

University of Georgia
Political Science 4640, UGA à Paris 2008
The Politics of the European Union

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Course description

Without question, the European Union is further along the road to international integration than is any other international institution. As a result, it is both one of the most complex and one of the most intriguing organizations for scholars of international and comparative politics to study. Why have independent nations to some degree ‘pooled’ their sovereignty in the EU, and how far has this pooling gone? How have different states been able to balance the EU’s policy goals against their own, possibly conflicting, national goals? Why is the EU more or less effective in different policy areas, from agricultural policy to monetary union to social policies? How does enlargement affect the ongoing integration process?

Today the European Union covers a far greater proportion of the European continent than its creators imagined likely at the start. From six founding members in 1957, it has grown in several spurts, most recently welcoming 12 new member states in Central and Eastern Europe in 2004 and 2007, with numerous more prospective members waiting in the wings. We will look at the impact the EU has had on political changes in those new member states, and we will consider the lessons from past enlargements for the future of EU membership.

While new countries clamor to join, however, some of those who have been members for three decades or more are displaying signs of uncertainty and unease about the current trends towards deeper and wider integration. States are weighing whether they can opt out of particular innovations, from homogenization of social policies to giving up a national currency, without hurting the EU’s overall strengths and benefits. All of these concerns are evident in the debates over the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, which replaces the EU Constitutional Treaty that was rejected in referenda by the citizens of France and the Netherlands in 2005.

This course is divided into three units, or one unit per week. In the first, we cover the basics of the history and institutions of European Union, as well as theories of European integration. In the second week, we look at the current state of the European Union and likely future developments, in the context of the Lisbon Treaty ratification debates. In the third, finally, we focus on the issue of European (Union) identity: What does it mean to be European, and who should be allowed to join the club?

Course goals

The goal of the course is three-fold: first, to provide a solid overview of the European Union, its history, institutions, and policy processes; second, to think more broadly about how our theories of comparative and international politics can explain what we see happening in Europe; and third, to get a sense of where the European Union is likely to be headed in the future.

Course policies & requirements

This course will run as a seminar, not a lecture course. This makes it particularly important for you to do the assigned reading before class, and to arrive prepared to contribute intelligently to the class discussion. Part of your grade is based on class participation, which will be judged in terms of the quality, not just the quantity, of your contributions. In addition, to further encourage you to do the reading attentively, there will be brief quizzes at the beginning of each of the first 5 classes.

During the second and third weeks, we end the week with a debate. During the second week, the debate will be on the Lisbon Treaty. During the third week, it will be on Turkish membership on the European Union. Each topic gives rise to 2 debates, and in each debate there are two sides, so you will be in groups of about 3 students working together (each person will take part in 1 debate in week 2 *and* 1 debate in week 3). We will have sign-ups for these debates during the first week of class.

The final component of your grade is a written argument based on your position in one of the debates you participated in. This paper is to be about 15 pages in length and will be due at the end of the summer (though you may of course submit it earlier). For the paper, you are encouraged to do some additional research to help strengthen your argument further.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation: 20%	Debates: 20% each
Quizzes: 20% (4% each)	Paper: 20%

Book & articles

You will need to buy one book for the course:

- McCormick, John. 2005. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction* (3rd ed.!) Palgrave Macmillan.
(Note: McCormick has another EU textbook, titled *The European Union: Politics and Policies*, which is both longer and more expensive. Make sure you get the right one!)

In addition to the book, you need to download and print a number of articles, which is probably best done while you are still in Athens. For several of the articles on the syllabus, I provide the URL from which you can download the article directly. The others you can access through the UGA library's electronic journals feature or Lexis/Nexis. Please let me know if you have any trouble getting any of the items on the syllabus **before** we get to Paris!!

Finally, it will be very helpful to you to start reading some of the material before the first day of classes. The more you can read ahead, the easier the reading load will be as classes are taking place, and the more time you'll have to explore Paris and its surroundings!

Calendar

I. Introduction

- May 19 ***Introduction***
- Chapters 1-2 in McCormick:
“What is the European Union?” & “The Idea of Europe”
- May 20 ***History***
- Chapter 3 in McCormick: “The Evolution of the EU”
- May 21 ***Institutions***
- Chapter 4 in McCormick: “The Institutions of the EU”
- May 22 ***Member states and the EU***
- Chapter 5 in McCormick: “The EU and the Member States”

II. The Future of the EU: Deepening Integration & the Constitution

- May 26 ***The public and the EU***
- Chapters 6 & 8 in McCormick:
“The EU and its Citizens” & “Improving the Quality of Life”
- May 27 ***Public opinion and the EU***
- Hooghe, Liesbet, and Gary Marks. 2005. “Calculation, Community and Cues: Public Opinion on European Integration.” *European Union Politics* 6(4): 419-443.

-> Note: we’ll do our own opinion-polling today (weather permitting)

- May 28 ***The Constitutional Treaty, the Lisbon Treaty and ratification issues***
- Nicolaïdis, Calypso. 2004. “We, the Peoples of Europe...” *Foreign Affairs* 83(6): 97-110.
 - Tsebelis, George. 2008. “Thinking about the Recent Past and the Future of the EU.” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 46(2):265-292.
- May 29 ***Debate:***
- 1) ***Should France ratify the Lisbon Treaty?***
 - 2) ***Should France hold a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty?***
- Taggart, Paul. 2006. “Questions of Europe — The Domestic Politics of the 2005 French and Dutch Referendums and their Challenge for the Study of

European Integration.” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 44 (special issue):7-25.

- Mulvey, Stephen. 2007. “A Close Look at the Reform Treaty.” BBC News online: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6928737.stm>
- BBC News online. 2007. “Viewpoints: The Lisbon Treaty.” <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7139265.stm>

III. The Future of the EU: Who is European?

June 4 *National and European identity*

- Bruter, Michael. 2004. “On What Citizens Mean by Feeling ‘European’: Perceptions of News, Symbols and Borderless-ness.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 30(1):21-39.
- Mayer, Franz C., and Jan Palmowski. 2004. “European Identities and the EU — The Ties that Bind the Peoples of Europe.” *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 42(3):573-598.

June 5 *Living up to one’s promises: Enlargement*

- Schimmelfennig, Frank. 2001. “The Community Trap: Liberal Norms, Rhetorical Action, and the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union.” *International Organization*, 55(1):47-80.

June 6 *Debate:*

- 1) *Should Turkey become a member of the EU by 2018?*
- 2) *Will Turkey become a member of the EU by 2018?*

- Neill Nugent, Turkey’s Membership Application: Implications for the EU, Jean Monnet Robert Schuman Paper Series, Vol: 5, No:26, August 2005. (www6.miami.edu/EUCenter/nugentfinal.pdf)
- McLaren, Lauren M. 2007. “Explaining Opposition to Turkish Membership of the EU.” *European Union Politics* 8(2):251-278.

Recommended

- Kramer, Heinz. 2006. “Turkey and the EU: The EU’s Perspective.” *Insight Turkey* 8(4):24-32. (www.swp-berlin.org/en/common/get_document.php?asset_id=3789)
- Lenski, Edgar. "Turkey and the EU: On the Road to Nowhere?" <http://www.rewi.hu-berlin.de/WHI/papers/whipapers1003/turkey.pdf>
- Hughes, Kirsty. "Turkey and the European Union: Just Another Enlargement?" <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/pdfs/TurkeyandtheEuropeanUnion-WorkingPaperFoE.pdf>