

PSCI 363

The European Union: Challenges and Strategic Choices

Spring Semester

Instructor: **Dr. Ritsa Panagiotou**

Course Description

With 28 (27?) member states and nearly half a billion residents, the European Union has grown into a major political and economic actor on the world stage. It has promoted peace in Europe for over five decades, changed the way Europeans live, as well as the way the rest of the world perceives Europe. The EU has been considered a paradigm of a successful “peace project” that promoted stability, prosperity and successful cooperation between erstwhile feuding nations. The fact that the Union had grown from its original 6 members to 28 served as undeniable proof of the appeal and attractiveness of the EU for most countries on the European continent.

The past few years have changed this idyllic picture of the European Union, and the EU is currently facing one of the most difficult and challenging periods since its creation. The unprecedented turmoil and uncertainty following the United Kingdom’s shock decision to leave the EU in June 2016, the extent and intensity of the ongoing economic crisis in the eurozone, the rise of euroscepticism, populism and extremism in Europe, the impact of the refugee crisis, the fear of terrorism and the uncertainty surrounding current relations with Russia and the United States have all created an increasingly volatile and insecure environment concerning the future of the EU.

Learning Objectives

The goals of the course are to acquire knowledge of the history, institutions, politics and economics of the European Union, and to understand the complex new realities and challenges that are threatening to undermine decades of economic integration and political cooperation on the continent. Specifically, through a combination of lectures, critical analysis in class discussions, and students’ written work/ independent research, the course will focus on:

- History of European integration (ECSC, stimulus for creation of EEC, early enlargements)
- How does the EU work, and what impact has it had on the lives of Europeans?
- Institutions and decision-making processes in the EU (Commission, Council of Ministers, European Parliament, European Court of Justice)
- Economic and Monetary Union, Single Market, Foreign and Security Policies
- EU Enlargement: a history; current issues and on-going negotiations;
- The eurozone crisis: background, responses and impact throughout Europe;
- The future of the EU: dealing with the new challenges of an increasingly unpredictable environment, including Brexit, euroscepticism, refugee crisis, terrorism, relations with the US and Russia.

Course Requirements/ Assessment

Students should come to class prepared on the basis of the assigned readings per lecture, and **class participation is considered essential**. There will also be a midterm exam, a final exam, and group presentations in the last sessions of the course. The breakdown of the final grade for this course is as follows:

- Mid-term examination (30% of final grade);
- Class participation (20% of final grade);
- In-class presentation (20% of final grade);
- Final examination (30% of final grade).

Use of Laptops: In-class use of laptops is permitted if that facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up information and references, etc. **Laptop privileges will be suspended if they are not used for class-related work.** Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the Academic Regulations of College Year in Athens

Books, Course Materials, Moodle

Basic Texts:

Cini, Michelle (ed.) *European Union Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 5th edition, 2016.

McCormick, John, *Understanding the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan, 6th Edition, 2014.

Tsoukalis, Loukas. *In Defense of Europe: Can the European Project be Saved?* Oxford University Press, 2016.

Additional Texts:

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

Hill, Christopher and Michael Smith (eds) *International Relations and the European Union*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Tsoukalis, Loukas. *The Unhappy State of the Union: Europe needs a New Grand Bargain*, Policy Network, 2014.

Class handouts, including a broad compilation of current articles, policy papers, surveys, and reports.

Periodicals and Websites

A wide range of material on the EU is available on-line, and students are encouraged to consult the official EU website (Gateway to the EU: <http://europa.eu>) as part of their weekly preparation and also for research purposes. Other websites with relevant material are <http://euobserver.com> and <http://www.euractiv.com/en>

Reading daily/weekly newspapers and magazines is also recommended, particularly the Financial Times (<http://www.ft.com>), the International Herald Tribune (<http://www.iht.com>) and the Economist (<http://www.economist.com>).

Class Schedule

This is a preliminary schedule of lectures. Part of the order may change and some topics may be replaced by others, depending on current developments within the EU during the course.

1	Tue Jan 30	Introduction to the European Union, introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These are the Real Differences between Americans and Europeans (World Economic Forum)• What is a European? (McCormick, pp. 38-46)
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2	Thur Feb 1	Historical Background: origins and dynamics of European integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinan, Introduction, Ch. 1 • McCormick, Introduction, Ch. 3 • Cini, Introduction; Ch. 2
3	Tue Feb 6	How the EU works: the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 9 • McCormick, Ch. 4 (pp. 79-84)
4	Thur Feb 8	How the EU works: the Council of the EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 10 • McCormick, Ch. 4 (pp. 76-79; 84-87)
5	Tue Feb 13	How the EU works: the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice and European Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 11/12/13 • McCormick, Ch. 4 (pp. 87-95; 109-119)
6	Thur Feb 15	Creating the Single European Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 18 • McCormick, Ch. 7 (pp. 146-158)
7	Tue Feb 20	Guest Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trump, populism and the Identity of Europe (E. Jones) • European Disunion (I. Traynor) • McCormick, Ch. 5 (pp. 96-109)
8	Thur Feb 22	Economic and Monetary Union; the Euro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 21 • McCormick, Ch. 7 (pp.159-168) • EMU and the euro (eu4journalists) • Why was the euro created? (I. Chapple)
9	Tue Mar 6	The EU's Foreign and Security Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 17 • McCormick, Ch. 9
10	Thur Mar 8	EU Enlargement: A History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, Ch. 16 (pp. 227-236) • Bomberg and Stubb, Ch. 9 • Dinan, pp. 253-265
11	Tue Mar 13	EU Enlargement, Current Issues: How Far can Europe Go? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Demise of EU enlargement policy (A.S. Wallden) • Turkey's ruthless President (BBC) • The rise and fall of free speech under Turkey's Islamists • Turkey seeking better EU ties as journalists await prison (Euobserver)
12	Thur Mar 15	Midterm exam
13	Tue Mar 20	The EU's New Challenges (I): The Eurozone crisis; background and responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Defense of Europe, Ch. 3, Ch. 4 (L. Tsoukalis) • The Unhappy State of the Union, pp. 25-35, (L. Tsoukalis) • The Eurozone in Crisis (Council on Foreign Relations, 2015) • A very short history of the crisis (The Economist)

