

**Course: EU Politics (10 ECTS)**

**Bloc 2: November - December 2010**  
**SAP exchange Leiden**

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*Course description:*

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the political economy of the European Union. Located somewhere between a traditional international organization and a nation-state, this hybrid political entity has continually grown from the original six founding members to a total of 27 member-states since the most recent round of enlargement. Topics covered in the course will include the history of the Union, the main theoretical approaches to European Integration, and familiarization with the Union's institutional setting, for example the role of the European Commission or the European Parliament. We will also discuss the EU's main policy fields, as well as the policy-making process. Some of the questions we will seek to answer are "What is the role of particular institutions in decision-making?", "Do institutions matter and if so, how?" and "Why enlarge?" In this way the class aims at providing a brief overview of the European Union and at prompting discussions on EU debates and issues during the course of the next two months.

Students will be introduced to the mechanics of the social science research process and will have the opportunity to learn how to examine political phenomena of interest using that framework. A main approach in the study of political science is something called 'positive political theory', or in other words this is a way to study phenomena by modeling causality. We will focus our discussions and way of thinking utilizing positive political theory. At the end of the course you will be able to easily apply this method to researching a question of interest to you.

*Course requirements:*

All students are expected to attend class and come prepared by having done the assigned readings. Attendance and participation will count as 20% of your grade. In addition, students are required to complete 2 short written assignments (2-3 pages), each worth 15% of the final grade, and an 8-10 pages final paper (there will be no final exam!) worth 50% of the course grade. Everyone should bring a news piece concerning some aspect of EU politics to every Thursday class - every week we will devote the last 20-30 min of the class discussing 2 or 3 of those. This is part of your participation grade. All written assignments should be double-spaced.

*Required books:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press.
- Additional readings will be distributed electronically

## **1. (Nov. 2) Introduction and Overview: What is the European Union?**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapter 1

## **2. (Nov. 4) The Research Process: How Do We Do Political Science Research?**

*Readings:*

- Shepsle, K. and M. Bonchek (1997), *Analyzing Politics*, Norton, chapters 1, 2 (to be distributed electronically, or from library)
- Manheim et al. (2006), *Empirical Political Analysis*, chapters 1, 2 (to be distributed electronically)

## **3. (Nov. 9) Theory: How Do We Think about the EU?**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapters 5, 6
- Pollack, Mark (2005). "Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?" *Annual Review Political Science*, 8: 357-398.

## **4. (Nov. 11) History: From European Coal and Steel Community to European Union**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapters 2, 3

## **5. (Nov. 16) Expanding Union: Enlargement**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapter 26

## **6. (Nov. 18) Institutions: What Are They, Why Are They Important?**

*Readings:*

- Shepsle and Bonchek (1997), *Analyzing Politics*, Norton, chapter 11 (to be distributed electronically, or from library)
- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapter 8 (European Commission)

\*\*\* Response paper due Nov. 21, 5pm, at my email box \*\*\*

## **7. (Nov. 23) Guest Lecture**

*Topic to be announced*

**8. (Nov. 25) No class**

*Spend class time to work on your papers!*

**9. (Nov. 30) Institutions: The Council of the EU and the European Parliament**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapters 9, 10

\*\*\* Paper proposal due Dec.1, 5pm, at my email box \*\*\*

**10. (Dec. 2) Papers + Institutions: The Courts of the European Union**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapter 11
- Scully, Roger (1997), "The European Parliament and the Co-Decision Procedure: A Reassessment", *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, 3 (3): 58-73

**11. (Dec. 7) EU Policy and the Policy-making Process: How is European Policy Enacted?**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapters 13, 16

**12. (Dec. 9) Issues and Debates: Public Opinion and Europeanization**

*Readings:*

- Michelle Cini ed. (2009), *European Union Politics*, third edition, Oxford University Press, chapters 24, 25
- Spirova, Maria. (2008), "Europarties and Party Development in EU-candidate States: The Case of Bulgaria", *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 60 (5), p. 791-808 (available through the library online journals or Google scholar)

**13. (Dec. 14) No class**

*Spend class time to work on your papers!*

**14. (Dec. 16) No class**

*Spend class time to work on your papers!*

\*\*\* FINAL PAPER due Tuesday, Dec.21, 5pm, at my email box \*\*\*