTION TO COURSE *****

Week #2 – Theoretical Perspectives on Integration

Tuesday, September 5:

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

Readings:

1. Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2019. *European Union Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 6th edition. Chapter 4 – “Neo-functionalism”.
2. Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2019. *European Union Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 6th edition. Chapter 5 – “Intergovernmentalism”.
3. 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”. **(Please read pages 86-99)**

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

Tuesday, September 12:

Readings:

1. Jonathan Olsen. 2021. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. New York: Routledge, 7th edition. Chapter 5 – “The European Commission”.
2. Jonathan Olsen. 2021. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. New York: Routledge, 7th edition. Chapter 6 – “The Council of Ministers and the European Council”.

Week #4 – Understanding Governance in the EU, Part 2

Tuesday, September 19:

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

Readings:

1. Jonathan Olsen. 2021. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. New York: Routledge, 7th edition. Chapter 7 – “The European Parliament”.
2. Jonathan Olsen. 2021. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. New York: Routledge, 7th edition. Chapter 8 – “The Court of Justice of the European Union”.
3. Jonathan Olsen. 2021. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. New York: Routledge, 7th edition. Chapter 9 – “The European Central Bank and other EU bodies and Agencies”. **(Please skim this chapter)**

Part 2: EU Environmental Policy

Week #5 – Environmental Policy, Part 1

Tuesday, September 26:

Readings:

1. Andrew Jordan & Viviane Gravey. 2021. *Environmental Policy in the EU: Actors, Institutions and Processes*. London: Routledge, 4th edition. Chapter 2, Christoph Knill and Duncan Liefferink – “The establishment of EU Environmental Policy.”
2. WPRY, Chapter 13 – “Environmental Policy: Contending Dynamics of Policy Change”. **(Please read pages 303-320)**

Week #6 – Environmental Policy, Part 2

Tuesday, October 3:

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

Readings:

1. Andrew Jordan & Viviane Gravey. 2021. *Environmental Policy in the EU: Actors, Institutions and Processes*. London: Routledge, 4th edition. Chapter 16, Reinhard Steurer – “Is the EU still committed to developing more sustainably?” **(Please read pages 284-295)**

2. WPRY, Chapter 14 – “Energy Policy: Sharp Challenges and Rising Ambitions”. (**Please read pages 331-342**)
3. Alex Clark, Susi Dennison, & Mats Engström. 2021. *Climate of cooperation How the EU can help deliver a green grand bargain*. Published by European Council on Foreign Relations, October 27, 2021. (**Please read pages 18-30**)

Week #7 – EU Simulation #1: Environmental Policy

Tuesday, October 10:

***** EU Simulation #1: Environmental Policy *****

Part 3: EU Technological & Digital Policy

Week #8 – Technological & Digital Policy, Part I

Tuesday, October 17:

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

Readings:

1. WPRY, Chapter 12 – “Digital Policy-making in the European Union: Building the New Economy of an Information Society”.
2. European Parliament. 2023. “Artificial Intelligence Act”.

Week #9 – Technological & Digital Policy, Part 2

Tuesday, October 24:

Readings:

1. Łukasz Dawid Dąbrowski & Magdalena Suska. 2022. *The European Union Digital Single Market: Europe's Digital Transformation*. London: Routledge. Chapter 6, Michał Schwabe – “Impact of digital transformation on the European Union's labour market”.
2. Julian Ringhof & 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. (**Please read pages 1-23, skim 27-32**)

Week #10 – EU Simulation #2: Technological & Digital Policy

Tuesday, October 31:

***** EU Simulation #2: Technological & Digital Policy *****

Part 4: EU Foreign, Security & Defense Policy

Week #11 – Foreign, Security & Defense Policy, Part 1

Tuesday, November 7:

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

Readings:

1. WPRY, Chapter 17 – “Foreign, Security, and Defence Policy: Civilian Power, Europe, and American Leadership”.
2. Clara Sophie Cramer & Ulrike Franke. 2021. *Ambiguous Alliance: Neutrality, Opt-Outs, and European Defence*. Published by *European Council on Foreign Relations*, June 28, 2021.

Week #12 – Foreign, Security & Defense Policy, Part 2

Tuesday, November 14:

Readings:

1. Roberta Haar, Thomas Christiansen, Sabina Lange, & Sophie Vanhoonacker. 2021. *The Making of European Security Policy Between Institutional Dynamics and Global Challenges*. London: Routledge. Chapter 6, Hanna Ojanen – “The EU’s engagement with international organisations: NATO’s impact on the making of EU security policy”.
2. NATO. 2023. “Relations with the European Union.”
3. NATO. 2023. “Joint Declaration on EU”.

Week #13

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

Week #14 – Foreign, Security & Defense Policy, Part 3

Tuesday, November 28:

***** 6th Country Snapshot Due *****

Readings:

1. WPRY, Chapter 18 – International Development: A Distinct and Challenged Policy Domain”.
2. European Commission. 2021. “The Global Gateway”. (**Please read pages 1-8**)

Week #15

Tuesday, December 5:

***** EU Simulation #3: Foreign, Security & Defense Policy *****