

# Advanced European Union Politics

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Aarhus University, Fall 2023

## Course Description

Understanding the European Union (EU) is crucial in light of current global challenges like climate change and migration. Regarding climate change, the EU has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a carbon-neutral economy. Understanding the EU's policies and actions on climate change can provide insights into how to address this global challenge. Migration is another pressing issue, and the EU has been dealing with a significant influx of migrants and refugees in recent years. Understanding the EU's policies on migration, such as the Dublin Regulation and the EU's asylum system, can provide a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with migration in the region.

The purpose of this master course is to give participants in-depth insight into the EU that they can use in their future career and further specialization (e.g. in their MA thesis). The course aims to provide research-based teaching and discussions about central EU institutions, EU decision-making processes and the relationship between EU and national politics. Participants will strengthen their theoretical insight into the EU as well as their competences to do empirical analyses of the EU.

The course is divided into a 'teaching' part (about 75%) and a 'home-assignment' part (about 25%). The teaching part of the course is primarily based on a number of research articles and book chapters. Teaching is organized around three major themes. The first theme covers the institutions of the EU. In this part of the course, we focus on the legislative and executive actors of the EU as well as the role of prime ministers and heads of state. The second theme highlights administrative and legislative decision-making processes in important policy areas such as climate change and migration. Here, we examine how and why rules and laws come about and try to understand cooperation and conflict between different actors. In the third theme, we study the link between national and EU politics. Here, we focus on representation, public opinion, elections and party conflict about European integration.

Having completed the teaching part of the course, participants will concentrate on writing their term papers. The assignment is a paper on a self-chosen empirical research question on a selected aspect of the themes addressed in the teaching part of the course. This part of the course will begin with a plenary discussion of each participant's research idea, research design and data. Then, all participants write their papers under individual guidance from the teacher. The course ends with two to three sessions in which each participant's draft paper is presented and discussed. The participants will then have some time to revise their papers before handing in the final version. The home assignment can be done individually or in groups.

## Link to AU Course Catalog

For more details, you can visit the [course site](#) in the AU Course Catalog.

# Course Structure and Reading List

## Session 1: Current perspectives on European Union Politics

Date: 29, August 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Kelemen, Daniel R. and Kathleen R. McNamara (2021) State-building and the European Union: Markets, War, and Europe's Uneven Political Development, *Comparative Political Studies* 55(6): 963-991. (29 pages)
- De Vries, Catherine (2022) How Foundational Narratives Shape European Union Politics, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 61(4): 867-881. (15 pages)
- Blom-Hansen (2019) Studying power and influence in the European Union: Exploiting the complexity of post-Lisbon legislation with EUR-Lex, *European Union Politics* 20(4): 692-706. (15 pages)
- Kelemen, Daniel R. (2020) The European Union's authoritarian equilibrium, *Journal of European Public Policy* 27(3): 481-499. (19 pages)

## Theme 1: Institutions

### Session 2: The European Commission

Date: 5, September 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Schmidt, Susanne K. and Arndt Wonka (2014) European Commission, In: Jones, Erik, Anand Menon, and Stephen Weatherill (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*, 336-349. (14 pages)
- Egeberg, Morten (2006) Executive Politics as Usual: Role Behaviour and Conflict Dimensions in the College of European Commissioners, *Journal of European Public Policy* 13(1): 1-15. (15 pages)
- Rauh, Christian (2023) Clear messages to the European public? The language of European Commission press releases 1985-2020, *Journal of European Integration* 45(4): 683-701. (19 pages)
- Gehring, Kai and Stephan Schneider (2018) Towards the Greater Good? EU Commissioners' Nationality and Budget Allocation in the European Union, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 10(1): 214-239. (26 pages)

### Session 3: The Councils

Date: 13, September 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Lewis, Jeffrey (2014) Council of Ministers and European Council, In: Jones, Erik, Anand Menon, and Stephen Weatherill (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*, 321-335. (15 pages)
- Tallberg, Jonas (2008) Bargaining Power in the European Council, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 46(3): 685-708. (24 pages)
- Frieden, Jeffrey and Stefanie Walter (2019) Analyzing inter-state negotiations in the Eurozone crisis and beyond, *European Union Politics* 20(1): 134-151. (18 pages)
- Vaznonyte, Auste (2020) The rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU – Still an agenda-setter?, *European Union Politics* 21(3): 497-518. (22 pages)

## Session 4: The European Parliament

Date: 19, September 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Raunio, Tapio (2014) The European Parliament, In: Jones, Erik, Anand Menon, and Stephen Weatherill (eds.) The Oxford Handbook of the European Union, 365-379. (15 pages)
- Daniel, William (2015) Career Behaviour and the European Parliament: All Roads Lead Through Brussels?, Oxford University Press, 1-55. (55 pages)
- Hix, S., Noury, A., and Roland, G. (2006) Dimensions of politics in the European Parliament, American Journal of Political Science 50(2): 494-520. (27 pages)
- Slapin, Jonathan and Sven-Oliver Proksch (2010) Look who's talking: Parliamentary debate in the European Union, European Union Politics 1(3): 333-357. (25 pages)

## Theme 2: Decision-Making

### Session 5: The Making of Rules and Laws

Date: 26, September 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Blom-Hansen, Jens and Roman Senninger (2021) The Commission in EU Policy Preparation, Journal of Common Market Studies, 59(3), 625-642. (17 pages)
- Senninger, Roman and Jens Blom-Hansen (2021) Meet the critics: Analyzing the EU Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board through quantitative text analysis, Regulation & Governance 15(4): 1436-1453. (18 pages)
- Dionigi, Maja K. and Anne Rasmussen (2019) The Ordinary Legislative Procedure, Oxford Research Encyclopedias, Politics, 1-22. (22 pages)
- Cross, James and Henrik Hermansson (2017) Legislative amendments and informal politics in the European Union: A text reuse approach, European Union Politics 18(4): 581-602. (24 pages)
- Costello, Rory and Robert Thomson (2013) The distribution of power among EU institutions: who wins under codecision and why?, Journal of European Public Policy 20 (7): 1025-1039 (15 pages)

