Course title: An Introduction to the European Union

Language of instruction: English
Professor: Javier Arregui
Professor’s contact and office hours: javier.arregui@upf.edu
Thursday from 15:00 to 16:00
Course contact hours: 45
Recommended credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits
Course prerequisites: None
Language requirements: English

Course focus and approach: The growing international economic and political integration is challenging nation states’ role and their traditional models of governance. The European Union - neither a state nor a federation – represents an institutional organization of a unique kind that groups together 27 sovereign states. How is European policy making defined? And who are the relevant actors of European decision-making?

Course description: The course is aimed at introducing the main institutions and the structure of the EU to US students. Module 1 of the course will examine the origin and the development of European integration process, the main theories behind the process of integration and the institutional structure of the EU. Module 2 is more policy-oriented and it will focus on some of the most relevant issues surrounding the contemporary debate on European integration: formulation of the EU budget, enlargement, neighborhood policy, the EU in the international scenario and the democratic deficit.

Learning objectives:

- to trace, critically analyze and explain the process of European integration both from a historical and a political science perspective
- to compare and contrast the US political system with the EU hybrid political system in order to highlight points of convergence and divergence
- to show a capacity for synthesis as regards the politics and the institutions of the process of European integration and of the EU itself
- to understand the key concepts used in traditional European integration studies
- to demonstrate an appropriate use of political vocabulary when referring to European Union integration process
- to develop critical skills useful in the understanding of the EU
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• to understand the day-by-day functioning of the most relevant European institutions
• to develop further university level research skills in essay presentation, library source searches and critical thought

Course workload: The format of the course will be based around weekly lectures. Each lecture will present a coherent set topic with prescribed readings. Lecture format will be integrated with slides, active use of Internet web pages, student presentations, work groups, special activity, seminars, round tables and field studies.

Teaching methodology: All classes will begin with a brief review of the key ideas of the session. It is assumed that students will come to class well-prepared and they are expected to actively participate in class discussions.

Students must complete the readings before the date for which they are listed in the course outline. Each student must offer a short presentation of the scheduled reading to fellow classmates. This summary (5-10 minutes) will sketch out the main arguments contained in the reading. These presentations will have previously been assigned by the course instructor.

Assessment criteria:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Field studies</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Class presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Class Participation (10%): Your involvement throughout the course will be closely monitored by the instructor and includes various aspects. You will be asked to present and introduce to your fellow classmates, at least, one reading from the reading list.

Mid-Term and Final Exams (25% + 35%): The mid-term and final exams are designed to establish and communicate to you the progress you are making towards meeting the course learning objectives. There will be a number of options where you will have to develop one essay question. The essays will be marked according to the amount and quality of information you master; the accuracy of the information you present; and the significance you ascribe to the facts and ideas you have integrated across your study in this course. The written mid-term examination will cover the first module of the
course whilst the final examination will cover all material presented and discussed in the course.

**Class (10%)**: As European integration is an ongoing process; you will be required to discuss contemporary developments in European integration in light of the theories and concepts studied in class. At the beginning of the course, you will be able to choose a topic for your presentation. A formal presentation (with Power Point included) will be due where you will openly debate the topic at stake (more instructions will be given along the course).

**Field studies (20%)**: we will make a simulation of the negotiation process within the European Council and also a visit to the EU headquarters in Barcelona. In both cases you will have to make a short essay (more instructions will be given along the course).

**Absence policy**

After the add/drop, all registrations are considered final and HESP Absence Policy begins to apply. For the academic year 2011-2012, such policy is as follows:

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student’s final grade as follows:

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<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization</td>
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<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE (“NO PRESENTAT”) for the course</td>
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The PEHE/HESP attendance policy **does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency...) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the HESP.
Classroom norms:
- No food or drink is permitted in class
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one-hour session
- Students are expected to act and behave correctly

Required readings: The required course textbooks listed below are available for purchase at the local bookstore. You must have constant access to these texts for reading, highlighting and marginal note-taking.


Periodical literature, articles, documents, digital images and other sundry materials also required for your class are available in PDF or Word format, are stored in the e-course file assigned to each class. You will be required to use these resources throughout your studies.

