

PLS 547 The Politics of the European Union

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:15
301 PACB

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Office Hours: 10-11 M-F

Purpose of Course

The European Union (EU) represents the most successful attempt of integrating several sovereign nation-states into a supranational entity. It is comprised of some 370 million citizens who, on the average, enjoy a standard of living second only to that of North Americans. The EU is not only one of the richest regions, but is also the world's largest trading bloc. Because of its size, wealth and the historical significance of many of its members, the Union has become economically and politically one of the most important actors in global politics, whose role and position will become more and more crucial, the more unified its members will be through the adoption of a common currency (the Euro) and other integrative policies, and the bigger the Union will become with the inclusion of new members to the south and east.

This course will acquaint students with the theoretical foundations of international integration processes, the historical evolution of the EU, the workings and significance of its major institutions, principal policies and issues that dominate the Union's affairs, its role in global politics and economics, its enlargement process, as well as characteristics of important individual member states. Because of the Union's significance for and Europe's historical links to the United States, EU-US relations will be also a prominent topic.

In sum, this course is designed to show students the importance of the EU and its individual members, and to help them to evaluate the prospects of a United States of Europe. It will also enhance students' understanding of **public affairs** in the European Union and its individual members and provide them a comparative perspective of **citizenship** in other countries and the evolving EU.

Readings

The following textbooks are required for the course:

John Van Oudenaren, *Uniting Europe, European Integration and the Post-Cold War World*, Boston & Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.

Brent F. Nelsen and Alexander C.G. Stubb, eds. *The European Union, Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*, 2nd ed., Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1998.

Stephen George, *Politics and Policy in the European Union*, 3rd ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Occasional articles from newspapers and journals may be required as additional readings.

Course Requirements

The grade for this course will be based on the following requirements:

- 2 semester exams, 100 points each	200 points
- 1 final exam	200 points
- 1 oral report* (based on research paper)	100 points
- 1 research paper*	200 points
- participation and attendance	100 points
TOTAL	800 points

* The **oral report** and **research paper** must be based on the current relationship between the EU and a potential new member-state, and especially the latter's political (democratization) and economic (marketization) status with regard to its EU membership.

Undergraduate students are expected to write a paper of 15 to 20 pages, whereas graduate students must submit a research paper of 30 to 40 pages in length. Further instructions on the paper and the oral report will be given during the semester.

Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the **grading scale** used throughout the semester will be:

> 90% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, < 60% = F

Plagiarism and Cheating

All members of the University community share the responsibility and authority to challenge and make known acts of apparent academic dishonesty. Any student detected participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in the ***Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures handbook*** (<http://www.smsu.edu/acadaff/AcademicIntegrity.html>), also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library, and in abbreviated form in the *SMSU Undergraduate Catalog*). It is your responsibility to read and fully understand SMSU's ***Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures***.

Plagiarism, defined as the "steal[ing] and pass[ing] off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own (*Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed.) and other forms of cheating will result in an **F** for the exam or paper in which it occurred. In repeated cases of cheating, a student will receive an **XF** for the course. Please consult pages 44 and 46-47 of the *SMSU Undergraduate Catalog* and pages 41-42 of the *SMSU Graduate Catalog* for student rights and responsibilities and academic regulations.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all class sessions is expected. If, however, compelling circumstances such as participation at university-sanctioned events, illness, family-related occurrences do require absence from class, please notify the instructor **ahead of time** if at all possible.

Missed exams can be made up **at the end of the semester**, but no make-ups are allowed for oral reports. Whereas one or two absences usually will not affect a student's grade, frequent and repeated absences will negatively affect the overall grade performance of a student enrolled in this class.

Students with Disabilities

If you have any kind of disabilities that may impact on your ability to carry out the assigned course work, please let me know at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged for.

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact Kathy Staeger-Wilson, Disability Services (<http://www.smsu.edu/disability>), Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 or (417) 836-6792. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services

prior to receiving accommodations. Disability Services refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities (a fee is charged for testing). For information about testing, contact Dr. Steven Capps, Learning Diagnostic Clinic (417) 836-4787; <http://www.smsu.edu/contrib/ldc/>.

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity

Southwest Missouri State University is a community of people with respect for diversity. The University emphasizes the dignity and equality common to all persons and adheres to a strict nondiscrimination policy regarding the treatment of individual faculty, staff, and students. In addition, in accord with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status in employment or any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University. The University maintains a grievance procedure incorporating due process available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. Southwest Missouri State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Inquiries concerning the grievance procedure, Affirmative Action Plan, or compliance with federal and state laws and guidelines should be addressed to Jana Long, Equal Opportunity Officer, Office of Human Resources, Carrington Hall 128, (417) 836-4252.

Concerns about discrimination can also be brought directly to your instructor's attention, and/or to the attention of your instructor's Department Head or College Dean.

Course Outline

1. Introduction to the European Communities (ECs)/Union (EU): European History, the EU, and Its Members

Readings: George, Chapter 1
Oudenaren, Chapter 1, pp. 1-11

1 week (all time indications are approximate)

2. Visions of a United Europe

Readings: Nelson and Stubb, Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6

1 week

3. **Regional Integration: Theory and Practice**

Readings: George, Chapter 3
Nelsen and Stubb, Chapters 12-18, 19, and 25
Oudenaren, Chapter 1, pp. 12-25

1 week

4. **The Rome and Paris Treaties and the Emergence of the European Communities**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 2, pp. 27-41
Nelsen and Stubb, Chapter 4

1 week

5. **The Late 1970s and 1980s: From Eurosclerosis to Europhoria—the Single European Act**

4
Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 2, pp. 41-49, and Chapter
Nelsen and Stubb, Chapters 7, 8, 20, and 21
George, Chapter 10

1 week

FIRST EXAM

6. **The Maastricht Treaty and the EU in the 1990s**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 2, pp. 50-64
Nelsen and Stubb, Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 23

1 week

7. **Institutions and Decisionmaking in the EU**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 3
Nelson and Stubb, Chapters 24 and 22
George, Chapter 2

2 weeks

8. **Key Players in the EU: Individual Member Countries—Germany, France, and Great Britain**

Readings: George, Chapters 5, 6, and 7

1 week

9. **Economic and Monetary Union and the Single European Currency—EURO**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 6
Nelsen and Stubb, Chapter 26
George, Chapter 11

1 week

10. **Regionalism and Agricultural, Industrial and Social Policies**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 5
George, Chapters 8, 9, 12, and 13

1 week

SECOND EXAM

11. **EU Trade Relations and Prospects for Expansion**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapters 8 and 10

1 week

12. **EU Foreign and Military Policies: The Difficulty of Speaking in One Voice**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapter 9
George, Chapter 14

1 week

13. **The EU and Its Citizens: A United States of Europe?**

Readings: Oudenaren, Chapters 7 and 11
George, Chapter 15

1 week

ORAL REPORTS

2 weeks

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 16, 2002, 11:00-1:00