POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
CPO 3104

SUMMER 2010
M W  3.30 – 6.15pm
GL 100 A

Professor: Markus Thiel, Ph.D.
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Phone: 305-348-2323
Office: DM 486 C
Office hours: M-W 2-3 pm & by appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the structures, policies and current political issues of the European Union (EU). The focus will be on the institutions and policies of the EU as overarching integration project in Europe and its impact on the member states. This course examines the policymaking structures and functions of EU institutions, transitions and integration with particular attention to political cultures and the tension with national politics in Europe. The course will include a combination of lecture and discussions as well as a interactive learning exercises (simulation).

Course Objectives

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand the current state of politics in Europe. In this course students will:

1. gain a good understanding of the institutional makeup of the European Union;
2. become familiar with the workings of the European Union and its impact on member states;
3. become equipped with theoretical knowledge necessary to explain the evolution of European integration

Required Texts: (available in the FIU bookstore or through online bookseller)


Recommended:

Regular reading of the New York Times (online, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

Plus: consultation/subscription of think-tanks such as: [euractiv.org](http://euractiv.org), [euobserver.com](http://euobserver.com)
Course Requirements:

Class Participation and Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded. Each student is expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to actively participate in class room discussions. If you cannot attend class because of emergencies or special circumstances, let the instructor know about it in advance. Attendance and participation will account for 15% of the final grade.

We'll be using Moodle, http://ecampus.fiu.edu (click on the first icon on bottom ‘eCampus Pilot Login’). There’ll be a discussion in the last 30 min of class in which you want to actively participate.

Mid-Term Examination

The examination will consist of a combination of short answer, multiple choice and essay type questions, which will be done in class. Students will be expected to combine assigned readings, current events, class materials, lectures and discussions to critically analyze EU politics. The midterm and the final exam need to be taken on the scheduled days. A makeup exam will only be allowed if the student provides documentation of an ‘official’ scheduling conflict, serious illness or family emergency. Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.

EU Council Simulation

Each student will participate in a simulation of the Council of Ministers of the EU. This exercise consists of a written assignment of approximately 6 pages each (double-spaced, to be submitted on www.turnitin.com, ClassID: 3260944, PW: Union) and one class session of oral participation. Negotiation topics and extra info handout will be provided during the first week of class. At this time, students will select, in random order and based on availability, the country they wish to represent during the simulation.

Final Examination

The final examination will cover all materials presented during the course but will focus on the material covered after the mid term through the end of the course, again consisting of a mix of short answer, essay and multiple-choice questions. This examination is worth 30% of the final grade.

Evaluation Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid term exam</td>
<td>30 %/pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation (&amp; preparation paper)</td>
<td>25 % (15 for paper, 10 for sim)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100% or 100 points</td>
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Grading/Evaluation System:

Students will be evaluated on the following grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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Reading Assignments and Examination Outline

Part 1: History, Theory & Institutions

Mon, 5/3  Introduction: History of Europe & the origins of the EU
You should have read: Cini, Ch. 1

Wed, 5/5  EU History: People, Treaties & Events
Cini, Ch. 2-4
Zeff & Pirro, Ch. 1, 2

Mon, 5/10 Theories of European Integration
Cini, Ch. 5-7

Wed, 5/12 EU Institutions: The European Commission & European Parliament
Cini, Ch. 8, 10 (Commission & EP)

Mon, 5/17 EU Institutions: The Council of Ministers (CoM) & the European Council
Cini, Ch. 9, 13

Wed, 5/19 EU Institutions: The Court of Justice (ECJ) and other bodies + review
Cini, Ch. 11, 12

Mon, 5/24 MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Part 2: Policies

Wed, 5/26 EU External Relations & Common Foreign & Security Policy
Cini, Ch. 14, 15

>>> Preparation paper due online Friday, 5/28 high noon!!!
Mon, 5/31  Memorial Day: NO CLASS!  *(Start Reading for next class!)*

Wed, 6/2  Key Policies: Single Market, Social, Just & Regional Europe
          Cini, Ch. 16-19

Mon, 6/7  Key Policies: Euro, CAP & Environment
          Cini, Ch. 20-22

Wed, 6/9  Debates on the future of the EU
          Cini, Ch. 23, 24, 26

Mon, 6/14  **Council of Minister - Simulation**  & review

Wed, 6/16  Last class: FINAL EXAMINATION