EUROPEAN POLITICS
SYLLABUS - SPRING 2015

Course: 790:311:80
Instructor: Cristina Gherasimov
Class Meeting: Wed 6:00-8:40pm, RVCC
E-mail: cristina.gherasimov@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to enhance students’ understanding of contemporary politics of the European Union (EU). We will explore the Union’s development by addressing four main dimensions: its historical development, the main theories that explain its political evolution, the European institutional framework, and its main public policies.

We will start by asking ourselves how the European Union emerged. To do this we will be tracing the main EU historical evolutions, the founding treaties of the EU, its gradual integration and transformation processes, the institutional developments taking place both at the national and supranational levels, as well as its internal working policies.

First, we will explore how the idea of a united Europe came about and consequently analyze the existent theories of European integration. We will place Western European countries in their specific historical geopolitical settings to better understand the timing of EU emergence as a regional construct, and its specific structure. We will continue by scrutinizing the European political party systems and how they influence European politics nowadays.

Second, we will examine the EU institutions, how they came about, their specific functions, and how they interact among themselves and also with domestic governments. We will take a close look at the decision-making process and explore the tensions that arise between various institutions. Moreover, we will look at participation of ordinary citizens in the decision-making process and discuss whether the EU faces a democratic deficit or not.

Third, this course will provide a thorough overview of the economic and social developments taking place in Western Europe, such as the emergence of the three European communities, the common market, the European monetary union, the birth of the Euro, and how these phenomena affect the political developments taking place in the region. We will also examine more specific policies with significant impact for the overall development of the EU such as the expansion of the welfare state, and the development of the security and defense policy. Finally, we will look at issues of European identity formation, minority issues, immigration, and demographics.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

• Describe and analyze the evolution of the main political, social, and economic structures of the EU
• Analyze the main theories of European integration and enlargement
• Explain the European political party systems and compare to the U.S. system
• Debate the most salient issues affecting the EU’s contemporary development
• Analyze the main challenges that the EU faces in the 21st century

READING MATERIALS

A. Required books:
The two books assigned for the course are the following:


• Other assigned readings will also be available on the course’s Sakai website.

*All reading materials for this class will be posted on Sakai. You don’t need to buy any books.*

B. Recommended websites and newspapers:

You are expected throughout the course period to keep up on current events in Europe. At the beginning of each class we will discuss important events that happened during the previous week. In addition, the final paper may ask you to relate current events to broader themes discussed during the course.

Some useful sources include:

• The European news section of the BBC News website [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm)
• The European news section of the Independent newspaper: [http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/)
• The European news section of the Financial Times newspaper: [http://www.ft.com/world/europe](http://www.ft.com/world/europe)
• EU Observer [http://www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)
• European Voice [http://www.europeanvoice.com](http://www.europeanvoice.com)
• Official EU website http://www.europa.eu; http://www.eubusiness.com

C. Think tanks covering EU affairs:

These are some sources where you could find more information on current EU affairs:

• European Policy Centre: www.epc.eu
• Center for European Policy Studies: www.ceps.be
• Institute for Security Studies: www.iss.europa.eu
• Centre for European Reform: www.cer.org.uk
• European Council on Foreign Relations: www.ecfr.eu

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Every student is expected to take active part in class, attend regularly classes, and write a 10-15 page final paper on a topic covered in class and agreed previously with the lecturer. Students will be asked to present their main paper arguments during the final in-class session. Finally, at the beginning of each class students will have to share in small groups the weekly news on European politics based on the topic covered during that week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Map quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>January 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Intermediary assignments (summary, lit review, 1st draft)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Peer-to-peer review of papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>April 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Class presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>April 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>May 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements:

A. Reporting on Recent News in the Media

Each class will start with small discussions on the most recent news that happened the previous week. For this you need to come up to class with two pieces of news on the topic we shall be discussing in class that day. For example, if your class topic is EU Institutions, you
should monitor the international news from previous week and choose two to discuss in class with your colleagues. You can read one or more of the leading newspapers on EU news listed above. Keeping up-to-date with international events will enrich your experience in the course and allow you to bring to bear what you learn in class on real world issues.

B. Map Quiz

Considering our course is about European politics, it is a must to know the countries in the geopolitical spectrum to be analyzed throughout the semester. We will hold a quiz on February 4th.

C. Intermediary assignments

You will have to present a short summary of your chosen topic, a brief literature review, 1st draft of the paper, and an anonymous peer-to-peer review during the semester (dates indicated in the Course Overview Section) leading towards the finalization of the course with a final paper.

D. Class presentations

Each of you has to prepare and present a 10-minute presentation of your final paper. The topic can be anything from a public policy of the European Union (i.e. immigration and asylum policy, common agricultural policy, defense policy, competition policy, etc.) to a specific historical event in EU political development. Please choose your topic of interest until the 4th week of classes.

