

**SYLLABUS**  
**POLS 4329: EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**University of Houston**  
**Fall Semester 2008**  
**PGH 344**  
**TTH 10:00-11:15 am**

Instructor: Tim Hellwig  
E-mail: [thellwig@uh.edu](mailto:thellwig@uh.edu)  
Phone: 713-743-3914

Teaching Assistant: Eva Coffey  
E-mail : [eva.coffey@gmail.com](mailto:eva.coffey@gmail.com)

Office: 447D Philip G. Hoffman Hall  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 and by appointment

**Course description**

European Union Politics provides students with a general introduction to the politics, governing structure, and policies of the European Union. The course begins with an overview of the evolution of European integration and with surveying the different theories employed to make sense of integration. It then looks at how the EU is governed, and where the power lies. Next, we investigate how the EU and “Europe” are viewed in the eyes of national governments and by individual citizens. The last part of the course surveys important European-level policies and issues, as well as discusses relations between the EU and the rest of the world, including, of course, the United States.

Students taking this course should have taken U.S. and Texas Constitutions and Politics (POLS 1336) and U.S. Government: Congress, President and Courts (POLS 1337) or their equivalents. There are no other prerequisites, although students who have taken Introduction to Comparative Politics (POLS 3311), The Nations of Europe (POLS 3329), or similar, will find them to be beneficial as background for the concepts and issues addressed in this course.

**Course requirements and evaluation**

This is an upper-level course in political science. Accordingly, students are expected to attend class every session, do the assigned readings *before* we discuss the topic in class, and arrive at class ready to discuss the readings. The general schedule of readings follows the calendar below, but I will also attempt to announce what readings should be completed for the next class session as we proceed. Apart from daily participation, class requirements include three non-cumulative in-class exams and an in-class debate on a current issue facing the European Union.

Exams will be part short answer/identification and part essay and will cover all readings, lectures, and class discussions since the previous exam (that is, they will not be cumulative in the strict sense). The approximate exam dates are listed in the schedule below. If you foresee problems with exam dates, see me after class, during office hours, or contact me by phone or electronic mail *before* the assigned dates. Make-up exams will not be offered except in extremely rare circumstances. If you have an *unanticipated* emergency that causes you to miss the exam, contact me as soon as possible. If you foresee any absences for religious holy day observation, please contact the instructor in advance.

In-class Debates will take the following format. Students will sign up for a particular topic from a list of potential debate topics. You may choose one of the topics listed in the schedule below or, with instructor approval, debate on a different topic. Debates are of the form “yes/no”, where one side supports an initiative or idea and the other side does not. There will be a minimum of two and a maximum of four students in each debate (that is, you may have a partner on your debate team). You are expected to do the background preparation necessary to be informed about your topic and to address questions from the debate moderator and audience.

Debates will have the following time allotments:

- 10 minutes opening remarks for side 1
- 10 minutes opening remarks for side 2
- 10 minutes of Q and A from the moderator
- 2 minutes closing statement from side 1
- 2 minutes closing statement from side 2,  
making a total allotment of around 35 minutes per debate.

Students will need to sign up for a debate topic no later than Tuesday, September 9.

Course evaluation is as follows:

Exam 1 = 20% (on or about Sept 23)

Exam 2 = 25% (on or about Oct 21)

Exam 3 = 25% (on or about Dec 4)

In-class debate = 25% (various dates – see below)

Class participation and attendance = 5%

Final letter grades are calculated in the following percentages:

93-100% = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
90-92 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-

## **Other Course and University Policies**

### *Academic honesty*

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and observe the University of Houston’s policies against cheating and plagiarism. The University’s statement on academic honesty is available from the student handbook or at <http://www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk/acad/achonpol.html>.

### *Students with disabilities*

The University of Houston is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities, including students who have learning disabilities, health impairments, psychiatric disabilities, and/or other disabilities. If you believe you have a disability which requires accommodation, please contact the Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD) at 713-743-5400 (voice) or 713-749-1527 (TTY)

### *Cell phones, laptop computers, and other pieces of technology*

Since they cause interruptions and distractions, cell phones should be turned off during class time. In particular, no cell phones may be accessible during exams. Also, students increasingly bring laptop computers to class – with the ostensible purpose of taking notes. I will continue to

allow laptops in class for the sole purpose of taking notes. Surfing the web or email will not be tolerated – if you must do this in class, I advise you to drop the course.

### **Required texts**

Two required texts and a short magazine insert have been ordered for this course and are available for purchase at the University Bookstore or online (via amazon.com, etc). Make sure you get the right edition of each.

Hix, Simon. *The Political System of the European Union*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) ISBN 033396182

Wood, David, and Birol A. Yesilada. *The Emerging European Union*, 4th ed. (Pearson Longman, 2007) ISBN: 9780321439413

“In the nick of time: A special report on EU enlargement.” *The Economist*, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Additional readings and other course materials will be available on the web at via WebCT. First-time student users of WebCT need to get their WebCT user name by using one of the following options:

- 1) Online at <http://www.uh.edu/webct> - click “Check User Name” to get a WebCT user name.
- 2) In person in Room 116-PGH on the main campus, Monday-Friday, 8 am to 8 pm.
- 3) By phone at 713-743-1411 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except University holidays).

