Georgia Institute of Technology

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

INTA 2XXX:

**Politics of the European Union**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course fulfills the Social Science and Global Perspective GEN ED requirements at Georgia Tech.

## **Instructor: Dr. Vicki Birchfield**

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**Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00-12:00 and by appointment**

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*There will be no peace in Europe, if the states are reconstituted on the basis of national sovereignty…. The countries of Europe are too small to guarantee their peoples the necessary prosperity and social development. The European states must constitute themselves into a federation. --*Jean Monnet

*Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.—*Robert Schuman

*If the ambitious project of European integration fails, the entire world will pay the consequences.* --Moisés Naim

**Course Description and Objectives**: The aim of this course is to provide an in-depth introduction and overview of the history and politics of the European Union from its inception to the new era of development under the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. The course is organized into three parts. Part one traces the evolution of European integration with a special focus on the fundamental debates about the nature and scope of European unification and its character as both a political and economic project.  Part two examines the EU’s institutions, decision-making processes and the scope and content of EU law and policy. After gaining deeper knowledge of the historical background of the EU and the nuts and bolts of what the EU is and how it works, part three explores the extent to which the growing supranational and transnational nature of the EU challenges traditional concepts of domestic politics (the meaning of citizenship and democracy) as well as foreign policy and international relations.  The course concludes by comparing the European Union with the United States as a model of democracy and political economy as well as a global actor and a diplomatic force in world politics.

To enhance the quality of classroom discussions it will be helpful to follow current events and the news related to developments in EU politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in the EU are *The Financial Times* and *The Economist* (with caution or a critical eye toward their editorial and political biases of course) both of which offer discounts for student subscriptions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

* demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior within the EU, US and global contexts.
* demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system and the roles of the EU and US within it.
* compare and contrast differences in European and American political, cultural and ethical systems and be able to understand key issues with respect for a range of different variables. (Cultural and ethical awareness.)
* develop effective communication and teamwork skills through group projects and oral presentations.
* explain the origins, institutions and policies of the EU and possess knowledge about the impact of European integration on the politics and society of its 28 Member States

**Required Textbooks:**

Desmond Dinan (2004) *Europe Recast: A History of European Union*

Steven Hill (2010) *Europe’s Promise*

John McCormick (2008) *Understanding the European* *Union*

\*Books area available at the Engineer’s Bookstore on Marietta St.

**Important websites**:

For a vast array of information on the institutions, Member States and current policies of the EU, consult the EU’s official website, Europa. The URL is: <http://europa.eu.int>

Useful information from the European Union’s Delegation to the United States can be found at:

[www.eurunion.org](file:///C:\Users\sjackson3\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.IE5\IYYB8NN0\www.eurunion.org)

**Course Requirements and Grade Distribution**:

Attendance and participation are essential to doing well in the course. Participation comprises 10% of the total grade for the course. Each unexcused absence beyond two allowable cuts will result in a letter grade deduction for the participation portion of the course grade. Readings should be completed prior to class meetings and you should be prepared for active and engaged discussion. All exams are essay and short answer format.

Additionally, for 10 % of the total grade, each student will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on a Member State of his or her choice (if possible or assignments will be made by the Professor) and provide a 5 minute oral overview profiling that country’s accession and integration highlights, key policy concerns/contributions, and overall attitudes and support for the EU. Another 10 % of the grade will be derived from participation in a simulation exercise for which a 3 to 5 page policy memo must be drafted either individually or in small groups. More details and a guideline for the presentations and the simulation will be made available after the first exam and midterm exam respectively.

## First Exam 20%

## Mid-Term Exam 20%

Final Exam 30%

Member State Projects 10%

Simulation Exercise 10%

Participation 10%

**Academic Honesty**:

All work must be entirely your own and must be produced in accordance with the Georgia Tech Honor code. Please read the Academic Honor Code carefully (http//www.honor.gatech.edu/honorcode.html) and familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities under Institute regulations. Any suspected cases of cheating on the exams or any other form of academic dishonesty will be turned over immediately to the Office of Student Integrity for investigation. If you have any further queries on this topic, please visit the website of the Dean of Students: www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity.

**ADAPTS:**

The professor will work with ADAPTS so that all students have an equal opportunity for success. For information on ADAPTS, see <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

## **Schedule of Classes and Reading Assignments**

### **Part I. The Historical Evolution of the European Union**

August 24 Introduction and Overview of Course

August 26 Something New under the Sun? The Post-war

Transformation of Western Europe: Dinan, pp.1-44

August 31 From Conflict to Integration: Dinan, pp. 45-82

September 2 VIDEO & DISCUSSION

September 7 Creating the European Community: Dinan, pp. 83-123

September 9 From the First Enlargement to ‘Eurosclerosis’: Dinan, pp.125-204

September 14 Deepening versus Widening and the Political Economy of Intergration

September 16 The Delors Era and Monetary Union: Dinan, pp. 205-264

September 21 The new EU of 27: The Impact of the Fifth Enlargement Dinan, pp. 265-326

September 23 Debating the Future of Europe: The Constitutional Convention and its aftermath

September 28 Discussion and Review for Exam

September 30 EXAM 1

### **Part II. Institutional Development and Policy-Making in the European Union**

October 5 Contending Theoretical Frameworks: From Functionalism to Constructivist IR and Comparative Politics

October 7 The meaning and changing identity of Europe: McCormick, pp. 1-67

Video clip: Charlie Rose Interview with Tony Judt,

October 12 \*Member State Presentations: The Founding Six (France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, The Netherlands,)

Discussion of Judt interview & McCormick reading from Oct. 7 assignment

October 14 The EU Institutions: McCormick, pp. 69-93

\*Member State Presentations: The Second, Third and sFourth Enlargement (UK, Ireland, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, Spain Austria, Sweden and Finland)

## October 19 **NO CLASS/Fall Recess**

October 21 The EU Policy Process: McCormick, pp. 94-118

\*Member State Presentations (Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania)

October 26 The Internal Market and Economic Policy: McCormick, pp. 142-164

The Community Method, Legal Foundations and the Primacy of EU law. Devuyst Reading uploaded on T-Square

October 28 Common Policies and Shared Competences: McCormick, pp. 165-211

\*Member State Presentations: (Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Malta and Bulgaria

November 2 **Mid-Term Exam**

### **Part III. The Future of the European Union, Implications for EU-US Relations and Prospects for Global Leadership**

November 4 State of the Debate: Contending Theories of EU Integration; Meunier and McNamara Reading uploaded to T-Square; Stephen Hill’s *Europe’s Promise* pp. 1-32

(Time for any remaining Member State Presentations)

## November 9 The European Social Model; Readings on T-Square

## November 11 The EU’s approach to Sustainability and Globalization: Selections from Hill and Eigenhofer

November 16 Catch up and Discussion (45 minutes)

The EU’s Foreign Policy and the emergence of a European Diplomatic Corps (The European External Action Service); supplemental reading on EU Website TBA

November 18 Rethinking Power in the 21st Century: The EU as a model of democracy and global governance?

Hill; pp. 239-300

November 23

Simulation Preparation/Group work

November 25 **No Class. Thanksgiving Break**. Catch up or get ahead on the Hill reading

November 30 Europe’s political, social and economic challenges: population/demographic changes, immigration, competitiveness, regional disparities and structural unemployment: Hill, pp. 301-370.

December 2 Current debates: Re-assessing the European project in light of the Euro crisis, austerity measures, treaty reforms and the proposed banking union

December 7 Simulation Exercise

December 9 **Last day of Class/ Simulation de-briefing and Discussion of Take-home exam**

December 14 **Final Exam Due by 5 p.m.**