



Europe at the crossroads: Tübingen-Berlin International Summer School

18 June – 14 July 2018

Course title:	European Integration and the Political System of the EU
Date:	20 June – 29 June 2018
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Jan H. Ullrich, M.A.
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Contact hours:	48 (including study trips)
ECTS-Credits:	4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the aftermath of the Second World War, for the first time in European history, former enemies created a political union in order to coordinate their economic and political activities. Over the past decades, this unique cooperation of sovereign nation states gradually led to the emergence of a supranational political system. Although today the European Union (EU) still is not a “real” state, it is not only made up of 28 European nation states but also of the EU’s very own institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament (EP), and the European Court of Justice, which all possess unique powers to shape the lives of more than 500 million citizens in Europe every day.

This course will first introduce students to the history of the process generally known as “European Integration” and to the most prominent theoretical approaches developed in political science to explain both the integration process and today’s every-day decision-making dynamics in the EU. Equipped with the historical knowledge and the theoretical toolboxes, the following sessions will then focus on the EU as a political system with significant executive and legislative powers, and on how policies are made in this unique multi-layered system of governance.

Later sessions will focus on the democratic quality of the EU’s decision-making process and on what ways of participation are available to Europeans to have their voices heard at the supranational level. Hence, in-class discussions and guest talks will not only cover the functioning of the various EU institutions but also the dynamics of Europe-wide EP elections, modes of participatory governance, and EU lobbying by interest groups. Furthermore, the debates on both the EU’s “democratic deficit” and on public opinion towards the Union will be discussed and analyzed in class, with the general questions in mind: is a collective European identity possible and how the EU can deal with all the challenges it faces today?

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Required Reading	Recommended Reading
1 (= 2UE)	Wednesday, 20 June (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	Introduction to the course and the history of European Integration	<i>Pinder/Usherwood 2013: pp. 9-32</i>	-
2	Wednesday, 20 June (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Theorizing and explaining the European Union	<i>Hix/Høyland 2011: pp. 1-19</i>	<i>Pollack 2005</i>
3	Wednesday, 20 June (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Discussion session (I): Taking stock and looking ahead	-	-
4	Thursday, 21 June (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	The EU's executive politics	<i>Blair 2012: pp. 72-94</i>	<i>Glenncross 2014: pp. 85-110</i>
5	Thursday, 21 June (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	The EU's legislative politics	Warleigh/Drachenberg 2013	<i>Pinder/Usherwood 2013: pp. 33-55</i>
6	Thursday, 21 June (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Guest Lecture (I): Practitioner (Council of the EU)	-	-
7	Friday, 22 June (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	INTERMEDIATE EXAM	-	-
8 - 10	Study Trip to Stuttgart Friday, 22 June: 11:00am – 05:00pm			
11	Monday, 25 June (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	Democracy in Europe: EP elections and the EU's "democratic deficit"	<i>Smismans 2013</i>	<i>Glenncross 2014: pp. 235-260</i>
12	Monday, 25 June (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Discussion session (II): Taking stock and looking ahead	-	-

13	Monday, 25 June (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Guest Lecture (II): Professor (Democracy in Europe/the EU)	-	-
14 - 17	Study Trip to Strasbourg (European Parliament) Tuesday, 26 June: 07:00am – 10:30pm			
18	Wednesday, 27 June (I): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Citizens' Participation in the European Union	<i>Heidbreder 2012</i>	<i>Kohler-Koch 2012</i>
19	Wednesday, 27 June (II): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Discussion session (III): Taking stock and looking ahead	-	-
20	Thursday, 28 June (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	Public opinion: The emergence of a collective European identity?	<i>Fuchs/Schlenker 2006</i>	<i>Schlenker 2011</i>
21	Thursday, 28 June (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Discussion session (IV): Taking stock and looking ahead	-	-
22	Thursday, 28 June (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Guest Lecture (III): Professor (European Identity)	-	-
23	Friday, 29 June (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	FINAL EXAM	-	-
24	Friday, 29 June (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Summary and evaluation	-	-

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By familiarizing themselves with both the history of European Integration and the major theoretical approaches that help to explain how the EU works, and by applying the acquired knowledge to several institutions and politics of the EU, at the end of the course students will have learned to, first, conceptualize supranational decision-making and, second, to study these phenomena empirically. They will be able to identify and understand the dynamics of transnational policy-making, its implications for participation and democracy, and how the coordination of economic and political endeavors among nation states and non-state actors generally impacts the lives of citizens in many countries at the same time. Not only will they know the EU and its politics better, they will also be able to apply their new knowledge of supranational decision-making to other world regions as well.

PREREQUISITES

The course is designed for undergraduate students from different countries and with different academic backgrounds who want to deepen their knowledge in European politics. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Final average grade: final exam covering all subjects of the course program (40%), a midterm exam covering the topics of the first two days of the class (30%), and active participation in class (30%).

READING (REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED)

Blair, Alasdair 2012: The European Union. A Beginner's Guide, Oxford: Oneworld Publications, pp. 72-94.

Fuchs, Dieter/Schlenker, Andrea 2006: European Identity and the Legitimacy of the EU, Working Paper: "Background paper (draft) Team 12: "The EU-Enlargement, Cultural Diversity and National Identity".

Glencross, Andrew 2014: The Politics of European Integration. Political Union or a House Divided?, West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, pp. 85-110, pp. 235-260.

Kohler-Koch, Beate 2012: Post-Maastricht Civil Society and Participatory Democracy, in: Journal of European Integration, 34:7, pp. 809-824.

Heidbreder, Eva G. 2012: Civil society participation in EU governance, in: Living Reviews in European Governance, 7:2.

Hix, Simon/Høyland, Bjørn 2011: The Political System of the European Union, 3rd Edition, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-19.

Pinder, John/Usherwood, Simon 2013: The European Union. A Very Short Introduction, 3rd Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 9-55.

Pollack, Mark A. 2005: Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?, in: Annual Review of Political Science, 8, pp. 357-398.

Schlenker, Andrea 2011: Cosmopolitan Europeans or Partisans of Fortress Europe? Supra-national identity patterns in the EU, Paper prepared for presentation at the ECPR Conference, University of Reykjavik, 26th August 2011.

Smismans, Stijn 2013: Democracy and Legitimacy in the European Union, in: Cini, Michelle/Perez-Solorzano Borraran, Nieves (eds): European Union Politics, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 341-353.

Warleigh-Lack, Alex/Drachenberg, Ralf 2013: Policy-making in the European Union, in: Cini, Michelle/Perez-Solorzano Borraran, Nieves (eds): European Union Politics, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 199-212.