

# The Politics of European Integration (120H)

## UCSD Summer Session I – 2011



Instructor Prof Graham Timmins  
 E-Mail graham.timmins@stir.ac.uk  
 Meetings Mondays and Wednesdays – 11.00-1.50  
 Location CENTR - Room 207

### Introduction

The EU today plays an increasingly significant, some would argue intrusive, role in the political affairs of European nation states. Whereas the vast majority of Europeans accept that membership of the European Union has been beneficial for their countries and that collective action is essential if contemporary Europe is to maximise its influence on the global agenda, there is considerable concern regarding the impact that integration is having on national sovereignty and identity. Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- an appreciation of the historical context and treaty objectives of the European integration process;
- a basic understanding of the institutional framework and decision-making processes of the European Union;
- an awareness of the current political challenges confronting the European Union.

### General Learning Resources

The course text is John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*, 4th Edition, London: Palgrave (2008) and copies should be available in the University bookstore. I will set recommended reading ahead of each class and it will be in your interest to complete these reading assignments. I have also indicated additional primary sources which I think you will find useful. You can also download a useful official publication from the EU website by Pascal Fontaine which is entitled '[Europe in 12 Lessons](#)' (2007) and should take a look at the [European Union](#) website as this will be an invaluable source of information for this course. We will also be making extensive use of [Europe's World](#), an

excellent magazine which considers current European debates. Finally, take a look at [EUobserver](#). This is a very helpful website for keeping you informed on current affairs.

### **Support**

I can be contacted via internet and my e-mail address is at the top of the syllabus. I will attempt to get back to you as soon as possible. I will also leave time at the end of each meeting for informal discussion. If at any time you require assistance or would like to speak with me about the course outside of class, please let me know and we will arrange a time for us to meet.

### **Course Programme**

There will be ten class sessions for this course and there is an expectation that you will attend all of them. Please note that the following format will be used for each meeting except the summary discussion and examination.

11.00-12.30 Lecture

12.30-12.50 Break

12.50- 1.50 Discussion

NB. Lectures will start promptly at 11.00am, so please arrive on time and ready to study.

I will distribute copies of my powerpoint slides via e-mail in advance of the lectures. It is, therefore, essential that I have a valid e-mail address for all students taking this course.

#### **Mon 27 June**

#### **Session 1: Introduction to the European Union**

Discussion – What is the purpose of the European Union, and how can we best evaluate its effectiveness?

#### **Wed 29 June**

#### **Session 2: The Constitutional Debate**

Discussion – Why was the Lisbon Treaty considered necessary?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapter 3 (Evolution of the EU)

Document: EU Council - [The Lisbon Treaty](#). NB. This link will provide you with a full copy of the treaty. You are, however, best advised to look at the summarised version (the treaty at a glance) and the questions and answers section.

-Document: Joschka Fischer, '[From Confederation to Federation: Thoughts on the Finality of European Integration](#)', speech given at the Humboldt University, Berlin, 12 May 2000.

-Document: Tony Blair, '[Superpower not Superstate](#)', speech given to the Polish Stock Exchange, October 2000.

-Document: The Bruges Group, '[A Look at the Lisbon Treaty: Exposing the Revived and Renamed EU Constitution](#)'.

#### **Wed 6 July**

#### **Session 3: European Integration in Theoretical Perspective**

Discussion – What does theory tell us about the nature of the European integration process?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapters 1 (What is the European Union?) and 2 (The Idea of Europe).

-Document: Andrew Moravcsik, '[Preferences and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach](#)', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol.31, No.4, 1993 pp.473-520.

**Mon 11 July**

**Session 4: Institutions and Decision-Making**

Discussion – Does the European Commission have too much or too little power?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapters 4 (The Institutions of the EU) and 5 (The EU and the Member States)

-Document: EU Commission - [How the European Union Works \(2005\)](#)

**Wed 13 July**

**Session 5: Enlargement**

Discussion – Why does the European Union continue to enlarge membership?