### Session 6: Green Deal

Date: 3, October 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Lenschow, Andrea (2015) Environmental Policy, In: Wallace, Helen, Mark A. Pollack, and Alasdair R. Young (eds.) Policy-Making in the European Union, Oxford University Press, 319-343. (25 pages)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The European Green Deal - COM/2019/640 final, 1-28. [[LINK](#)] (28 pages)
- Bayer, Patrick and Michael Aklin (2020) The European Union Emissions Trading System reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions despite low prices, PNAS 117 (16) 8804-8812. (9 pages)
- Blom-Hansen, Jens (2019) Comitology: Controlling Everyday Rule-Making in the European Union, Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Politics, 1-30. (30 pages)

## **Session 7: Asylum and Migration**

Date: 10, October 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Lavenex, Sandra (2015) Justice and Home Affairs, In: Wallace, Helen, Mark A. Pollack, and Alasdair R. Young (eds.) Policy-Making in the European Union, Oxford University Press, 367-388. (22 pages)
- Scipioni, Marco (2018) Failing forward in EU migration policy? EU integration after the 2015 asylum and migration crisis, Journal of European Public Policy, 25(9): 1357-1375. (19 pages)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a new pact on migration and asylum 1-31. [LINK] (31 pages)
- Bansak, Kirk; Hainmueller, Jens and Dominik Hangartner (2017) Europeans support a proportional allocation of asylum seekers, Nature Human Behaviour 1(0133): 1-6. (6 pages)

## **Theme 3: Linking National and European Politics**

### **Session 8: Public Opinion and Euroscepticism**

Date: 24, October 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Hobolt, Sara and Catherine De Vries (2016) Public Support for European Integration, Annual Review of Political Science, 19(1): 413-432. (20 pages)
- De Vries Catherine (2018) Euroscepticism and the Future of European Integration, Oxford University Press, 3-30. (27 pages)
- Foos, Florian and Daniel Bischof (2021) Tabloid Media Campaigns and Public Opinion: Quasi-Experimental Evidence on Euroscepticism in England, American Political Science Review 116(1): 19-37. (19 pages)
- Gehring, Kai (2022) Overcoming History Through Exit or Integration: Deep-Rooted Sources of Support for the European Union, American Political Science Review 115(1): 199-217. (19 pages)

### **Session 9: Elections and Referendums**

Date: 31, October 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Hix, Simon and Michael Marsh (2007) Punishment or Protest? Understanding European Parliament Elections, Journal of Politics 69(2): 495-510. (16 pages)
- Hobolt, Sara and Jill Wittrock (2011) The second-order election model revisited: An experimental test of vote choices in European Parliament elections, Electoral Studies 30(1): 29-40. (12 pages)
- Beach, Derek (2018) Referendums in the European Union, Oxford Research Encyclopedias, Politics, 1-19. (19 pages)
- Hobolt, Sara B. (2016) The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent. Journal of European Public Policy, 23(9): 1259-1277. (19 pages)
- Pedersen, Rasmus Brun, Derek Beach, Roman Senninger, and Jannik Fenger (2022) Danish defense opt-out referendum, 3(1): 83-86. (4 pages)

## **Session 10: Research Ideas & Feedback**

Date: 7, November 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

## **Session 11: National Parties and Parliaments**

Date: 14, November 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Marks, Gary; Wilson, Carole J. and Leonard Ray (2002) National Political Parties and European Integration, *American Journal of Political Science* 46(3): 585-594 (10 pages)
- Jolly, Seth, Ryan Bakker, Liesbet Hooghe, Gary Marks, Jonathan Polk, Jan Rovny, Marco Steenbergen, Milada Anna Vachudova (2022) Chapel Hill Expert Survey trend file, 1999–2019, *Electoral Studies*, 75(102420) (15 pages)
- Auel, Katrin (2007) Democratic Accountability and National Parliaments: Redefining the Impact of Parliamentary Scrutiny in EU Affairs, *European Law Journal* 13(4): 487-504. (18 pages)
- Winzen, Thomas (2022) The institutional position of national parliaments in the European Union: developments, explanations, effects, *Journal of European Public Policy* 29(6): 994-1008. (15 pages)
- Senninger, Roman and Daniel Bischof (2022) Do voters want domestic politicians to scrutinize the European Union?, *Political Science Research and Methods* 11(2): 410-418. (9 pages)

## **Session 12: Representation and Responsiveness**

Date: 21, November 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

- Zhelyazkova, Asya, Jørgen Bølstad, and Maurits J. Meijers (2019) Understanding responsiveness in European Union politics: introducing the debate, *Journal of European Public Policy* 26(11): 1715-1723. (9 pages)
- Schneider, Christina (2019) Public Commitments as Signals of Responsiveness in the European Union, *Journal of Politics* 82(1): 329-344. (16 pages)
- Wratil, Christopher, Jens Wäckerle, and Sven-Oliver Proksch (2022) Government Rhetoric and the Representation of Public Opinion in International Negotiations, *American Political Science Review* 117(3): 1105-1122. (18 pages)

## **Session 13: Paper Presentations**

Date: 28, November 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

## **Session 14: Paper Presentations**

Date: 5, December 2023, 3-6pm

Location: 1330-024

The module compendium consists of 884 pages, and students are expected to read about 200-300 additional pages related to the take-home assignment, along with a few pages in relation to the weekly assignments during the semester.