



**EC/PO 210 INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
IES Abroad Madrid

**DESCRIPTION:** The course provides an introductory understanding of how the European Union (EU) works as a political system and aims at accomplishing this by using the toolkit of comparative politics. The main aim of the course is to provide American students different perspectives on the European integration process. The course links historical, theoretical, and policy-oriented analyses of the EU institutions and policy processes.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- LECTURES: where basics on the EU institutions will be presented
- CLASS DISCUSSIONS: where we will compare and contrast different views on the EU
- READER: where we have a first contact with the subjects of study
- DEBATES: where we will deploy our analytical and discussion abilities
- SIMULATION: where we will apply our expertise on the EU
- CASE STUDIES: where the outcomes of different EU policies will be critically analyzed

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Class participation + debate (25%)
- Summaries + questions about readings (25%)
- Mid-term exam (25%)
- Final exam (25%)

CLASS PARTICIPATION + DEBATE: Students are encouraged to participate in broad class discussions as well as team exercises they will be attending to. During the term, students will be informed two times about their possible participation grades.

POP-QUIZ AND QUESTIONS: At the beginning of each session students can be asked to write a pop-quiz about the reading

CLASS PRESENTATION: You should select one of the policy fields of the EU (after class 9) and present it in front of the class.

MID-TERM EXAM: The midterm exam will consist of analytical questions on the topics covered in the course. The midterm exam will cover topics of the first half of the course, building on the understanding of EU institutions, which will be the basis for the second part of the class.

FINAL PAPER: In the final paper you should apply your analytical skills to examine one of the selected topics of EU integration.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

With regard to Knowledge, by the end of the course students will be able to:

- outline the historical process of the European integration;
- distinguish the main institutions of the EU;
- indicate the main political debates surrounding the EU;
- analyze critically the main arguments in favour and against European integration.

With regard to Skills, by the end of the course students will be able to:

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- demonstrate presentational abilities;
- reconstruct and justify diverse arguments in class discussions;
- assess the methodological virtues/deficiencies of the academic works he reads;
- develop research techniques.

With regards to Values, by the end of the course students are able to:

- recognize the cultural differences and similarities between Europe and the US: are the Americans from Mars and the Europeans from Venus? Or are we more similar than what we thought at first sight?

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

#### CONTENT:

| Session   | Content                                                                        | Required Reading                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 1 | Introduction to the Course – What is the EU?                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Session 2 | History of the European Union. What is the EU and why should Americans bother? | Alesina, Alberto (2006) <i>The Future of Europe</i> , Ch. 1-3, pp. 1 - 55.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Session 3 | History of the European Union. Part 1                                          | McCormick, John. (2017). <i>Understanding the European Union, The Evolution of the EU</i> . London: Palgrave, pp. 49-72.                                                                                                                                                            |
| Session 4 | History of the European Union. Part 2                                          | 1. Hix, Simon (2011) <i>The Political System of the European Union. Introduction: Explaining the EU Political System</i> . London: Palgrave, pp. 1-22.<br>2. Nugent, N. (2017) <i>The Government and Politics of the European Union. The Member States</i> . Palgrave, pp. 275-297. |
| Session 5 | The Institutional Architecture of the EU                                       | 1. Nugent, N. (2017) <i>The Government and Politics of the European Union. Conceptualising the EU</i> . Palgrave, pp. 435-445.<br>2. McCormick, John (2017), <i>Understanding the European Union, The European Institutions</i> , London: Palgrave, pp. 73-95.                      |
| Session 6 | The Institutional Architecture of the EU II                                    | 1. Bache et al. (2015). <i>Politics in the European Union. The European Commission</i> , Oxford University Press, pp. 231-247.                                                                                                                                                      |

