

POLS 4210: European Union Politics

Fall 2021

Instructor

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Office Hours:

M 1:30-2:30pm

R 1:30-2.30pm

online via Zoom

Course Description

The European Union is a unique supranational institution binding together 27 member states in a political and economic union. In this class we will make use of the toolkit of the social sciences to shed light on the development of this union. Specifically, the class will address the institutions of the European Union, its policy-making process, as well as political conflict in and about the European Union. In the process we will explore and discuss questions like: does the European Union have a common foreign policy and does it constitute a “normative power?” What is the Common Agricultural Policy and are the resources dedicated to it well invested? How can citizens impact decision-making in the EU and is there a “democratic deficit” in the union? We will engage these questions through, among other things, forum discussions and current event memos.

Learning Goals

This class will encourage you to develop and demonstrate competency in the following areas and skills:

- Gaining an overview of the European Union including its politics, institutions, and policy-making process
- Employing the toolkit of the social sciences to think critically about European Union Politics
- Drawing on social scientific concepts and theories to analyze current events

- Improve writing short, analytic pieces through revision and feedback provided by the Writing Fellows Program

Course Structure

Each week we will cover one topic relating to the European Union. A “to-do list” of activities and assignments for each week will be made available on Canvas via the Modules tab. Most week that to-do list will consists of several tasks that should be completed in the following order:

1. Watch videos relating to the week’s topic on Youtube.
2. Watch the video lectures for the week on Canvas.
3. Complete the readings assigned for the week.
4. Post replies to the forum on Canvas in response to the discussion questions for the week.
5. In some weeks other assignments, either in addition or replacing the forum posts on discussion questions.
6. In some weeks larger assignments, like the midterm, will be due.

In some weeks the recommended order of tasks might deviate from the list above and these deviations will be highlighted in the relevant to-do lists for those weeks.

Course Requirements

Readings

The readings for this class combine a textbook with additional material from scientific books and journal articles. Please purchase the textbook listed below. All other readings will be made available online.

- “Zimmermann, Hubert and Andreas Dürr, eds. 2021. *Key Controversies in European Integration*. 3rd ed. London: Red Globe Press.” Please make sure to purchase the correct (3rd) edition of the book.

As noted in the section on “Course Structure” above, please complete all assigned reading *before* posting your contribution to the week’s discussion questions.

Assignments and Grading

There are four major course requirements, which are described in more detail below and account for the 1000 points that can be earned towards your grade in this course. Points earned through the assignments translate into grades in the following way:

Points to Grade Table

Points	Grades
921-1000	A
891-920	A-
861-890	B+
821-860	B
791-820	B-
761-790	C+
721-760	C
691-720	C-
661-690	D+
600-660	D
Below 600	F

Overview of Assignments

Assignment	Learning Objectives	Grade Weight	Due Date
2 Current Event Memos	Connecting Concepts to Current Events, Improving Writing Skills	150 points each including 25 each for Writing Fellow Conferences	September 24 & November 19 by 5pm
Discussion Contributions & other Assignments	Formulating Arguments	usually 25 points per week	weeks 3-7; 9-12; 15
Midterm	Demonstrating Knowledge of Course Material, Applying Theories	200 points	October 20 (10am)- October 22 (10am)
Take-home Exam	Research, Argumentation, Analysis, Citing Correctly	225 points	December 15 by 5pm

Over the course of the semester each student will write two 1-2 page “current events” memos. These memos should identify a current event of your choice related to European Union affairs covered in a newspaper article and explain how the concepts and/or theories we have covered help us to analyze that event. These memos are due on **09/24 by 5pm and 11/19 by 5pm**. For each of these memos you should prepare a draft two weeks ahead of the due date and schedule a meeting with a Writing Fellow to revise that draft.

Details about the “Current Events Memo” assignment and how to schedule a meeting with the Writing Fellows Program are available on Canvas.

In weeks 3-7, 9-12, and 14-15 I will post either discussion questions to be answered (usually two each week) or a short assignment to be completed or a combination of the two. Answers to all discussion questions for the week and/or the completed assignment must be posted by the **Friday of the week by 5pm**. Answers to the discussion questions in the Canvas forum for our class should consist of 1-2 sentences clearly laying out a position with respect to the discussion question followed by a well-reasoned argument for how you have arrived at your position (1 paragraph of about 5-10 sentences). While it is not required, you are encouraged to react to previous discussion contributions in the thread in your answer. Note that debating politics can be a divisive topic, but differences in opinion and background provide an opportunity for intellectual growth. We all stand to benefit from being aware of and welcoming these differences. All students will be referred to by the name and pronouns with which they are most comfortable. Disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. Details on the assignment for each week will be available on the “to-do list” provided for each week on Canvas on the Modules tab.

