

California State University
SPRING 2014-2015

SYLLABUS

THE EUROPEAN UNION – SSC 410

Prof. Enrico Calossi

Office hours: Friday 9-11
or upon appointment

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Class schedule: THU: 9:30-12:15

CV in:

Google scholar: https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=ICI_0GgAAAAJ&hl=it

Academia.edu: <https://csuflorence.academia.edu/EnricoCalossi>

Mid-term exam on Thursday 14 April: 9:45-12:30

Final exam on Thursday 26 May 9:45-12:30

Make-up classes might be fixed for health or personal reasons of the lecturer.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the main aspects of the European Union (EU), covering the process of European integration, institutions and actors, policies and policy making, and theories. First, students will become acquainted with the major historical determinants of the EU, from the first efforts to recover the economic situation after two world wars to the latest innovations fixed by the Lisbon Treaty. Secondly, students will be introduced to the main theories and conceptual approaches which have been used to explain such a unique political organisation as the EU is, being in between a federal state and a international organisation. Then, the main institutions and actors of the EU (Commission, Parliament, Council and Council of the Union, Europarties, Interest Groups; Courts) will be presented. A selection of relevant policies performed by the EU, with relative policy-making processes, will be dealt (EU's foreign and defense policy, the single market, common agricultural policy, etc.). To conclude, the class will try to discuss and debate the most relevant issues which currently characterize the European Union ("Democracy deficit" and legitimacy of the EU, the EU and the economic crisis, comparison and relations between EU and US).

REQUIREMENTS:

Completing ALL required readings and regular attendance will be expected of all students. Material covered in class will not always be covered in the readings and vice versa; students will be responsible for all material regardless of where presented. Readings listed as "recommended" are necessary for a full understanding of the course's subject matter; knowledge of these readings, however, will not be assumed in evaluating and grading tests and exams. Active participation in class discussions is strongly urged. Questions and comments will always be welcome.

Students will be asked to write reports on videos which the lecturer could present to the class.

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS/PAPERS

For in-class activities submission must be done by handing a HARD PRINTED or HAND WRITTEN version of the report to the instructor before the end of class. At-home activities have to be sent by EMAIL to the lecturer. Late submissions by up to two days will result in a two point (i.e., from 89 to 87) deduction from the final total score irrespective of the quality of the report.

Reports submitted three or more days late or not submitted will result in a 5 point (i.e., from 89 to 84) deduction from the total score, irrespective of the quality of the report.

GRADING and EXAMS

Grades will be based on two (mid-term and final) exams; both will consist of an **at home essay**, a **in class essay** and **in class multiple choice or true/false questions**. The mid-term exam will be based on knowledge taught in lessons held before the mid-term; the final exam will be based on the WHOLE program taught in class.

The mid-term exam and the final exam will be worth respectively 35% (home essay: 15%; in-class essay: 11%; m/c questions 9%) and 65% (home essay: 30%; in-class essay: 22%; m/c questions 13%) of the total final score.

Final scores will be translated into grades on the basis of a consideration of the class' overall performance. In any event, however, a full A grade will be awarded exclusively to students whose total scores are 90 and above. Likewise, a total final score of at least 60 points will be necessary to obtain a passing grade. Outstanding class participation and reports could result in a 5-point bonus. Poor class participation/reports AND lack of punctuality could each result in a 5-point penalization.

Extra-activities during the semester may can outlined by the lecturer during the class and may give the students point bonuses.

ATTENDANCE AND OTHER CLASS POLICIES

A) Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for medical reasons or proved emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade (i.e., B to C); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 2 letter grades (i.e., A to C). More than **FOUR unexcused absences will result in failure of the course**.

Writing, in advance, an email to the lecturer for any failure in attending the class is welcome.

B) In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

C) Dates of mid-term and final exams **cannot** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

D) During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

E) Use of laptop computers in class is not permitted, unless previously approved by the professor.

F) Eating is NOT allowed in class. Drinking water is allowed.

G) Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on ***silent mode*** during class.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COSTS

Theater or cinema admissions for one or two films (about € 10 each)

Transportation and admission costs for a possible site visit (to be determined, but no more than € 25) (visit to the European University Institute or to the “State of the Union” in Palazzo Vecchio)

LOGICAL PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS

1. Introduction

EU's political system: overview.

2. Historical Background

The European community: from 1945 to 1985; The European Union: establishment and development; the Constitutional Treaty to the Treaty of Lisbon and beyond.

3. Theories and conceptual approaches.

Neo-functionalism; Intergovernmentalism; Theorizing the European Union after integration theory; Governance in the European Union / (for those students using 2010 edition of textbook this part is discussed in part "debates"); Europeanization.

4. Institutions and actors.

The European Commission; The Council of the European Union and the European Council; The European Parliament; The Europarties (exclusively based on my slides); The courts of the European Union; Interest groups and the European Union.

5. Policies and policy-making.

Policy-making in the European Union

EU external relations; The European Union's foreign, security, and defence policy; Enlargement (for those students using 2010 edition of textbook this part is discussed in part "debates"); The single market; The European Union's social dimension; The area of freedom, security, and justice; Economic and monetary union; The common agricultural policy; Environmental policy.

6. Issues and debates.

Democracy and legitimacy in the European Union; Public opinion and the European Union; The European Union and the economic crisis; EU and US (based on hand-given articles).

TEXTBOOK:

Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borragan (eds), *European Union Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013

Even the edition of 2010 is acceptable with integrations by the lecturer.

Recommended readings:

Calossi E. (2015) "Towards European Electoral and Party Systems", IAI Working Papers 15|47, ISBN/ISSN/DOI: 978-88-98650-72-9. Free download: <http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaiw1547.pdf>

Bardi L., Calossi E. (2009), "Party responses to new challenges: the emergence of Europarties" in Cross W., DeBardeleben J., Pammett J. (eds) "Activating the Citizen: Dilemmas of Citizen Participation in Europe and Canada", Palgrave MacMillan, Basingstoke.

A movie or selection of movies could be projected in class.

Class calendar

class #	day	Subject	Readings. Chapter of textbook
1	25 Feb	Introduction, overview. The Idea of Europe	chap. 1
2	3 March	Early history of Europe	chap. 2
3	9 March	History of Europe 45-85 + Treaties	chap. 2, 3
4	17 March	Lisbon treaty + theories on the EU Integration Process	chap. 4-7
5	24 March	Governance - Europeanization + Commission and European Council	chap. 8 - 11
5	7 April	EU Council and European Parliament	chap. 11 - 12
6	14 April	MIDTERM EXAM	
7	21 April	Feedback on midterm. Europarties, Courts, Lobbying	chap. 13-, 14, Bardi&Calossi
8	28 April	Policy Making, External Relations, Enlargement	chap. 15 - 18
9	5 May	site visit (may change due to other reasons)	
10	12 May	Migration and Schengen, Social Dimension + Freedom, Security and Justice, Agricultural Policy	chap. 19 - 22
11	19 May	The EURO, Legitimization Crisis of the EU, EU and US	chap. 23 – 27, Calossi
13	26 May	FINAL EXAM	