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|                   |                                                                         | 2. Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. <i>The European Parliament</i> , Oxford University Press, pp. 270-288.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Session 7</b>  | The Institutional Architecture of the EU III – Simulation (1)           | 1. Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. <i>The European Council and the Council of Ministers</i> , Oxford University Press, pp. 249-269.                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Session 8</b>  | Organising Interests in the EU – Simulation (2)                         | No reading                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Session 9</b>  | Economic and Monetary Union 1<br>European Policy – What does the EU do? | Alesina, A., Angeloni, I., & Schuknecht, L. (2005). What does the European Union do? <i>Public Choice</i> , 123 (3-4), 275-319.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Session 10</b> | Economic and Monetary Union 2                                           | 1. Hix (2011) The Political System of the European Union, <i>Economic and Monetary Union</i> . Palgrave: London, pp. 245-272.<br>2. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . The future of Euro: Union or Disintegration, Macmillan, pp. 129-145.             |
| <b>Session 11</b> | Single Market                                                           | Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. <i>The Single Market</i> , Oxford University Press pp. 367-384.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Session 12</b> | Common Agricultural Policy/ Development                                 | 1. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . The big waste - The Common Agricultural Policy, Macmillan, pp. 175-190.<br>2. Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. <i>Agriculture</i> , Oxford University Press pp. 351-366.                      |
| <b>Session 13</b> | Regional and Cohesion Policy/ Budget                                    | Bache et al. (2015), Politics in the European Union: Cohesion Policy, Oxford University Press, p. 405-432.<br>Nugent, N. (2017) The Government and Politics of the European Union. The Budget. Palgrave, pp. 419-432.                                                                                             |
| <b>Session 14</b> | <b>Mid-term exam</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Session 15</b> | Foreign Relations / Security and Foreign Policy                         | 1. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . Does the EU act as a Normative Power? Macmillan, pp. 191-205.<br>2. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . Towards a European Army? Macmillan, pp. 219-233. |

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| <b>Session 16</b> | Enlargement Policy                                                                | 1. Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. Enlargement. Oxford University Press, pp. 514-536.<br>2. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . Is the EU enlargement a success story, Macmillan, pp. 205-219. |
| <b>Session 17</b> | Trade Policy                                                                      | Young, A. R. & Peterson, P. (2006). The EU and the new trade politics, <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 13(6): 795-814.                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Session 18</b> | Environmental Policy/ Climate Change                                              | Van Shaik, L. & Schunz, S. (2012). Explaining EU Activism and Impact in Global Climate Politics: Is the Union a Norm- or Interest-Driven Actor? <i>JCMS</i> 50(1): 169-186.                                                                                                  |
| <b>Session 19</b> | Democratic Deficit 1                                                              | 1. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . Is the EU democratic? Macmillan, pp. 56-68.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Session 20</b> | Democratic Deficit 2 / European Identity                                          | 1. Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i> . Can there be a common European Identity? Macmillan, pp. 97-114.<br>2. Holesch, A. (2013), Collective identity in the European Union, <i>World Tensions</i> , pp. 65-83.      |
| <b>Session 21</b> | The Crisis and Democracy: Brexit                                                  | Parker et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. <i>Brexit</i> , Oxford University Press pp. 1-24.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Session 22</b> | The Crisis and Democracy: Brexit 2                                                | PDF - Brexit agreement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Session 23</b> | Which Theory for the European Union – Internal Challenges                         | Dinan, D, et al. (2017). The Multidimensional Crisis, in: Dinan, D, et al. (eds.) <i>The European Union in Crisis</i> , Palgrave, pp. 1-15.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Session 24</b> | Class debate. The EU versus the US. Is the Atlantic Widening? External Challenges | Colomer J. M. (2009). On Building the American and the European Empires. LSE Discussion Paper, pp. 3-25.                                                                                                                                                                     |

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

- Alesina, A., Angeloni, I., & Schuknecht, L. (2005). What does the European Union do? *Public Choice*, 123 (3-4), 275-319.
- Alesina, Alberto (2006) *The Future of Europe*, Ch. 1-3, pp. 1 - 55.
- Bache at el. (2015). Politics in the European Union. *Agriculture*, Oxford University Press pp. 351-366.
- Bache at al. (2015). Politics in the European Union: Cohesion Policy, Oxford University Press, pp. 405-432.
- Bache at el. (2015). Politics in the European Union. The Single Market, Oxford University Press pp. 367-384.
- Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. Enlargement. Oxford University Press, pp. 514-536.
- Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. The European Commission, Oxford University Press, pp. 231-247.
- Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. The European Parliament, Oxford University Press, pp. 270-288.

