

University of Georgia
Political Science 4640, UGA à Paris 2009
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 what it means to be European, and whether the final ‘destination’ of the EU is a single European super-state.

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 European identity and the issues associated with the possible membership of Turkey. In the third, finally, we focus on the European Parliament elections that will be held immediately following the end of our class.

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 Turkey's membership. During the third week, it will be on the European Parliament elections. In the first debate there are two sides, so you will be in groups of about 3 students working together. In the second debate, each student represents one of the political groups of the European Parliament. Each student 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. 2008. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction* (4th 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, six of the articles are chapters from books (two articles each on May 26, May 27, and June 2). We will put these on electronic reserve, so you can download and print them from the library website. You'll receive an email once they're available.

We recommend 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

0. Before class starts

- May 16 Highly recommended: ***Eurovision Song Festival***
- *New York Times* article: “Imported Cheese / Eurovision Contest”
<http://themoment.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/06/imported-cheese-eurovision-contest>
 - *New York Times* op-ed: “The Politics of Eurovision” by Duncan Watts.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/opinion/22watts.html>
 - Official website: <http://www.eurovision.tv/>

Note: the Song Festival will be shown on France 3. If you do not have televisions in the residence, you should have little trouble finding a bar that is showing it. It will also be streamed live from the official website.

I. Introduction

- May 18 ***Introduction***
- Chapters 1-2 in McCormick:
“What is the European Union?” & “The Idea of Europe”
- May 19 ***History & the single market***
- Chapters 3&7 in McCormick:
“The Evolution of the EU” & “Economic Policy”
- May 20 ***Institutions & policies***
- Chapters 4&8 in McCormick:
“The European Institutions” & “Improving the Quality of Life”
- May 21 ***The EU and its citizens***
- Chapter 6 in McCormick: “The EU and its Citizens”
 - Hooghe, Liesbet, and Gary Marks. 2005. “Calculation, Community and Cues: Public Opinion on European Integration.” *European Union Politics* 6(4): 419-443.

II. Identity: What does it mean to be/feel European?

- May 25 ***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.

May 26 ***Collective European identities***

- Hudson, R. (2000): “One Europe or many? Reflections on becoming European.” *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers NS 25*: 409-426.
- * Giesen, B. (2003): “The collective identity of Europe: Constitutional practice or community of memory?” In W. Spohn and A. Triandafyllidou, *Europeanisation, National Identities and Migration: Changes in Boundary Constructions between Western and Eastern Europe*, 21-35. London: Routledge.
- * Hutchinson, J. (2003): “Enduring nations and the illusions of European integration” In W. Spohn and A. Triandafyllidou, *Europeanisation, National Identities and Migration: Changes in Boundary Constructions between Western and Eastern Europe*, 36-51. London: Routledge.

May 27 ***The geography of identity***

- Hagen, J. (2003): “Redrawing the imagined map of Europe: The rise and fall of the ‘center’.” *Political Geography 22*: 489-517.
- * Shore, C. (1999): “Ethnicity, xenophobia and the boundaries of Europe.” In T. Allen and J. Eade (eds.), *Divided Europeans: Understanding Ethnicities in Conflict*, 41-57. The Hague: Kluwer Law International.
- * Kumar, K. (2002): “The nation-state, the European Union, and transnational identities.” In N. AlSayyad and M. Castells (eds.), *Muslim Europe or Euro-Islam: Politics, Culture, and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization*, 53-68. Lanham: Lexington Books.

May 28 ***Debate: Should Turkey become a member of the EU?***

- Nicolaidis, K. (2004): “Turkey is European...for Europe’s sake.” In *Turkey and the European Union: From Association to Accession?* Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands.
users.ox.ac.uk/~ssfc0041/turkey_european.pdf
- Benhabib, Seyla, and Türküler Isiksel. 2006. Ancient Battles, New Prejudices, and Future Perspectives: Turkey and the EU. *Constellations 13*(2): 218-33.
- Le Gloannec, Anne-Marie. 2006. Is Turkey Euro-Compatible? French and German Debates About the 'Non-Criteria'. *Constellations 13*(2): 263-74.

Additional (recommended) reading

- 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)
- 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>

III. European Parliament Elections

June 1 ***The European Parliament & Elections***

- Corbett, Richard, Francis Jacobs, and Michael Shackleton. 2003. "The European Parliament at Fifty: A View from the Inside." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 41(2):353-373.
- Schmitt, Herman. 2005. "The European Parliament Elections of June 2004: Still Second-Order?" *West European Politics* 28(3):650-679.

June 2 ***EP elections and the French voter***

- * Hainsworth, Paul, Carolyn O'Brien, and Paul Mitchell. 2004. "Defending the Nation: The Politics of Euroscepticism on the French Right." pp. 37-58 in Harmsen, Robert, and Menno Spiering. *Euroscepticism: Party Politics, National Identity and European Integration*.
- * Milner, Susan. 2004. "For an Alternative Europe: Euroscepticism and the French Left since the Maastricht Treaty." pp. 59-82 in Harmsen, Robert, and Menno Spiering. *Euroscepticism: Party Politics, National Identity and European Integration*.

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

June 3 ***Election debate***

- Read the electoral platforms of the party grouping you will represent in the debate. Links to party websites are provided from my homepage.