The European Union: Treaties, Institutions, Policies

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Note:
• This course is designed as the core offering for a specialization on EU studies. It is recommended to be followed by either INS 592 “The EU in the World” or its more specialized alternative on the EU-Latin American Relations. Completion of the series will earn a certificate/letter of certification in EU studies awarded by the Jean Monnet Chair

Content

Born from the devastation of World War II, the European Union has become one of the most complex and effective international organizations and the most developed of the inter-state cooperation and integration systems in history. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, it has had a historic opportunity to obliterate the remaining dividing lines and make Europe “whole and free.” In the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the EU has gone through various processes, such as the most important enlargement of its history, institutional reform and the task of drafting a Constitutional Treaty, while searching for a place in the world as a collective entity and through some of its most leading state actors.

The processes of European integration, governance and politics have been the object of extensive study and theory proposals. The dual tasks of deepening and widening have presented the European Union with daunting challenges that put its governing ability to the test. Even when it aims to assume pan-European parameters, the Union must address age-old issues such as extreme European diversity, nationalism, racism and inequality that have persisted in the age of globalization.

This course is intended to provide understanding of the European Union’s most significant historical stages, its government treaties, its institutions and most important policies, as well as controversial issues. The focus will be on the content, development, and reform of the institutions and the evolution of the common policies. These have been adapted over the years to reflect the consistent evolution of the institution within a changing European context. The need for reform was recognized even before the prospect of enlargement loomed large, since policy development and implementation involve a complex interplay of factors such as domestic politics and institutional dynamics.

The course will also examine social problems within the European Union that have significant political and policy implications. The increasing volume of transnational and transborder interactions have brought about a slew of alarming tendencies, such as violence and discrimination. These have fueled public debates on issues ranging from identity and belonging to immigration and asylum policies. Awareness and recognition of these problems is an integral part of a comprehensive understanding of the workings and complexity of the European Union.

The course will end with sessions dedicated to the development of a common foreign and security policy as a sign of autonomous collective identity. A final session will be dedicated to the pressing current issues dominated by the debate on the constitutional process.
Requirements:

(1) Two mini-papers (800-1,000 words, 20% each of the final grade) based on a subtopic of a cluster of units (1-6; 7-11). These mini-papers should be informative and critical, reflecting (in notes) a minimum of seven sources, one from each of these categories: (1) chapters of basic textbooks, (2) chapters from advanced/recommended books or a scholarly article (journals, monographs), (3) a reference to web or brochure materials, (4) a think tank analytical piece, (5) a news item as anchor of current awareness and relevancy, (6) reference to one paper produced by the EU Center (www.as.miami.edu/eucenter, under “publications”); if not available, substitute for a second source from 1, 2, or 4; and (7) reference with precise information to a guest lecture given on the topic (when feasible and available; if not, substitute for 1, 2, 4, 6). At least one source has to be in a language other than English. Subject to precise instructions, papers have to be submitted by email to all members of the class and the instructor by 9am the days prescribed.

(2) Final scholarly paper, or special project (optional, to be discussed individually), 40%. The final paper has to show evidence of creative research. It has to contain references to a double number of sources used in the mini-papers (a minimum of 14). Length: 3,000-4,000 words. Any consistent style of documentation/notes

(3) Two objective tests (“Proficiency on the EU”, like a “Driver’s License”) on basic aspects of the EU. These tests will be administered in two parts, one before mid-term, and one during the last week or final exam date (to be determined); 10% each (total 20%).

Basic Texts: