



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	Politics of the European Union
Course number:	POLI 3001 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Berlin Global Internship, Open Campus (International Relations and Political Science Track)
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2018

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the process of European integration from the post-World War II era to the present. Students study the functions and power distributions of the EU legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Students also analyze the politics of policymaking in different areas, such as the single market, the Euro, and external trade policy. Current dissensions and dysfunctions within the EU are examined and debated from the perspectives of democratic theory and collective action theory. Noneconomic policy areas, such as foreign and security policies, also are addressed. Classroom content is supplemented and enhanced by debate meetings with EU representatives and other EU experts in Berlin.

Learning Objectives

This course will allow students the opportunity to:

- Acquire a basic knowledge of the EU governmental system and its policy making and be able to distinguish its central characteristics from those of a completely sovereign democracy.



- Be able to assess the significance, potential, and shortcomings of the EU from an historical perspective.
- Develop a deepened understanding of democratic theory and collective action theory.
- Learn about and be able to assess the political issues involved in plans for expanding the EU vertically and horizontally.
- Acquire practice in addressing pointed and critical questions to politicians and members of government bureaucracies.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The methodology will be characterized by lectures and class discussions based on the assigned readings. Lectures will be enhanced by PowerPoint presentations whenever these are helpful to explain the complicated governmental structure and policy making procedures of the EU. The class discussions will be prepared and conducted in such way that they can serve as preparation for the roundtable discussion and the meetings with EU representatives in Berlin.

The following are among the questions addressed by the course: How severe is the “democratic deficit” from which the EU suffers according to



many critics, and how can it be remedied? What are the costs and benefits of the increasing centralization of power with the Commission in Brussels and the Parliament in Strasbourg? What is to be learned, empirically and theoretically, from the EU as the world's most complex political system, currently comprising 28 member states – with possibly more to come? What are the achievements and failures of the EU, measured against “the idea of Europe”, i.e. the creation of a peaceful and prosperous union that resolves its differences and conflicts non-violently? How far should European political and economic integration go? Where does Europe end, geographically and ideationally?

Assessment and Final Grade

The final grade will be made up of the following components:

Participation	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Response Papers	30%
Final exam	30%

Course Requirements

Composition Project along the Course

Each student is required to write a research paper of approximately 2,000-2,500 words.

Debate Meeting/Field Trip

The course includes firstly a roundtable discussion involving three experts – a representative of the Office of the EU Commission in Berlin, a member of an NGO, and an independent expert. Students serve as presenters and anchorpersons, and prepare questions.



Participation

As part of your work in this course, students should demonstrate learning beyond the submission of written assignments or presentations. As such, all students receive grades based upon participation.

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students receive grades based upon their contributions both in the classroom and in the Canvas course.

Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed by the Instructor, in advance of each class session. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials where directed.

This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course sessions will also result in a lower final grade.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.



An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- satisfactory evidence is provided of a family emergency

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1	No academic penalty
10 – 20%	2	Reduction of final grade
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 4 language classes	Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1

The Idea of Europe – A Historical Introduction

Kubicek 2012, Chs. 2 and 3: 25–63, 64–95



Glencross 2014, Part I: 11–81

Week 2

The European System of Government

Peterson & Shackleton 2012, Chs. 1–6: 1–145

Week 3

The EU in Practice I: Economic Policy, a Single Market, and the Euro

Sandler 1992, 1–18

Dahl 1994, 23–34

Kubicek 2012, Ch. 10: 267–302

Tiersky & Jones 2014, Ch. 1: 343–368

Offe 2013

Week 4

The EU in Practice II: Foreign and Security Policy

Peterson & Shackleton 2012, Chs. 12 and 13: 265–314

Tiersky & Jones 2014, Ch. 14: 417–446

Roundtable discussion with representatives of the German NGO Campact and the Office of the European Commission in Berlin, and an academic expert on EU policies

Week 5

The EU and the Future of Democracy

Offe & Preuss 2006, 175–204

Schmitter 2011, 191–211



Zürn & Walter-Drop 2011, 258–281
Van Reybrouck, forthcoming

Week 6

The Future of the EU: ‘Deepening and Widening’ and the Question of Values

Dinan 2014, Chs. 10 and 11
Offe 2006, 169–188
Passerini 2012, 120–138
Asad 2002, 209–227

Readings

Asad, Talal. “Muslims and European Identity: Can Europe Represent Islam?” *The Idea of Europe: From Antiquity to the European Union*. Ed. Anthony Pagden. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press / Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Dahl, Robert. “A Democratic Dilemma: System effectiveness versus citizen participation.” *Political Science Quarterly* 109 (1). 23–34.

Dinan, Desmond. *Europe Recast: A History of the European Union*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Glencross, Andrew. *Politics of European Integration: Political Union or a House Divided?* Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2014.

Kubicek, Paul. *European Politics*. New York: Longman, 2012.

Magone, José M. *Contemporary European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*. London and New York: Routledge, 2011.



Moravcsik, Andrew. *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998.

Offe, Claus. "Is There, or Can There Be, a 'European Society'?" *Civil Society: Berlin Perspectives*. Ed. John Keane. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2006. 169–188.

Offe, Claus, and Ulrich K. Preuss. "The problem of legitimacy in the European polity: is democratization the answer?" *The Diversity of Democracy: Corporatism, Social Order and Political Conflict*. Eds. Colin Crouch and Wolfgang Streeck. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2006. 175–204.

Offe, Claus. "Europe in the trap". *Eurozine* 02-06-2013.

<http://www.eurozine.com/pdf/2013-02-06-offe-en.pdf>

Passerini, Luisa. "Europe and Its Others: Is There a European Identity." *The Oxford Handbook of Postwar European History*. Ed. Dan Stone. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. 120–138.

Peterson, John, and Michael Shackleton. *The Institutions of the European Union*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Sandler, Todd. *Collective Action: Theory and Application*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1992.

Schmitter, Philippe. "Diagnosing and designing democracy in Europe." *The Future of Representative Democracy*. Eds. Sonia Alonso, John Keane and Wolfgang Merkel. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. 191–211.



- Tiersky, Ronald, and Erik Jones, eds. *Europe Today: A Twenty-first Century Introduction*. 5th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014.
- Van Reybrouck, David. *Against Elections*. Forthcoming.
- Warleigh-Lack, Alex. *The European Union: The Basics*. 2nd ed. Routledge: London and New York, 2009.
- Zürn, Michael, and Gregor Walter-Drop. "Democracy and representation beyond the nation state". *The Future of Representative Democracy*. Eds. Sonia Alonso, John Keane and Wolfgang Merkel. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. 258–281.

Online References

- Centre for European Reform: <http://www.cer.org.uk/>
- Policy Network: <http://www.policy-network.net/>
- The European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/home.aspx>
- Journal of European Integration:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/geui20/current#.U-4rRSgsVJY>
www.eurozine.com
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/>