

**PO/IR 359: EUROPE IN CRISIS**  
IES Abroad Barcelona

**DESCRIPTION:** Wars and crises were a permanent feature of European politics up to the end of WWII. Since the start of the European unification project, the old-style politics of military confrontation has lost weight in the continent. However, political crises have reappeared in Europe in a new shape. The *sui-generis* nature of the EU makes it vulnerable not only to endogenous, but also exogenous shocks. In this context, many of the remarkable political transformations carried out by European leaders since the collapse of the Soviet bloc could in part be understood as reactions to transnational crises. At the same time, the roots of many current political and social problems in this region partially lie in episodes of this kind.

The course will highlight two key points for understanding the crises of the European Union: First, that progress in the European Union is hindered by the so-called legitimacy deficit, which makes stronger political integration nearly impossible; second, that the construction of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) seems prone to triggering financial crises in some of the EU Member States. Huge financial transfers are necessary to solve these economic imbalances. These problems have underlain the strengthening of populist parties all over Europe.

This course will transmit to students the necessary knowledge to understand the context behind the erosion of the European project and the recurrent outbreak of continent-wide crises. It will not only examine a series of political crises that have challenged the European order, it will also place a special focus on the common strategies developed by the EU to manage these episodes. In light of the intrinsic vulnerability of the European Union to endogenous and exogenous shocks, this course will provide students with the tools to assess the future possibilities of the region

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- **Class Discussion:** An important part of the class will consist of the discussion of key themes on the basis of course readings. The readings for each class will be available in Moodle.
- **Lectures:** In every class the instructor will provide the students with a lecture. These lectures will summarize the theoretical information of the session.
- **Final debate:** The students will have the opportunity to synthesize the contents learned in the course in a debate on the future of Europe that will take place in the final session. Students will be expected to participate actively and engage in the activities proposed during the debate.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Class participation -10%
- Homework - 10%
- Geography Quiz -5%
- Research paper - 30%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Final exam - 25%

**Class Participation**

This will be assessed as follows: General class participation; all students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings, course issues and questions proposed by the instructor (5% of the final grade). Active participation in the debate that will take place in the final session (5% of the final grade).

**Homework**



Homework includes the following assignments: 10 reflection reports about daily class readings assigned, to be submitted to Moodle before the class. Approximately 1 page each, double-space and font 12.

**Geography Quiz**

The students will be asked at the beginning of Session 5 to identify in a map the EU member states as well as the capital cities of each country.

**Research Paper**

Each student will select a topic for a research paper in consultation with the professor. Topics will be approved on the basis of their relevance to the course.

The research paper will consist of two components:

- 1. An in-class presentation about the research paper; once they have completed a first draft of the research paper, each student will briefly outline the main topic and the aspects that will be analyzed in the research paper. This presentation will count for 5 points of the total 30 points for the research paper.
- 2. Research paper: Each student will write a 2,500-words paper on the topic selected following consultation with the professor. They will be expected to follow the instructions provided in the course materials. These instructions will include: Presenting a clear thesis statement; building up an analysis on the basis of this thesis; using information to build up the argument from at least five articles for prestigious (and relevant) journals in the field.

**Midterm Exam**

This exam will include essay questions, short answer questions and multiple-choice questions.

**Final Exam**

This exam will have the same format as the midterm exam

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Describe the context surrounding the recurrent emergence of transnational crises in the European continent.
- Analyze the growing vulnerability of the European project in recent years.
- Compare the strategies used by endogenous and exogenous forces to destabilize the European Union.
- Identify common patterns in the EU’s responses to external and internal shocks.
- Outline the key factors likely to have an impact on the future development of the EU.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

**CONTENT:**

Session	Content	Required Reading
Session 1	Introduction to the course	

<b>Session 2</b>	Introductory Concepts: Who's Who in the European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pinder, J., and Usherwood, S. (2013). <i>The European Union. A Very Short Introduction</i>, (pp. 1-8, 33-65). Oxford University Press</li> </ul>
<b>Session 3</b>	European Union History in a Nutshell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pinder, J., and Usherwood, S. (2013). <i>The European Union. A Very Short Introduction</i>, (pp. 9-32,). Oxford University Press</li> <li>Fabbrini, S. (2015). Which European Union? Europe after the Euro Crisis, (pp. 3-12). Cambridge University Press.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 4</b>	The International Context Surrounding the European Union in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nielsen, K. L. (2017). Beware the Folly of Pride: Europe, Trump and the Enduring Need for the Transatlantic Alliance. <i>L'Europe en Formation</i> (1), 63-81.</li> <li>Christiansen, T., and Maher, R. (2017). The Rise of China – Challenges and Opportunities for the European Union. <i>Asia Europe Journal</i>, 15, 121-131.</li> <li>Biden, J. R. Jr., &amp; Carpenter, M. (2018). How to Stand up to the Kremlin: Defending Democracy Against its Enemies. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 97(1), 44-57.</li> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Session 5</b>	The Legitimacy Deficit of the European Union. <b>Geography Quiz</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fabbrini, S. (2015). Which European Union? Europe after the Euro Crisis, (pp. 64-83). Cambridge University Press.</li> <li>Follesdal, A., and Hix, S. (2006). Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik. <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 44 (3), 533-562.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 6</b>	The Basics of Transnational Crisis Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boin, A., &amp; Rhinard, M. (2008). Managing Transboundary Crises: What Role for the European Union? <i>International Studies Review</i>, 10, 1-11.</li> <li>'t Hart, P., &amp; Sundelius, B. (2013). Crisis Management Revisited: A New Agenda for Research, Training and Capacity Building within Europe. <i>Cooperation and Conflict</i>, 48 (3), 444-461.</li> <li>Ash, T.G. (2012). The Crisis of Europe: How it Came Together and Why It's Falling Apart. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 91 (5), 2-15.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woods, N. (2016). The European Disunion. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 95 (1), 160-165.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 7</b>	The European Financial Crisis (part 1): Origins, Initial Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Godby, R., &amp; Anderson, S.B. (2016). <i>Greek Tragedy, European Odyssey: The Politics and Economics of the Eurozone Crisis</i>, (pp. 121-166). Verlag Barbara Budrich</li> <li>Ferguson, C. (Director). (2010). <i>Inside Job</i> [Film]. Sony Pictures Classics.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 8</b>	The European Financial Crisis (part 2): Development, Immediate consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Godby, R., &amp; Anderson, S.B. (2016). <i>Greek Tragedy, European Odyssey: The Politics and Economics of the Eurozone Crisis</i>, (pp. 75-104). Verlag Barbara Budrich.</li> <li>Nicholls, K. (2015). <i>Mediating Policy: Greece, Ireland and Portugal before the Eurozone Crisis</i>, (pp. 1-9). Routledge.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 9</b>	The Arab Spring and the <i>Indignados</i> Movement: How Turmoil in the Vicinity of the EU Affected Its Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Castells, M. (2015). <i>Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age</i>. 2nd edition (pp. 95-143). Polity Press.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 10</b>	The Refugee Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bauböck, R. (2018). Europe's Commitments and Failures in the Refugee Crisis. <i>European Political Science</i>, 17, 140-150.</li> <li>Morsut, C., &amp; Kruke, B. I. (2018). Crisis Governance of the Refugee and Migrant Influx into Europe in 2015: A Tale of Disintegration. <i>Journal of European Integration</i>, 40 (2): 145-159.</li> <li>Cusumano, E. (2017). Emptying the Sea with a Spoon? Non-Governmental Providers of Migrants Search and Rescue in the Mediterranean. <i>Marine Policy</i>, 75, 91-98.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 11</b>	Islamist Terrorism in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coolsaet, R. (2008). <i>Jihadi Terrorism and the Radicalisation Challenge in Europe</i> (pp. 102-107; 131-138). Ashgate Publishing Limited.</li> <li>McCants, W. (2015). <i>The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State</i> (pp. 85-98). St. Martin's Press.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nesser, P. (2016). <i>Islamist Terrorism in Europe: A History</i>, (pp. 272-276; 289-292; 294-296). Oxford Scholarship Online.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 12</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
<b>Session 13</b>	Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>De Graauw, E., &amp; Vermeulen, F. (2016). Cities and the Politics of Immigrant Integration: A Comparison of Berlin, Amsterdam, New York City, and San Francisco. <i>Journal of Ethnic Migration Studies</i>, 42 (6), 989-1012.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 14</b>	The Ukraine Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auer, S. (2015). Carl Schmitt in the Kremlin: the Ukraine crisis and the return of geopolitics. <i>International Affairs</i>, 91 (5), 953–968.</li> <li>Cross, M. A. K. D., &amp; Karolewski, I. P. (2017). What Type of Power has the EU Exercised in the Ukraine–Russia Crisis? A Framework of Analysis. <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 55(1), 3-19.</li> <li>Götz, E. (2016). Russia, the West and the Ukraine Crisis: three Contending Perspectives. <i>Contemporary Politics</i>, 22 (3), 249-266.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 15</b>	The Ukraine Crisis (Alternative Views)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Khalabuzar, K. (2023). The Evolution of the EU's Perception Towards Ukraine. ZEI Discussion Paper. <a href="https://www.zei.uni-bonn.de/de/publikationen/medien/zei-dp/zei-dp-275-2023_n.pdf">https://www.zei.uni-bonn.de/de/publikationen/medien/zei-dp/zei-dp-275-2023_n.pdf</a></li> <li>Stelzenmüller, C. (2023). The return of the enemy: Putin's war on Ukraine and a cognitive blockage in Western security policy. Brookings Institution. <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-return-of-the-enemy/">https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-return-of-the-enemy/</a></li> <li>Mearsheimer, J. J. (2014). Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West's Fault: The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 93(5), 77-89.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 16</b>	Populism - Definition and Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mudde, C., &amp; Kaltwasser, C. R. (2017). <i>Populism: A Very Short Introduction</i> (pp. 3-41). Oxford University Press.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 17</b>	The Rise of Populism in Europe: France, Germany, the Visegrad Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bušítková, L. (2018), The Radical Right in Eastern Europe, In Rydgren, J. (Ed.), <i>The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right</i>. Oxford University Press.</li> <li>Taggart, P. (2017) Populism in Western Europe. In: Rovira Kaltwasser et al. (eds.) Oxford</li> </ul>