- Bache et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. The European Council and the Council of Ministers, Oxford University Press, pp. 249-269.
- Colomer J. M. (2009). On Building the American and the European Empires. LSE Discussion Paper, pp. 3-25.
- Dinan. D, et al. (2017). The Multidimensional Crisis, in: Dinan. D, et al. (eds.) The European Union in Crisis, Palgrave. pp. 1-15.
- Hix, S. (2011). The Political System of the European Union, Economic and Monetary Union. Palgrave: London, pp. 245-272.
- Hix, S. (2011). The Political System of the European Union. Introduction: Explaining the EU Political System. London: Palgrave, pp. 1-22.
- Holesch, A. (2013), Collective identity in the European Union, World Tensions, pp. 65-83.
- McCormick, John, Understanding the European Union, The European Institutions, London: Palgrave, pp. 73-95.
- McCormick, John. (2017). Understanding the European Union, The Evolution of the EU. London: Palgrave, pp. 49-72.
- Nugent, N. (2017) The Government and Politics of the European Union. The Member States. Palgrave, pp. 275-297.
- Nugent, N. (2017) The Government and Politics of the European Union. Conceptualising the EU. Palgrave, pp. 435-445.
- Nugent, N. (2017) The Government and Politics of the European Union. The Budget. Palgrave, pp. 419-432.
- Parker et al. (2015). Politics in the European Union. Brexit, Oxford University Press pp. 1-24.
- PDF - Brexit agreement
- Van Shaik, L. & Schunz, S. (2012). Explaining EU Activism and Impact in Global Climate Politics: Is the Union a Norm- or Interest-Driven Actor? JCMS 50(1): 169-186.
- Young, A. R. & Peterson, P. (2006). The EU and the new trade politics, *Journal of European Public Policy* 13(6): 795-814.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. The future of Euro: Union or Disintegration, Macmillan, pp. 129-145.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. The big waste - The Common Agricultural Policy, Macmillan, pp. 175-190.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. Does the EU act as a Normative Power? Macmillan, pp. 191-205.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. Towards a European Army? Macmillan, pp. 219-233.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. Is the EU enlargement a success story, Macmillan, pp. 205-219.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. Is the EU democratic? Macmillan, pp. 56-68.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2016). Key controversies in European integration. Can there be a common European Identity? Macmillan, pp. 97-114.

#### USEFUL LINKS:

- The EU website:

[http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)

- A Glossary of EU-related terms:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3595155.stm>

- On the EU Constitution:

[http://europa.eu.int/constitution/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/constitution/index_en.htm)

<http://www.europeanconstitution.ie/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_constitution)

- Press:

<http://www.economist.com/index.html>

<http://www.ft.com/home/uk>

#### RECOMMENDED READINGS: (Emrah, we should adopt this)

##### On Realist Intergovernmentalism:

- Grieco, J. "The Maastricht Treaty, Economic and Monetary Union and the Neorealist Research Programme," in *Review of International Studies* No: 21 (1995), pp. 21-40.
- Hoffmann, S. "Obstinate or Obsolete? The Fate of the Nation-State and the Case of Western Europe," in *Daedalus* No: 95 (1966), pp. 862-915.
- Hoffmann, S. "Towards a Common European Foreign and Security Policy?" in *Journal of Common Market Studies* No: 38 (2000), pp. 189-198.

#### **On Liberal Intergovernmentalism:**

- Moravcsik, A. *The Choice for Europe: Social Power and State Purpose from Messina to Maastricht*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1998.
- Rittberger, B. "Which Institutions for Post-war Europe? Explaining the Institutional Design of Europe's First Community," in *Journal of European Public Policy* No: 8 (2001), pp. 673-708.

#### **On Rationalist Supranationalism:**

- Farrell, H. & Héritier, A. "Formal and Informal Institutions under Codecision: Continuous Constitution-Building in Europe," in *Governance* No: 16 (2003), pp. 577-600.
- Fligstein, N. & Stone Sweet, A. "Constructing Politics and Markets: An Institutional Account of European Integration," in *American Journal of Sociology* No: 107 (2002), pp. 1206-1243.
- Hix, S. "Constitutional Agenda-Setting Through Discretion in Rule Interpretation: Why the European Parliament Won at Amsterdam," *British Journal of Political Science* No: 32 (2002), pp. 259-280.
- Pierson, P. "The Path to European Integration. A Historical Institutional Analysis," in *Comparative Political Studies* no: 29 (1996), pp.123-63.
- Stone Sweet, A. & Sandholtz, W. "European Integration and Supranational Governance" in *Journal of European Public Policy* No: 4 (1997), pp. 297-317.