Once students have their WebCT user names, they can log on to WebCT Vista courses by going to <http://www.uh.edu/webct> and clicking the “WebCT Vista” button.

### **Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Exams**

Readings should be done in the order listed. I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule, including exam dates, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of these changes. Date changes will be announced well in advance during class.

Week 1: Aug 26 (no class August 27 due to American Political Science Association meetings)

Topic: Introduction to the course

Read: none

Week 2: Sept 2-4

Topic: The context of the European experiment and theories of integration

Read: Wood and Yesilada chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-26)

Hoffmann, Stanley, 1966. “Obstinate or Obsolete? The Fate of the Nation-State and the Case of Western Europe,” *Daedalus*, Vol. 95, No. 3. Excerpt reprinted as chapter 18 in Brent F. Nelsen and Alexander Stubb, *The European Union*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. [WebCT]

### **SIGN UP FOR DEBATE TOPIC – SEPTEMBER 9**

Week 3: Sept 9-11

Topic: History of Integration

Read: Wood and Yesilada chapters 3-4 (pp. 27-64)  
Moravcsik, Andrew. "Negotiating the Single European Act: National Interests and Conventional Statecraft in the European Community." *International Organization* 45 (1991), pp.19-56. [WebCT]

Week 4: Sept 16-18

Topic: History, continued, plus the European Constitution

Read: Wood and Yesilada chapter 5 (pp. 65-82)

Cindy Skach. "We, the Peoples? Constitutionalizing the European Union." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 43 (2005), pp. 149-170. [WebCT]

*Potential debate topic: Does the EU need a constitution?*

*Participants: Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_

*No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

### *EXAM 1, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23*

Week 5: Sept 23-25

Topic: EU Institutions: The Commission, the Council of Ministers, and the European Council

Read: Wood and Yesilada chapter 6 (pp. 83-107)

Hix chapter 2 (pp. 27-71)

Week 6: Sept 30 & Oct 2

Topic: EU Institutions: The European Parliament and the European Court of Justice

Read: Hix chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 72-143)

Week 7: Oct 7 & 9

Topic: Public Opinion

Read: Hix ch. 5 (pp. 147-174)

Liesbet Hooghe, Gary Marks, and Carole Wilson. "Does Left/Right Structure Party Positions on European Integration?" *Comparative Political Studies* 35 (2002), pp. 965-89. [WebCT]

Week 8: Oct 14 & 16

Topic: Parties and Elections

Read: Hix ch. 6 (pp. 175-207)

*Potential debate topic: Does the EU suffer from a "democratic deficit"?*

*Participants: Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_

*No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

### *EXAM 2, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21*

Week 9: Oct 21 & 23

Topic: Policies and Issues: Enlargement

Read: Wood and Yesilada ch. 7, pp. 108-124

“In the nick of time: A special report on EU enlargement.” *The Economist*, entire 16 pgs  
[available at UC bookstore]

*Potential debate topic: Given the current state of affairs, should the EU continue to grow in size? Why or why not?*

*Participants. Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_

*No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Week 10: Oct 28 & 30

Topic: The single market

Read: Hix, ch. 8, pp. 235-270

Week 11: Nov 4 & 6

Topic: Policies and Issues: The budget, the CAP, and Social and Cohesion Policies

Read: Wood and Yesilada ch. 9, pp. 146-180

Hix, ch. 9, pp. 271-308

*Potential debate topic: Should the CAP be abolished?*

*Participants. Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_

*No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Week 12: Nov 11 & 13

Topic: Policies and Issues: Monetary Integration

Read: Wood and Yesilada ch. 8, pp. 135-156

Hix ch. 10, pp. 309-343

*Potential debate topic: Should the mandate of the ECB be changed to address a larger set of economic issues?*

*Participants. Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_

*No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Week 13: Nov 18 & 20

Topic: Policies and Issues: External Economic Relations

Read: Wood and Yesilada ch. 10, pp. 181-203

Hix ch. 12, pp. 374-405

*Potential debate topic: Is the EU good for world trade?*

*Participants. Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_

*No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Weeks 14 & 15: Nov 25, Dec 2 & 4 (no class Thurs, Nov 27 for Thanksgiving holiday)

Topic: Policies and Issues: External Political Relations – the CFSP, immigration, etc

Read: Wood and Yesilada ch. 11 and 12, pp. 204-234

Hix ch. 11, pp. 344-37

*Potential debate topic: Should EU member states have a security umbrella separate from NATO?*

*Participants. Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*No:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Potential debate topic: Is the overall effect of the EU on cross-border migration good or bad?*

*Participants. Yes:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*No:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*EXAM 3: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4*