		Handbook of Populism (pp. 248-263). Oxford University Press.
<b>Session 18</b>	The Brexit Question: Background, The referendum campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hayton, Richard (2016). The UK Independence Party and the Politics of Englishness. <i>Political Studies Review</i>, 14 (3), 400-410.</li> <li>• Mycock, Andrew (2016). The Party Politics of the 'New English Regionalism'. <i>Political Studies Review</i>, 14(3), 388-399.</li> <li>• Taggart, P., &amp; Szczerbiak, A. (2017). Putting Brexit into Perspective: The Effect of the Eurozone and Migration Crises and Brexit on Euroscepticism in European States. <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 25 (8), 1194-1214.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 19</b>	The Brexit Tsunami: Negotiations, Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jackson, D., Thorsen, E., &amp; Wring, D. (Eds.) (2016). EU Referendum Analysis 2016: Media, Voters and the Campaign. Bournemouth University.</li> <li>• Laffan, B. (2017). Brexit: A Tale of Exit Over Voice. In: <i>The Changing Geography of Finance and Regulation in Europe</i> (pp. 129-140) EUI: Cadmus.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 20</b>	The Spanish "State of Autonomies" 1978-2010 and Clashes Over the Independence of Catalonia (Historical Overview)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moreno, L., Arriba, A., &amp; Serrano, A. (1998). Multiple identities in decentralized Spain: The case of Catalonia. <i>Regional &amp; Federal Studies</i>, 8(3), 65-88.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 21</b>	The Spanish "State of Autonomies" 1978-2010 and Clashes Over the Independence of Catalonia (2011-present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moreno, L. (2013). <i>The federalization of Spain</i> (pp.1-36). Routledge.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 22</b>	Secessionism in Catalonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guirao, F. (2016). An Independent Catalonia as a Member State of the European Union? Terra Ignota. In X. Cuadras-Morato (Ed.), <i>Catalonia: A New Independent State in Europe?</i> (pp. 189-223). Routledge.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 23</b>	Secession and the European Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closa, C. (2016). Secession from a Member State and EU Membership: The View from the Union. <i>European Constitutional Law Review</i>, 12(2), 240-264.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 24</b>	Class Debate. Is There a Way Ahead for Europe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champeau, S., Closa, C., Innerarity, D., &amp; Miguel Poiaras Maduro, L.M. (Eds.) (2015). <i>The Future of Europe. Democracy, Legitimacy and Justice after the Euro Crisis</i> (pp. 263-277). Rowman &amp; Littlefield.</li> <li>• McCrea, R. (2017). Forward or Back: The Future of European Integration and the Impossibility of the Status Quo. <i>European Law Journal</i>, 23 (1-2), 66-93.</li> </ul>

