



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	Politics of the European Union
Course number:	POLI 3001 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Summer in Berlin
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020, Session II

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

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Participation:	20%
2. Midterm Exam:	25%
3. Response Paper 1:	10%
4. Response Paper 2:	10%
5. Response Paper 3:	10%
6. Final Exam:	25%
TOTAL:	100%

Course Requirements

Midterm and Final Exam

Cumulative, in-class, written exams with 4 to 6 questions in a short answer and essay format.

Response Papers

Students will complete three 750-word response papers related to course readings and site visits.



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. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom 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 will result in a written warning.

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, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

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 content classes, or up to 2 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements; written warning
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 5 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

1.1 Course Overview and Introduction
Introduction and overview of major themes to be addressed during the course.

1.2 The Idea of Europe – A Historical Introduction

- Historical perspectives on European identity
- Post WW II Origins
- Founding nations and their political goals

Reading:

Glencross, Andrew. *Politics of European Integration: Political Union or a House Divided?* Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2014: Part I: 11-81.



Kubicek, Paul. *European Politics*. New York: Longman, 2012: Chapters 2 and 3: 25-63, 64-95.

- 1.3 The European System of Government
- Structure of the EU government
 - Functions and power distributions of the EU legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government

Reading:

Peterson, John, and Michael Shackleton. *The Institutions of the European Union*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012: Chapters 1–6: 1–145.

Week 2

- 2.1 The EU in Practice: Economic Policy and the Single Market
- What is collective action theory and how does it help us understand the EU?
 - What are the economic policies that build the foundation for the EU's single market?

Reading:

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

Sandler, Todd. *Collective Action: Theory and Application*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1992: 1-18.

Due date for submission of Response Paper 1

- 2.2 The EU in Practice: The Euro
- The politics of economic reform in EU states
 - The impact of the 2008 financial and economic crisis
 - Current economic policy directions

Reading:

Kubicek, Paul. *European Politics*. New York: Longman, 2012: Chapter 10, 267-203.



Offe, Claus. "Europe in the trap". *Eurozine* 02-06-2013. <http://www.eurozine.com/pdf/2013-02-06-offe-en.pdf>

Tiersky, Ronald, and Erik Jones, eds. *Europe Today: A Twenty-first Century Introduction*. 5th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014: Chapter 1, 343-368.

2.3

The EU in Practice: Foreign Policy

- The Lisbon treaty and foreign policy reforms
- Current trends and conflicts
- The relationship between the EU and the US

Reading:

Peterson, John, and Michael Shackleton. *The Institutions of the European Union*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012: Chapters 12 and 13, 265-314.

2.4

Roundtable Discussion

Discussion with representatives from the German NGO [Campact](#), the Office of the European Commission in Berlin, and an academic expert on EU policies.

Assignment:

Due date for submission of Response Paper 2

Week 3

3.1

Midterm Exam

3.2

The EU in Practice: Security Policy

- Assessing the EU/NATO relationship
- Recent EU crisis responses

Reading:

Tiersky, Ronald, and Erik Jones, eds. *Europe Today: A Twenty-first Century Introduction*. 5th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014: Chapter 14, 417-446.

3.3 The EU and the Future of Democracy

- How does the EU achieve legitimacy in the absence of political community?
- How far should European integration go?

Reading:

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.

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

3.4 Brexit and Populism

- Explaining Brexit and the future of a post-Brexit EU
- Populist movements in EU states

Reading:

Van Reybrouck, David. *Against Elections*. Forthcoming.

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.

Due date for submission of Response Paper 3

Week 4

4.1 Site Visit:

Representation of the European Commission in Berlin (*Vertretung der Europäischen Kommission in Berlin*), European House Berlin (*Europäisches Haus Berlin*), Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin: Permanent exhibition.

4.2 The Future of the EU: 'Deepening and Widening' and the Question of Values

- How far should European political and economic integration go?

Reading:

Dinan, Desmond. *Europe Recast: A History of the European Union*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014: Chapters 10 and 11.

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.

4.2 United States of Europe or Europe of Nations

- Can there be a 'European society?'

Reading:

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: 209-227.

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.

4.3 Concluding Discussion
Final Exam

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/>