In this course you will also complete a 1-hour midterm exam to be taken at home via Canvas at a time of your choice between **10am on 10/20 and 10am on 10/22** based on the material covered up to that point. The final assignment is a take-home exam due on **December 15 by 5pm**.

All written assignments should be double-spaced, using font size 12 and 1-inch margins and be submitted via Canvas in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Late assignments will be docked by one letter grade for each 24 hours or portion thereof after the due date they are turned in. If you feel that you will not be able to submit an assignment on time due to illness or emergency please let me know as early as possible.

Other Course Information

Email policy

Feel free to email me with questions or to set up an appointment. Longer discussions and all conversations about grades must take place in person. I will guarantee a response to emails within 48 hours during the week. However, do not wait until the last minute. While I typically check emails several times a day, there is no guarantee that I will receive, read and be able to respond to last minute requests or questions.

Note to students with disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, 435-797-2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Academic integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by USU's Student Code. All the work you submit in this course must originate with you in form and content with all contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Student Code and the rules for properly acknowledging the work and ideas of others. You can find information on how to cite sources and avoid plagiarism here: <https://usu.instructure.com/courses/152916>. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you copy from others or collaborate in any way. Any violation of the rules for academic integrity will be punished in accordance with USU's policies.

Writing Fellows Program

This course utilizes the support of the Writing Fellows Program. Writing Fellows are trained peer tutors who act as liaisons between professors and students to aid in course writing development. They do not grade or “fix” your writing; instead, they provide support throughout the writing process. Students in this course are required to submit designated writing assignments to a Writing Fellow, who provides written feedback and then meets with you for a one-on-one conference. Students can then make revisions before submitting the final draft to the professor for a grade. This cycle – drafting, feedback, and revision – is a hallmark of strong writing and learning. For this reason, working with your Writing Fellow, by submitting a draft and conferencing by the deadlines stated in the syllabus schedule, is a required element of this course (please see the course grading policy). On-time draft submissions and conference attendance is critically important; late draft submission acceptance and conference rescheduling is unlikely and only at the discretion of your Writing Fellow.

Course Schedule

- Week 1 (08/30-09/03): Introduction to the Class
 - No required reading
- Week 2 (09/07-09/10): Europe: Origins & Development
 - Labor Day (09/06)
 - Dinan (2015)
 - **Send a draft of Current Events Memo 1 to a Writing Fellow and make an appointment with them by 09/10**
- Week 3 (09/13-09/17): European Institutions
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapter 4
- Week 4 (09/20-09/24): Citizens & the EU
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapters 3 & 6
 - **Current Events Memo 1 due on 09/24 by 5pm**
- Week 5 (09/27-10/01): Civil Society & the EU
 - Ayoub (2016), chapter 3
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapters 2 & 5
- Week 6 (10/04-10/08): Policy-Making in the European Union
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapter 7
- Week 7 (10/11-10/14): Economic Policies
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapters 8 & 11
- Week 8 (10/18-10/22): Midterm
 - No required reading
 - **Midterm will be available for 48 hours from 10am on 10/20 to 10am on 10/22; please complete it during that period.**
- Week 9 (10/25-10/29): Internal Policies
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapter 9
- Week 10 (11/01-11/05): External Policies I
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapters 10 & 14
 - **Send a draft of Current Events Memo 2 to a Writing Fellow and make an appointment with them by 11/05**
- Week 11 (11/08-11/12): External Policies II & Introduction to Library Resources
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapters 12 & 15

- Week 12 (11/15-11/19): Contemporary Issues I: Brexit
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapter 13
 - **Current Events Memo 2 due on 11/19 by 5pm**
- Week 13 (11/22-11/23): Contemporary Issues II: Politicization of the EU
 - No required reading
 - Thanksgiving Break (11/24-11/26)
- Week 14 (11/29-12/03): Contemporary Issues III: Populism
 - Kriesi (2014)
- Week 15 (12/06-12/10): The European Union: A (Preliminary) Conclusion
 - Zimmermann and Dürr (2021), chapter 1
- **Take-Home Exam due: December 15 by 5pm**

Course Readings

- Ayoub, Phillip. 2016. *When States Come Out: Europe's Sexual Minorities and the Politics of Visibility*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dinan, Desmond. 2015. "How did we get here?" In *The European Union: How does it work?*, ed. Daniel Kenealy, John Peterson, and Richard Corbett. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press pp. 24–44.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter. 2014. "The Populist Challenge." *West European Politics* 37 (2): 361–378.
- Zimmermann, Hubert, and Andreas Dürr, eds. 2021. *Key Controversies in European Integration*. 3rd ed. London: Red Globe Press.