## REQUIRED READINGS:

- Ash, T.G. (2012). The Crisis of Europe: How it Came Together and Why It's Falling Apart. *Foreign Affairs*, 91 (5), 2-15.
- Auer, S. (2015). Carl Schmitt in the Kremlin: the Ukraine crisis and the return of geopolitics, *International Affairs*, 91 (5), 953–968.
- Bauböck, R. (2018). Europe's Commitments and Failures in the Refugee Crisis. *European Political Science*, 17, 140-150.
- Biden, J. R. Jr., & Carpenter, M. (2018). How to Stand up to the Kremlin: Defending Democracy Against its Enemies. *Foreign Affairs*, 97(1), 44-57.
- Boin, A., & Rhinard, M. (2008). Managing Transboundary Crises: What Role for the European Union? *International Studies Review*, 10, 1-11.
- Bušíková, L. (2018), The Radical Right in Eastern Europe, In Rydgren, J. (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford University Press.
- Castells, M. (2015). *Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age*. 2nd edition (pp. 95-143). Polity Press
- Champeau, S., Closa, C., Innerarity, D., & Miguel Poiates Maduro, L.M. (Eds.) (2015). *The Future of Europe. Democracy, Legitimacy and Justice after the Euro Crisis* (pp. 263-277). Rowman & Littlefield.
- Christiansen, T., & Maher, R. (2017). The Rise of China – Challenges and Opportunities for the European Union. *Asia Europe Journal*, 15, 121-131.
- Closa, C. (2016). Secession from a Member State and EU Membership: The View from the Union. *European Constitutional Law Review*, 12(2), 240-264.
- Coolsaet, R. (2008). *Jihadi Terrorism and the Radicalisation Challenge in Europe* (pp. 102-107; 131-138). Ashgate Publishing Limited.
- Cross, M. A. K. D., & Karolewski, I. P. (2017). What Type of Power has the EU Exercised in the Ukraine–Russia Crisis? A Framework of Analysis. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 55(1), 3-19.
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- Ferguson, C. (Director). (2010). *Inside Job* [Film]. Sony Pictures Classics.
- Follesdal, A., and Hix, S. (2006). Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 44 (3), 533-562.
- Godby, R., & Anderson, S.B. (2016). *Greek Tragedy, European Odyssey: The Politics and Economics of the Eurozone Crisis*, (pp. 75-104). Verlag Barbara Budrich
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- Götz, E. (2016). Russia, the West and the Ukraine Crisis: Three Contending Perspectives. *Contemporary Politics*, 22 (3), 249-266.
- Guirao, F. (2016). An Independent Catalonia as a Member State of the European Union?: Terra Ignota. In X. Cuadras-Morato (Ed.), *Catalonia: A New Independent State in Europe?* (pp. 189-223). Routledge.
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- Khalabazar, K. (2023). The Evolution of the EU's Perception Towards Ukraine. ZEI Discussion Paper. [https://www.zei.uni-bonn.de/de/publikationen/medien/zei-dp/zei-dp-275-2023\\_n.pdf](https://www.zei.uni-bonn.de/de/publikationen/medien/zei-dp/zei-dp-275-2023_n.pdf)

- Laffan, B. (2017). Brexit: A Tale of Exit Over Voice. In: *The Changing Geography of Finance and Regulation in Europe* (pp. 129-140) EUI: Cadmus.
- McCants, W. (2015). *The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State* (pp. 85-98). St. Martin's Press
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- Nesser, P. (2016). *Islamist Terrorism in Europe: A History*, (pp. 272-276; 289-292; 294-296). Oxford Scholarship Online.
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- Nielsen, K. L. (2017). Beware the Folly of Pride: Europe, Trump and the Enduring Need for the Transatlantic Alliance. *L'Europe en Formation* (1), 63-81.
- Pinder, J., and Usherwood, S. (2013). *The European Union. A Very Short Introduction*, (pp. 1-8, 9-32, 33-65). Oxford University Press
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- 't Hart, P., & Sundelius, B. (2013). Crisis Management Revisited: A New Agenda for Research, Training and Capacity Building within Europe. *Cooperation and Conflict*, 48 (3), 444-461.
- Woods, N. (2016). The European Disunion. *Foreign Affairs*, 95 (1), 160-165.