<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>THE EUROPEAN UNION: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Number(s)</td>
<td>POLS 34586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
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<td>Teachers(s)</td>
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<td>Points of Contact</td>
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<td>Office hours by appointment</td>
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**Course Overview**

This class introduces students to the history, government, and politics of the European Union. We will seek to understand how and why EU politics differ from those of other intergovernmental institutions, and establish the basic components of the “Brussels system”. It is hoped that a field trip to Brussels (dates tbc) will complete our survey. There are no prerequisites for this course except your curiosity and desire to develop your critical thinking skills.

The course is divided into three parts. We first examine the history and development of EU politics as well as the ideological currents that shape it. The second part identifies the main institutional players on the stage of EU politics and maps their characteristics. Finally, the course concludes by focusing on a selection of the European Union’s main contemporary policies and challenges.

**Learning Objectives**

As an introductory course on EU politics the focus of this class is on three essential targets:

- to introduce students to the EU’s development, main institutions, and policies, thus
- providing both thorough foundation knowledge and awareness of EU current affairs
- to deepen students’ understanding of comparative politics by linking theory with an in-depth area study

The goal is to help students think and talk about EU politics in an informed, critical manner.

**Teaching Method**

This course consists of lecture-discussion classes. Lectures will introduce new topics, which students will then discuss. It is therefore essential that readings be completed before class. Discussion in class, based on readings, will form the core element in understanding and evaluating theory and practice. Debates will include critical analysis of our source materials (online journal articles and our textbooks) as well as student presentations on the theories / case studies examined that week.

Themes may vary according to interest and current news.
More than one week may be spent on a theme. The course will involve guest speakers, visits to relevant sites, and watching in-class documentaries.

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<th>Assessment Structure</th>
<th>Assessment is based on four differently weighted elements:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• contribution in class (10%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• one oral presentation (25%)</td>
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<td>• one research paper (25%)</td>
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<td>• a mid-term exam (20%)</td>
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<td>• a final exam (20%).</td>
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**Contribution in the lecture-seminars** should reflect sustained preparation of class topics. Unexcused / unnecessary absences will result in an “F” grade in this element.

**Presentations** should be well researched and reflect a good grasp of the topic. They should be 10-15 minutes long. Presentations will be based on both the textbook and journal articles from our syllabus.

**Research paper**: one word-processed paper of 3000 words is due on [date TBC]. Essay topics will be posted on our course site. Own suggestions are welcome, but subject to approval. The essay will be assessed in view of

- a) structure, language and presentation (25%)
- b) methodology and referencing (25%)
- c) content (50%)

and will receive an overall composite mark. Late essays will not be accepted unless there is a **plausible and verifiable** reason (i.e. medical certificate for illness, stolen or crashed laptop computer etc.).

**In-class exams**: the mid-term exam is scheduled for [date TBC]. This will be a quiz-type exam of two hours, requiring short answers to knowledge-based prompts. The final exam will again last two hours and will present ten questions out of which three should be answered in short essays of two to three pages each.

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<th>Required Resources</th>
<th>Books:</th>
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Macmillan, 2011. Priced £27.16 on Amazon


Plus additional journal articles from our Sakai course website / e-reserves as listed below.

**News articles:**

Furthermore, students of Brussels need to be aware of the daily events shaping EU politics. The best way to do this is by reading one of the dedicated news sites, such as the EU's Official Online Newsroom, the EU Observer, or Euronews. Another way is to consult one of the English-language editions of major European newspapers (e.g. Le Monde Diplomatique, Der Spiegel, Corriere della Sera, The Guardian, or El País). A wider selection of relevant websites can be found on the last page.

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<th>Classroom Policies and Class fees</th>
<th>Standard London Undergraduate Program attendance policies apply. Students will incur the cost of public transport within London (i.e. charges on your Oyster Card) and may be charged an amount to be confirmed before the start of the Spring semester towards the costs of the Brussels fieldtrip.</th>
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<td>Honour Code</td>
<td>All students must familiarize themselves with the Honour Code on the University’s website and pledge to observe its tenets in all written and oral work, including oral presentations, quizzes and exams, and drafts and final versions of essays. The Code can be found at <a href="http://www.nd.edu/~hnrcode/docs/handbook.htm">http://www.nd.edu/~hnrcode/docs/handbook.htm</a>.</td>
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**Part 1: History - The Evolution of the European Project**

**Theme 1 - Searching for Lasting Peace in Post-War Europe: the 1957 Rome Treaty**

**Readings:**

Nugent (2010) Chapter 1, The Post-War Transformation of Western Europe


Hix and Hoyland (2011), Chapter 1 Explaining the EU Political System
Optional:


Churchill, Winston (1946) "The Tragedy of Europe". Speech delivered at the University of Zurich, 19 September 1946. See Sakai or http://www.churchill-society-london.org.uk/astonish.html

Theme 2 – Deepening European Integration: the EU Treaties (1)

Readings:


Nugent (2010) Chapter 5, From Rome to Nice

Wallace and Pollack (2010) Chapter 2, section Theories of European Integration, pp. 17-25

Theme 3 – Deepening European Integration: the EU Treaties (2)

Readings:


Nugent (2010) Chapter 7, Treaties and the Integration Process

Optional:


Theme 4 – Widening European Integration: the Enlargement Process and its Problems

Readings:


Wallace and Pollack (2010) Chapter 17 *Enlargement: From Rules for Accession to a Policy towards Europe*

**Optional:**


**Part 2: Government - The Institutions of the EU**

**Theme 5 – Sharing Executive Power in Brussels (1): the European Commission**

Readings:

Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 2 *Executive Politics*

Nugent (2010), Chapter 8, *The Commission*


**Theme 6 – Sharing Executive Power in Brussels (2): the Council of Ministers and the European Council**

Readings:


**Theme 7 – An Increasingly Powerful Legislature: the European Parliament**

Readings:
Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 3, *Legislative Politics*


**Optional:**


**Theme 8 – EU Law and the European Court of Justice**

**Readings:**

Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 4, *Judicial Politics*


**Optional:**


**Part 3: Politics - EU Policies and Issues**


**Readings:**


**Optional:**


**Theme 10 – More than just about Bananas: Regulating the Single Market**

Readings:

Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 8, *Regulation of the Single Market*


**Theme 11 – A Common Currency with Problems: Economic and Monetary Union**

Readings:

Wallace and Pollack (2010) Chapter 7 *Economic and Monetary Union: An Experiment in New Modes of EU Policy-Making*

Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 10, *Economic and Monetary Union*


**Theme 12 – Speaking with One Voice? The EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy**

Readings:


Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 12, *Foreign Policies*

**Optional:**


**Theme 13 – Challenging State Sovereignty: Justice and Home Affairs**

**Readings:**

Wallace and Pollack (2010) Chapter 19 *Justice and Home Affairs: Communitarization with Hesitation*

Hix and Hoyland (2011) Chapter 11, *Interior Policies*


**Optional:**


**Theme 14 – Outlook: What Kind of EU? Democratic Deficit, Internal Crisis, Treaty Reform**

**Readings:**


**Optional:**