ITRN 761-001 European Political and Economic Union

Fall 2019
Wednesdays, 7:20-10:00pm

Van Metre Hall 476
Arlington Campus

Draft Syllabus

Course Description

Official, institutionalized political and economic integration among countries is far advanced in Europe, specifically in the form of the European Union (EU). The European Community, forerunner of the EU, emerged in the post-World-War II period as part of the institutional arrangement for a stable, prosperous, and secure transatlantic system, in which the countries of Western Europe and North America (and later other parts of the world) became deeply embedded. That system—now under stress due to a resurgence of nationalism and unilateralism—served Europe well. Over time, the EC and later the EU expanded geographically to include twenty-eight countries; extended its remit to almost every field of public policy, and strengthened its organizational structure in order to meet the twin demands of democratic legitimacy and institutional efficiency. Despite its success, today the EU is reeling from a number of setbacks, such as economic sluggishness; the rise of populism and Euroskepticism; the possible demise of the multilateral international order; and the imminent withdrawal of the UK.

This course serves as an introduction to the EU and contemporary aspects of European integration. Topics include the origins and development of the European Union; accession (EU enlargement) and withdrawal (Brexit); institutional arrangements and decision-making processes; and a range of issue-areas and policies, such as economic and monetary union; trade; cohesion; security and defense.

The format of the course is conversational, with class discussions built around readings on selected topics.

Instructor
Professor Desmond Dinan (ddinan@gmu.edu), Ad personam Jean Monnet Chair, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University

Office Hours
Wednesdays 4:00-7:00pm, Van Metre Hall 639, or by appointment at other times on the Arlington campus.

Visiting European Parliament Fellow
Mr. Ryan Meilak, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University, and European Parliament, Brussels
Guest Speaker
Ms. Wendela Moore, U.S. Foreign Service (retired)

Readings
There is no textbook for the course. Instead, there will be specific readings—such as journal, magazine and newspaper articles; official documents, and speeches—for each class session. Information about these will be e-mailed to students in advance. Students should read the material before class.

Learning Outcomes
Knowledge of the European Union: its history; institutions; politics; and policies
Ability to write a policy paper

Assignments and Evaluation
1. Research/policy paper on an EU-related topic chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor
   a. Deadline to agree on topic: September 25
   b. Deadline to submit paper: November 20
   c. Class presentations of paper: November 20-December 11
2. Grade: 20% for class presentation; 80% for written paper

Background Reading
Students should keep up-to-date with EU affairs. The following sources are useful for that purpose:
*Politico (Europe):* [https://www.politico.eu](https://www.politico.eu)
*Financial Times:* [https://www.ft.com](https://www.ft.com)
*Spiegel Online:* [http://www.spiegel.de/international/](http://www.spiegel.de/international/)
*The Economist:* [https://www.economist.com](https://www.economist.com)
*EurActiv,* [https://www.euractiv.com](https://www.euractiv.com)
*Social Europe,* [http://www.socialeurope.eu/](http://www.socialeurope.eu/)
*VoteWatch Europe:* [http://www.votewatch.eu](http://www.votewatch.eu)
*Project Syndicate:* [https://www.project-syndicate.org](https://www.project-syndicate.org)

Class Schedule

Session 1, August 28
*Introduction*

Session 2, September 4
*The EU: Origins and Development*
Background Reading:


**Session 3, September 11**

*EU Institutions and Governance*

Readings will be e-mailed to students

**Session 4, September 18**

*EU Institutions and Governance (continued)*

*Discussion of the European Parliament plenary session, September 16-19*

Readings will be e-mailed to students

**Session 5, September 25**

*EU Enlargement: Why and how countries join the EU*

Readings will be e-mailed to students  

*Deadline to agree on policy paper topic*

**Session 6, October 2**

*EU Withdrawal: Why and how the UK is leaving the EU*

Readings will be e-mailed to students

**Session 7, October 9**

*Europe’s Political Economy: The Single Market, Economic and Monetary Union; the Euro Crisis*

*Discussion of the European Parliament hearings on the European Commissioners-designate, September 30-October 8*

Readings will be e-mailed to students

**Session 8, October 16**

*The Multiannual Financial Framework; Agricultural Policy; Cohesion Policy*

Readings will be e-mailed to students
[Note: There is no class on October 23; a make-up class will take place on December 11]

Session 9, October 30
Discussion of the European Council, October 17-18; and the European Parliament plenary session, October 21-24, including the EP’s vote, on October 23, on the College of the European Commission
Readings will be e-mailed to students

Session 10, November 6
Migration and European Politics
Discussion of Brexit, which is expected to happen on October 31
Readings will be e-mailed to students

Session 11, November 13
Trade, Investment, and Development Policy
Readings will be e-mailed to students

Session 12, November 20
Foreign, Security, and Defense Policy
Discussion of the European Parliament plenary session, November 13-14
Readings will be e-mailed to students

[Note: There is no class on November 27 due to the Thanksgiving holiday]

Session 13, December 4
Class presentations
Discussion of the European Parliament plenary session, November 25-28
Deadline for submission of policy paper

Session 14, December 11
Class presentations
Discussion of the EU’s prospects

University Policies:

Academic Integrity: Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask the instructor for guidance and clarification.
Disability: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; http://ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) speak to your instructor about your accommodation needs.