#### **On Constructivist supranationalism:**

- Fligstein, N. & Mara-Drita, I. "How to Make a Market: Reflections on the Attempt to Create a Single Market in the EU," in *American Journal of Sociology* Vol. 102, No. 1 (1996), pp. 1-33.
- Rittberger, B. *Building Europe's Parliament: Democratic Representation Beyond the Nation State*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005.

#### **On the institutional order of the EU as independent variable:**

- Baldwin, R., Berglof, E., Giavazzi, F. & Widgren, M. Nice Try: Should the Treaty of Nice be ratified? CEPR (2001), <<http://heiwww.unige.ch/~baldwin/>>
- Holler, M. & Widgren, M. "Why Power Indices for Assessing European Union Decision-Making?" in *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, No: 11 (1999), pp. 321-330.
- Widgren, M. & Baldwin, R. Decision Making and the Constitutional Treaty: Will the IGC discard Giscard? CEPR (2003), <[http://hei.unige.ch/~baldwin/PapersBooks/Decisionmaking\\_and\\_theCT.pdf](http://hei.unige.ch/~baldwin/PapersBooks/Decisionmaking_and_theCT.pdf)>

#### **On veto player's analysis:**

- König, T. & Pöter, M. "Examining the EU Legislative Process: The Relative Importance of Agenda and Veto Power," in *European Union Politics* No: 2 (2001), pp. 329-351.
- Selck, T. "Veto Players, Decision Rules, and Dimensionality: The Effects of Institutional Change on Organizational Decision-Making," in *Homo Oeconomicus* Vol. 23 No. 1 (2006), pp. 43-55.
- Tsebelis, G. & Kalandrakis, A. 1999. "The European Parliament and Environmental Legislation: The Case of. Chemicals," in *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 36, No.1 (1999), pp. 119-54.
- Tsebelis, G. & Garrett, G. "Legislative Politics in the European Union," in *European Union Politics* Vol. 1, No. 1 (2000), pp. 9-36.

#### **On PA-analysis:**

- Franchino, F. "Efficiency or Credibility? Testing the Two Logics of Delegation to the European Commission," in *Journal of European Public Policy* No. 9 (2002), pp. 677-694.
- Majone, G. "Two Logics of Delegation: Agency and Fiduciary Relations in EU Governance," in *European Union Politics* Vol. 2, No. 1 (2001), pp. 103-22.
- Pollack, M. "Delegation, Agency, and Agenda Setting in the European Community," in *International Organization* No. 51 (1997), pp. 99-134.

#### **On the legitimacy of the EU's institutional order:**

- Fernández-Albertos, J. & Lapuente-Gine, V. "When Veto Players do not Agree. Why Democratizing the EU Might Not Be a Good Idea?" *Nuffield College Working Papers in Politics*, 2004-W6, May 2004.
- Kohler-Koch, B. & Rittberger, B. (eds.). *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007.

**On the EU's democratic deficit:**

- Crombez, C. "The Democratic Deficit in the European Union: Much Ado about Nothing?" in *European Union Politics* Vol. 4, No. 1 (2003), pp. 101-120.
- Follesdal, A. & Hix, S. "Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik," in Eurogov, *European Governance Papers*, Nr. C-05-02 (2005), <<http://www.connex-network.org/eurogov/pdf/egp-connex-C-05-02.pdf>>
- Majone, G. "Europe's 'Democratic Deficit': The Question of Standards," in *European Law Journal* Vol. 4, No. 1 (1998), 5-28

**On public support to the EU:**

- Easton, D. "A Reassessment of the Concept of Political Support," in *British Journal of Political Science* Vol. 5, No. 4 (1975), pp. 435-457.
- Franklin, M., Marsh, M. & McLaren, L. "Uncorking the Bottle: Popular Opposition to European unification in the wake of Maastricht," in *Journal of Common Market Studies* Vol. 32, No. 4 (1994), pp. 101-117.
- Gabel, M. "Public Support for European Integration: An Empirical Test of Five Theories," in *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 60, No.2 (1998), pp. 333-354.
- Katz, R. "Models of Democracy: Elite Attitudes and the Democratic Deficit in the European Union," in *European Union Politics*. Vol. 2, No.1 (2001), pp. 53-79.