

The European Union
PSC 405J
Spring 2008
Monday, Wednesday 1pm - 2:15pm, WRI-C235

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Office Hours: MW 10am-11:30am and by appointment

Course Goal:

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the European Union: what it is, why it is important, and how it came about. The course will provide students with an overview of the history of European integration, the basic institutional structure of the EU, and its decision-making processes. Students will learn about and critically evaluate the most important theories of European integration. The course will also examine topics such as how EU member states design political institutions, elections in the EU, and the EU's democratic deficit. Lastly, the course will examine the effects of political institutions on various policy areas within the EU such as agriculture politics and foreign policy.

Required Texts:

Simon Hix. 2006. The Political System of the European Union. London: Palgrave
Remaining readings will be available through the library or on WebCT.

Grading:

Participation (10%): Many of the reading assignments are quite dense, and in order for students to fully grasp the material, attendance and participation in class is absolutely essential.

Two midterms (25% each): Exams will include several short answer questions and identifications. Ordinarily, no make ups or extensions will be given for missed assignments or exams. However, if extraordinary circumstances require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: (1) inform the instructor of the problem at some time prior to the exam itself and/or (2) provide documentation of the issue (e.g. doctor's note, police report) that necessitated the absence. All make-up exams will be scheduled immediately upon your return to class.

Research paper (40%):

Paragraph explaining topic (5%)

Outline including list of potential references (5%)

6-9 page paper (double-spaced, 12pt font, standard margins) (30%)

Students will choose a topic related to EU integration. This topic may be an issue discussed in class that the student would like to explore in more depth, it may be an EU-related issue recently

in the news, or it could be any other topic related to the EU. The student will examine this topic in light of the theories and readings presented in class. The paper topic is purposefully open-ended to allow students to study something of interest to them. All students are encouraged to discuss their proposed topics with me early in the semester. Students must submit a paragraph for my approval describing their proposed research by March 31st and a more complete outline by April 21st. I reserve the right to veto topics I feel are either too ambitious for a 6-9 page paper, not ambitious enough, or not sufficiently related to course material. I will provide more information about the paper during the semester. The paper will be due in class during the final lecture of the semester (May 7th). A paper will be considered late anytime after 2:15pm on May 7th. The grade will drop 1 letter grade every 24 hours it is late.

Other Required Syllabus Stuff:

Academic Misconduct: “Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.” An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” *See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005).*

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Disability Resource Center (DRC): The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

Missed Class(es): As a general rule, a student missing a class because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by January 28th, 2008 to be assured of this opportunity. **NOTE:** Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the

opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

Rebelmail: By policy, faculty and staff should only e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after admission to the university. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at (702) 895-0761, in the Student Union Room 231, or by e-mail: studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/> for information.

UNLV Writing Center:

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Course Outline (subject to change):

January 23. Introduction to course

January 28 & 30. History of EU integration

- Dinan, Desmond. 1999. *Ever closer union* Chapters 1, 5, 6 (p9-33, 103-156)
- Hix, Simon. 2005. *The Political System of the European Union*. Chapter 1 (p1-23)

February 4 & 6. Explaining Integration

- Marks, Gary, Liesbet Hooghe, and Kermit Blank. 1996. "European Integration from the 1980's: State-Centric vs. Multilevel Governance." *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 34(3): 341-377.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1993. "Preferences and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 31(4): 473-524.
- Garrett, Geoffrey and George Tsebelis. 2002. "The Institutional Foundations of Intergovernmentalism and Supranationalism in the European Union." *International Organization*. 55(2) 357-390.

February 11& 13. The Commission

- Hix, Simon. 2005. Chapter 2 (p 27-71).
- Pollack, Mark. 1997. "Delegation, Agency, and Agenda Setting in the European Community." *International Organization* 51(1): 99-134.
- *The Economist*. "Charlemagne: In Defence of National Interests." November 22, 2007.

February 20 & 25. The Council

- Hix, Simon. 2005. Chapter 3 (p 72-110)
- Mattila and Lane. 2001. "Why Unanimity in the Council? A Roll Call Analysis of Council Voting." *European Union Politics* 2(1):31-52.
- Rodden, Jonathan. 2002. "Strength in Numbers? Representation and Redistribution in the European Union." *European Union Politics* 3(2): 151-175.
- *The Economist*. "Back to the Constitution." December 19th, 2007

February 27 & March 3. The European Parliament

- Hix, Noury, Roland. 2005. "Power to the Parties: Cohesion and Competition in the European Parliament." *British Journal of Political Science* 35(2).
- Kreppel. 2000. "Rules, Ideology and Coalition Formation in the European Parliament: Past, Present and Future." *European Union Politics* 1(1).

March 5. Midterm 1

March 10 & 12. Legislative Procedures

- Jupille, Joe. 2004. *Procedural Politics: Issues, Influence, and Institutional Choice in the European Union*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-4

March 24 & 26. The Court

- Hix, Chapter 4.
- Alter, Karen. 1998. "Who Are the Masters of the Treaty? European Governments and the European Court of Justice" *International Organization* 52(1): 121-147.
- Garrett, Kelemen and Schulz. 1998. "The European Court of Justice, National Governments, and Legal Integration in the European Union." *International Organization* 52(1): 149-76.

March 31 & April 2. Designing EU Institutions. Intergovernmental Conferences.

Research paper topics due in class March 31th

- Moravcsik, Andrew and Kalypso Nicolaidis. 1999. "Explaining the Treaty of Amsterdam: Interests, Influence and Institutions." *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 37(1): 59-85.
- Slapin, Jonathan. 2006. "Who is Powerful? Examining Preferences and Testing Sources of Bargaining Strength at European Intergovernmental Conferences." *European Union Politics* 7(1): 51-76.
- *The Economist*. "The Constitutional Conundrum" March 15th 2007.

April 7 & 9. The Democratic Deficit, EU Public Opinion, and Elections

- Hix, Simon. 2005. Chapters 5-6 (p147-206)

- Brinegar, Adam and Seth Jolly. 2005. "Location, Location, Location: National Contextual Factors and Public Support for European Integration." *European Union Politics* 6(2).
- Hooghe, Liesbet. 2003. "Europe Divided?: Elites vs. Public Opinion on European Integration." *European Union Politics*. 4(3): 281-304.
- *The Economist*. "The Four Ds for Europe." March 15th 2007.

April 14. Midterm 2

April 16 & 21. The Single Market, CAP, and Budgetary Politics Research paper outline and reference list due in class April 21st

- Hix, Simon. 2005. Chapters 9-10 (pgs 271-342)
- Cappelen, Aadne, Fulvio Castellacci, Jan Fagerberg, and Bart Verspagen. 2003. "The Impact of EU Regional Support on Growth and Convergence in the European Union." *Journal of Common Market Studies* v41, n4: 621-644.
- *The Economist: The World in 2008*. "The euro zone: bigger and better?"

April 23 & 28. Implementing Europe

- Hix Chapter 8 pp 235-270
- Jensen, Christian. 2007. "Implementing Europe: A Question of Oversight." *European Union Politics* v8, n4
- *The Economist* "Charlemagne: A fishy tale" Dec 13th 2007

April 30 & May 5. EU Expansion and Foreign Policy

- Nugent, Neill. Ed. 2004. *European Union Enlargement*. New York, NY: Palgrave. Chapters 1-4
- Hix Chapter 12 pp 374-405
- *The Economist* (European Union Special) "The Ins and Outs." March 15th, 2007.

May 7. Final Day Wrap Up

Research Paper due in class on May 7th