E. Final Paper

Your final paper should be 10-15 page long on a topic covered in class and agreed previously with the lecturer. You should present it to the class on our last day of classes, June 30th. Based on the feedback you’ll receive in class you’ll have to modify your final draft before submitting it on May 8th, 12pm, in Assignments.

Some additional specific elements you should consider with regards to participating in this course:

- You are responsible for all assigned readings and homework assignments prior to class and are expected to participate in class activities. The assigned readings are the basis for understanding each class session.

- Weekly news sharing is key to your successful completion of this course. You should expect to log in 2-3 times a week to a newspaper of your choice and keep up with the current news.
• If you have troubles deciding on a final paper topic, contact me via email or during office hours to decide on a topic together based on your specific research interests.

• Late work policy: It is crucial that you submit all assignments in a timely manner during the course. If you have extraordinary circumstances that you know about in advance, make sure please that you reach out to me and inform me about the situation so that we can arrange you turning in assignments late without affecting your overall performance in the course.

• Students are expected to arrive on time for class and remain for the full period. Coming in late and leaving early disrupts the class. Students who habitually leave the classroom, or who leave the classroom for long periods of time, will be penalized.

• You are expected NOT to miss classes – two unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade for the course.

• If you have difficulties logging onto Sakai, you should contact me immediately via email, or contact the Help Desk at 732-445-4357 or helpdesk@nbcs.rutgers.edu to solve the issue as quickly as possible.

Student Communication

I will be available to talk with you anytime during by email or upon appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email to schedule a meeting when necessary.

If you experience a legitimate emergency which will prevent you from completing required coursework on time, I expect you to communicate with me at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Please state the nature of the emergency, and when you expect to turn in the coursework.

University Policies

Academic Integrity
Students should acquaint themselves with the college policy on plagiarism. Full text of the Interim Academic Integrity Policy available at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml. Students are also advised to refer to the Office of Student Conduct website: http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/

Special Needs
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and contact the Office for Disability Services. Also, students are also strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor whenever there is a problem. If family or work obligations, or any other
extenuating circumstance threatens to interfere with the student's attendance or his/her completion of the course work, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible.

**PRELIMINARY COURSE OVERVIEW**

**Class 1, Jan 21 – Introduction and Course Overview**
- Syllabus Review
- Introductions
- Brief Lecture
- Discussion: Why Do We Study Europe?

**Class 2, Jan 28 – EU Origins and History Part 1**
- A united Europe
- The transformation of Europe

**Class 3, Feb 4 – EU Origins and History Part 2**
- Mapping Europe and European integration

Map Quiz - EUROPE

**Class 4, Feb 11 – EU Institutions & Decision-Making Part 1**
- EU Council
- European Commission

**Class 5, Feb 18 – EU Institutions & Decision-Making Part 2**
- European Parliament
- European Court of Justice

**Class 6, Feb 25 – The European political party systems Part 1**
- European Models of Democracy
- European Parties and Party Systems

**Class 7, Mar 4 – The European political party systems Part 2**
- Case Study of Recent Elections
- The Rise of the Radical Right

Come up with a topic for your final paper that covers any issue of your interest in EU Politics that you would like to go with in more depth (Bring to class 1 page summary that includes topic, research question, hypothesis)

**Class 8, Mar 11 – Theories of European and regional integration**
- European Integration
Theories of European Integration
Enlargement of the European Union

Spring Break

Class 9, Mar 25 – The European political economy
- The European Economic Community
- EMU and the Birth of the Euro
- The economic crisis and the PIGS

Submit a short literature review on the topic of your choice (2-3 pages) – Bring one copy to class and also submit only to Sakai, Assignments section

Class 10, Apr 1 – Welfare policy in Europe
- The Golden Age and the expansion of the welfare state
- Health and Welfare in Contemporary Europe
- Redistribution and Growth in Europe
- Globalization and the European Social Model

Class 11, Apr 8 – Security and Defense Policy / The EU and the United States
- Toward a Common CFSP/EDSP Policy
- The Changing International System
- The Transatlantic Relationship
- Explaining Differences in Foreign Policy

Upload to Sakai the first draft of your final paper (under Assignments)

Class 12, Apr 15 – Democracy and Participation in the European Union
- Participation in European Politics
- A Democratic Deficit in the EU?

Class 13, Apr 22 – European identity and citizenship
- European identity – a concept under construction?
- Immigration and Demographics

Submit online peer-to-peer review of first draft of your colleague (under Assignments)

Class 14, Apr 29 – Future of the EU / Final course evaluation
- Europe as a Global Power?
- Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE MAY 8 - 12:00PM
Please submit your final paper online (under ASSIGNMENTS in SAKAI)