Recommended Readings (not compulsory):

BEN, R., 2000, Theories of European Integration, (Introduction) New York: St. Martin Press

Complementary references (thematic articles and reviews):

Churchill (pp.7-11); Schuman (pp.13-14); Preambles to Treaties of Rome (pp.15-17) and Monnet (pp. 19-26) all reprinted in Brent F. Nelsen and Alexander C-G Stubb, 1998. The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration. Second Edition, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
THOMAS, D., Europe’s Constitutional Crisis in Historical Perspective, Newsletter of the European Union Center, University of Pittsburg, Fall 2005

Online Reference & Research Tools:

Institutional Internet Links
- European Council (http://www.ue.eu.int/en/info/eurocouncil)
- The Council’s Secretariat General Internet website (www.ue.eu.int)
- The Commission’s own website (www.europa.eu.int/comm)
- The European Voice newspaper (www.european-voice.com)
- European Policy Centre (www.theepc.be)
- Commission’s webpage on the Convention (http://europa.eu.int/futurum/index_en.htm)
- The Parliament website (www.europarl.eu.it)
- The Economic and Social Committee’s website (www.europa.esc.eu.int)
- The Committee of Regions website (www.europa.cor.eu.int)

Other useful links
- Celebrating 50 years of Europe (http://europa.eu/50/index_en.htm)
- Eurobaromenter – public opinion polls in the EU (http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)
- Selection of analyses and reports (www.euobserver.com)
- Transitions online (formerly Central Europe Review) (www.tol.cz)
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- University of Leiden - EU History Site - Home Page - http://www.eu-history.leidenuniv.nl/index
- European Navigator from Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe
- http://www.ena.lu/mce.cfm
## Weekly schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Student Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Presentation of the syllabus, the course and the defining concepts</td>
<td>Personal and academic presentation General overview of the course, methodology and bibliography</td>
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### Module 1: THE EU AS A POLITICAL SYSTEM: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND INSTITUTIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>Europe: Facts and Figures</th>
<th>Review of the main socioeconomic variable for Europe and the EU The EU in a nutshell</th>
<th>• EUROPEAN COMMISSION, <em>EU integration seen through statistics: Key facts of 18 policy areas</em>, 2006;</th>
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</table>
| 3       | Europe: The Old Continent | Review of Churchill, Schuman and Monnet text Student presentation of Unwin's text | • Churchill (pp.7-11); Schuman (pp.13-14); Preambles to Treaties of Rome (pp.15-17) and Monnet (pp. 19-26)  
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Institutions of the EU (1): the European Commission&lt;br&gt;The EC as the agenda setter&lt;br&gt;The College of Commissioners&lt;br&gt;The role of the EC</td>
<td>Review of Egeberg article and student oral presentation&lt;br&gt;Lecture and discussion</td>
<td>• Egeberg, M. 2007, The European Commission, in Michelle Cini, 2007, European Union Politics, Oxford University Press&lt;br&gt;• The Commission’s own website <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm">www.europa.eu.int/comm</a></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The Institutions of the EU (2): The Council&lt;br&gt;The Institutional Triangle&lt;br&gt;The equilibrium between the EP, the EC and the European Council</td>
<td>Review of Lewis article and student oral presentation&lt;br&gt;Lecture and discussion</td>
<td>• Lewis, J., The Council of the European Union in Michelle Cini, 2007, European Union Politics, Oxford University Press&lt;br&gt;• The Council’s own website <a href="http://www.consilium.eu">www.consilium.eu</a></td>
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<td>The European Council</td>
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<td>The European Parliament**</td>
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<td>The voice of the Europeans</td>
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<td>The Elections for the EP</td>
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<td>The EP and the Europeans</td>
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<td><strong>The Institutions of the EU (4):</strong></td>
<td>Review of Hix and student oral presentation</td>
<td>• Hix and Holland, 2011, <em>The European Court of Justice</em>, Palgrave Publishers</td>
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<td>Judicial Politics</td>
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<td>Constitutionalization of the EU</td>
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<td>Explanation of EU Judicial Politics</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Interest Representaton in the EU and the</strong></td>
<td>Review of Hix and student oral presentation</td>
<td>• Hix and Holland, 2011, <em>Interest Representation</em>, Palgrave Publishers</td>
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<td>EU as a pluralistic system**</td>
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<td>EU interest groups and EU policy-making</td>
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<td>Explaining the power of interest</td>
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<td>representation in EU institutions</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Course review</strong></td>
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<td>• Prepare questions and doubts for</td>
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<td>DGs presentation tutorials**</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAM</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Economic and Monetary Union</td>
<td>Review of Hix and student oral presentation Lecture and discussion</td>
<td>• Hix and Holland, 2011, Interest Representation, Palgrave Publishers</td>
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<td>The democratic legitimacy of the EU</td>
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<td>The contestable notion of democracy</td>
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<td>The EU compared to other relevant democracies</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>The democratic deficit (2)</td>
<td>SPECIAL ACTIVITY 4: Video Lecture by Andrew Moravcsik: <em>Is there a democratic deficit in the world politics?</em> available at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNx-Q5xx4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNx-Q5xx4</a></td>
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<td>Andrew Moravcsik speaks at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs:</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Visit to the Delegation of European Parliament and European Commission in Barcelona (to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Field Study</td>
<td>• Prepare questions and doubts for the final exam</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>2st Collective Tutorial for the</td>
<td>Course Review</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Final Take-Home Exam</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>FINAL CONCLUSIONS</td>
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_Last revision: June 2013_