Reading:

-Document: Frank Schimmelfennig, '[The Double Puzzle of EU Enlargement: Liberal Norms, Rhetorical Action and the Decision to Enlarge to the East](#)', Centre for European Studies: University of Oslo, Arena Working Papers, No.99/15 (1999).

-Document: Wim Kok, [Enlarging the European Union: Achievements and Challenges](#), European University Institute (2003).

-Document: [European Commission: Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2010-2011 \(2010\)](#)

**Mon 18 July**

**Session 6: European Governance and Popular Legitimacy**

Discussion – How can the European Union become 'closer to its citizens'?

Reading:

-Textbook: Chapter 6 (The EU and its Citizens)

-Document: EU Commission - [White Paper on European Governance \(2001\)](#)

-Document: EU Commission - [Eurobarometer No.74 \(Autumn 2010\)](#).

**Wed 20 July**

**Session 7: The European Economic Debate**

Discussion – What are the key problems facing the European economy?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapters 7 (Economic Policy) and 8 (Improving the Quality of Life)

-Document: [The Lisbon Strategy for Employment, Economic Reform and Social Cohesion \(2000\)](#)

-Document: [Europe 2020: A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth \(2010\)](#)

**Mon 25 July**

**Session 8: The Common Foreign and Security Policy**

Discussion – How credible an international actor is the European Union?

### Reading

- Textbook: Chapter 9 (The EU and the World)
- Document: [The European Security Strategy](#) (2003)
- Document: [Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy](#) (2008).
- Document: Charles Grant and Mark Leonard, '[How to Strengthen EU Foreign Policy](#)', London: Centre for European Reform (2006).

## Wed 27 July

### Session 9: EU-US Relations

Discussion – Is there a future for the transatlantic partnership?

### Reading

- Document: Ivo H. Daalder, '[Are The United States and Europe Heading for Divorce?](#)', *International Affairs*, Vol.77, No.3 (2001), pp.531-544.
- Document: Robert Kagan, '*Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order*', London: Atlantic Books (2003). NB. I do not have access to an electronic copy of this book but used copies can be purchased on Amazon for as little as one dollar.
- Document: Javier Solana, '[Mars and Venus Reconciled: A New Era for Transatlantic Relations](#)', The Albert H. Gordon Lecture, Harvard University, 7 April 2003.

## Fri 29 July

### Multiple Choice Test and Seen Examination

This session is scheduled for 11.30-2.30. The room will be confirmed in due course.

## Course Assessment

Course assessment will comprise nine discussion comments, a multiple choice test and a seen examination.

### *Discussion Comments*

You will be required to submit by e-mail attachment a 500-word analysis on each discussion topic (nine in all). The deadline for submissions will be 12 noon on the Friday in which the class takes place. No submission extensions will be granted. Each comment will carry 5 per cent of the total grade for this course ie 45 per cent in total.

### *Multiple Choice Test*

For the multiple choice test you will be required to respond to 40 questions in approximately 30 minutes. All questions will be drawn from the textbook and powerpoint slides and each question will comprise 0.5 per cent of the total grade for this course ie 20 per cent in total.

### *Seen Examination*

The question for the seen examination will be distributed on Friday 22 July and you will have one hour to provide your response to this question at the examination. You may not bring any notes or other material into the room with you. This component will comprise 35 per cent of the total grade.

## Course Advice

If you can accept that there are no short cuts to the acquisition of knowledge, you will already be on the way to obtaining a good grade for this course. But, in more specific terms, the following advice may be useful:

- attend all class sessions and listen to what points are being highlighted;

- do the recommend reading and come prepared with questions;
- do additional reading when preparing the class comments and do not leave your work until the last minute;
- when writing your class comments and the seen examination, concentrate on explaining rather than describing events and issues;
- remember, although your opinions may be of interest, I would prefer to find out what you have learned;
- spend time organising your thoughts for the examination – a seen question is not an easy option as I will be expecting a higher level of knowledge and analysis than would be expected from an unseen question:
- if there is anything that you do not understand about this course, ask me and I will do my best to assist.

**End of Document**