- The origin of the Greek sovereign debt crisis (M. Vyas)
- Eurozone crisis as historical legacy (M. Sarotte)
- Greece's successful death (N. Chrysoloras, Crisis Observatory)
- Timeline: The unfolding eurozone crisis (BBC report)
- Staring into the abyss (Economist)
- The EU in Crisis: Two economists disagree on why (NYT Book Review)
- Re-energising Europe; pp. 8-12 (New Pact for Europe Report 2017)

14 Thur Mar 22 **The EU's New Challenges (I) (continued): Impact of the crisis on European Society and Economy**

- In Defense of Europe, Ch. 5 (L. Tsoukalis)
- The Unhappy State of the Union, pp. 36-67, (L. Tsoukalis)
- The True Cost of Austerity - Greece case study (Oxfam)
- Europe is Destroying Greece's Economy for no reason at all (Washington Post)
- Young, gifted and Greek: Generation G (Guardian)
- What austerity looks like inside Greece (New Yorker)
- Austerity vs Democracy in Greece (Foreign Affairs)
- Greece's successful death (N. Chrysoloras, Crisis Observatory)

15 Tue Mar 27 • **Model European Union (Simulation)**

16 Thur Mar 29 **Film "The Greek Resistance"**

- The Future of the euro: let's get real (Cohen)
- Euro crisis: why a Greek exit could be much worse than expected (M. Sivy)
- Fears of social and political unrest if Greece leaves euro (S. Castle)
- IMF admit to errors in international bailout of Greece (FT, 2013)
- My Big Fat Greek Funeral
- Would Grexit have been a better deal? (BBC)
- Three Days to save the euro (Guardian)
- Greece and the eurozone crisis: two narratives (Y. Kitromilides, Crisis Observatory)
- The Social impact of the Economic Crisis in Europe (Hanan)
- A cautionary tale (Oxfam)

17 Tue Apr 10 **Class Activity**

18 Thur Apr 12 **The EU's New Challenges (II): Brexit; the European Union without the United Kingdom**

- Britain and Europe (The Economist)
 - The roots of Euroscepticism (The Economist)
 - Economic implications of Brexit (Brookings Institution)
 - Brexit means brexit (The Guardian)
 - After the UK Referendum, the main trial: save Europe! (P. Efthymiou, Crisis Observatory)
 - A weaker, more hostile country (The New European)
 - What Now? Options for Brexit (EPC)
 - Uncertainty in the UK (EPC)
 - A Background Guide to Brexit (The Economist)
 - Brexit: The Consequences for the EU's Political System (UCL Briefing Paper)
 - We need a Second referendum (Guardian)
 - Brexit and the Decline of British Foreign Policy (Carnegie Europe)
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- Theresa May's Brexit Dilemma (Carnegie Europe)

19	Tue Apr 24	<p>Europe's New Challenges (III): The Refugee and Migration Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-energising Europe; pp. 13-15 (New Pact for Europe Report 2017) • Refugee Crisis in the European Union (Council of Foreign Relations) • Why is EU struggling with migrants (BBC) • Refugees in Greece: Rising Tide (The Economist) • Is Greece about to be martyred again? (P. Eleftheriadis) • Schengen Agreement: closing borders isn't the answer • Greece left alone in the Refugee Crisis (DW) • Greece managed refugee crisis with dignity (ekathimerini) • A crisis within a crisis (aljazeera) • Can Greece cope both with austerity and the refugee crisis? (Debating Europe) • The refugee crisis underlines the absurdity of the Western Balkans being outside of the EU (F. Bieber, LSE Blog). • Divided Europe seeks a long term answer to the refugee crisis (The Guardian) • How is the Migrant Crisis dividing EU countries? (BBC report)
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20	Thur Apr 26	<p>Europe's New Challenges (IV): The Spectre of Terror in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-energising Europe; pp. 16-18 (New Pact for Europe Report 2017) • The new normal (The Economist) • These 5 facts explain why Europe is ground zero for terrorism (The Economist) • Why Belgium is front line in war on terror (CNN) • Terrorist atrocities in Western Europe (Economist) • Islamic terror could drive Europe into the arms of the far right • Rising fear of terrorism pushes Europeans to rethink approach to right wing parties
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21	Thur May 3	<p>Europe's New Challenges (V): The rise of populism and extremism in Europe; Tensions in the neighbourhood, tensions within the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Defense of Europe, Ch. 6, Ch. 7 (L. Tsoukalis) • Re-energising Europe; pp. 28-29 (New Pact for Europe Report 2017) • The Rise of the Far Right (Harvard Political Review) • Europe's far right is surging (The Guardian) • Defending EU values in Poland and Hungary (Carnegie Europe) • Europe is being torn apart (T. Garton Ash) • What are the big challenges facing Europe? (BBC report) • Does Europe have a future? (D. Triantafyllou) • Eastern Europe warns against disintegration (Zalan) • "United we stand, Divided we Fall" (D. Tusk) • The EU: Current Challenges and Future Prospects (Congressional Research) • The EU in Limbo (Euobserver) • What are the big challenges facing Europe? (BBC)
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22	Tue May 8	Group presentations and class discussion
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23	Thur May 10	Group presentations and class discussion
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24	Tue May 15	Final Exam (16:30)
