

## EUS 4210/POS 4931: Politics and Institutions of the European Union (Fall 2025)

### Course Day & Times:

- MWF 7<sup>th</sup> period (1:55pm – 2:45pm) Keene-Flint 0121
- Office Hours: in person
  - Wednesday 11am-12:30pm - Anderson Hall, Rm. 211
  - Thursdays 2pm - 3:00pm via [Zoom](#)
  - By Appt.
- **Email via Canvas ONLY.** *Please do not use my UFL email.*

### Course description and objectives:

The course is designed to introduce students to the history, institutions and politics of the European Union (EU) through a comprehensive analysis of its origins and functioning. The EU is contextualized within the broader framework of political science, largely eschewing *sui generis* approaches in favor of a comparative political systems lens. The course is designed to encourage consistent active engagement and requires timely completion of all reading assignments. Assessment is largely paper based, using multiple smaller papers to ensure regular feedback. The course is designed to provide a solid foundation in EU Studies to facilitate pursuit of additional more specialized and advanced courses. It is designed for Political Science, EU Studies and European Studies students, but all with an interest in the EU are welcome.

### Prerequisites

A basic “Introduction to Comparative Politics” course (such as CPO 2001) is strongly recommended, though not required.

### Attendance

Note that class attendance is required for this course. During lectures the professor may provide insider information for exams and otherwise incentivize regular attendance. Repeated absences will unquestionably affect your performance on assignments and exams. Lecture notes and other related course materials discussed or distributed during class will NOT be posted online or otherwise distributed (except in the case of an *excused* absence).

### **This course complies with all UF academic policies on**

- Attendance and make-up policies
- DRC information
- Assigning grade points
- Gator Evals
- Honesty policy
- In-class recording
- Academic and wellness resources

**For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).**

## Grading & Assessment

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class.

- Thematic short papers (15% each, 45% total)
- Policy paper (15%)
- Weekly quizzes (30%) The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped *\*Note there are no make-up quizzes. Those with excused absences will have their quiz score denominator adjusted accordingly.*
- Participation *\*not just attendance\** (10%) - active engagement in discussions

## Grading Scale (UF standard)

94.0% - 100% = A 90.0% - 93.99% = A- 87.0% - 89.99% = B+ 84.0% - 86.00% = B 80.0% - 83.99% = B- 77.0% - 79.99% = C+ 74.0% - 76.99% = C 70.0% - 73.99% = C- 67.0% - 69.99% = D+ 64.0% - 66.99% = D 60.0% - 63.99% = D- < 60.0% = F

*\*\*\*Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed during the course of the semester. As much advance warning as possible will be provided to students. Changes can be made to the schedule, assigned reading or other aspects as deemed necessary. No changes will be made to grading scale or core UF policies as noted above. \*\*\**

## REQUIRED BOOK & MATERIALS

1. Hix, Simon and Bjørn Høyland (2022), The Political System of the European Union (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) ISBN: 978-1-3503-2547-0 *\*note that earlier/older editions are not acceptable.*
2. Lelieveldt, Herman and Sebastiaan Princen (2023), The Politics of the European Union (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) ISBN: 978-1-009-31834-1 *\*note that earlier/older editions are not acceptable.*
3. Various articles and book chapters assigned below in detailed syllabus. These will be available online or within Canvas files as needed.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

### **Week 1 (Aug. 22): Introduction to the class**

- Basic review of syllabus and course
- Why study the EU?
- How will we study the EU?

Readings:

2. [Olsen Chapter 1](#)
3. Hix & Høyland Chapter 1

## **PART I: HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **Week 2 (August 25-29): History Part I: Early Ideas on Integration**

- Thoughts on European integration before the wars
- Efforts to integrate Europe between the wars

Readings:

1. [Hewitson, M. "Europe and the Fate of the World: Crisis and integration in the late 1940s and 1950," Chapter 2, pp. 35-61 in Europe in Crisis: Intellectuals and the European Idea 1917-1957, Hewitson and D'Auria \(Eds\), Berghen Press, NY, USA 2015.](#)
2. [Burgess, M. "Federate or Perish: The continuity and Persistence of the Federal Idea in Europe, 1917-1957," Chapter 16, pp. 302-322 in Europe in Crisis: Intellectuals and the European Idea 1917-1957, Hewitson & D'Auria \(Eds\), Berghen, NY, USA 2015.](#)
3. [Roobol, "Aristide Briand's Plan: The Seed of European Unification" Chapter 3, pp. 32-46 in Spiering and Wintle \(eds.\) Ideas of Europe since 1914: The Legacy of the First World War, Palgrave MacMillan Press, Basingstoke, UK, 2002.](#)

### **Week 3 (Sept. 1 (holiday), 4th -6th-Kreppel @APSA): History Part I: Early Ideas on Integration**

- Finish up topic.

### **Week 4 (Sept. 8-12): History Part II**

- The immediate post WWII initiatives
- Successes and failures of the early years
- The SEA and the great leap forward

Readings:

1. Olsen [Chapter 2](#) and [Chapter 3](#)
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 1 pp. 3-15

## Week 5 (Sept. 15-19): History Part III: From Maastricht to Lisbon to Today

- *The creation of the modern EU*
- *From success to failure to perpetual crisis*
- *Short paper 1 (History) due – September 21st*

### Readings:

1. [Olsen Chapter 4](#)
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 1 pp. 15-26

## PART II: THEORIES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

## Week 6 (Sept. 22-26): Early Theories of Integration

- The idea of Europe and European-ness
- Functionalism
- Federalism

### Readings:

1. [Pistone, Sergio, "Altiero Spinelli and the Strategy for a United States of Europe," Chapter 14 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
2. [Mitrany, David, "A Working Peace System," Chapter 15 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
3. [Haas, Ernst, "The Uniting of Europe" Chapter 17 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)

## Week 7 (Sept. 29-Oct. 3): From International Relations to Comparative Politics

- Neo-functionalism/post functionalism
- Liberal-intergovernmentalism
- Historical Institutionalism

### Readings:

1. [Pinder, John, "The European Community and the Nation-State: A Case for Neo Federalism" Chapter 21 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
2. [Moravcsik, Andrew, "The Choice for Europe" Chapter 23 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
3. [Hix, Simon, "The Study of the European Community: The Challenge to Comparative Politics" Chapter 25 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
4. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 2

## Week 8 (Oct. 6-10): New(er) Theories of EU Integration

- Constructivist approaches
- Multi-level governance
- Comparative Federalism
- *Short paper 2 (Theories) due October 12<sup>th</sup>*

### Readings:

1. [Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks, "Multi-level Governance in the European Union" Chapter 26 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
2. [Parsons, Craig, "The Institutional Construction of Interests," Chapter 28 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
3. [Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks "A Post-Functionalist Theory of European Integration: From Permissive Consensus to Constraining Dissensus" Chapter 29 in Brent Nelsen and Alexander Stubb Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration, \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\) Lynne Reinner Press, 2014](#)
4. [Jones, E., D. Kelemen, and S. Meunier \(2021\) "Failing Forward? Crises and Patterns of European Integration" \*Journal of European Public Policy\* 28\(10\): 1519-1536](#)

## PART III: THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Week 9 (Oct. 13-17): The Executive Branch

- The rise and fall (and rise?) of the Commission
- The emergence of a political executive (European Council)

#### Readings:

1. Hix & Høyland Chapter 2
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 3
- 3.

### Week 10 (Oct. 20-24): The Legislative Branch

- The evolution of the legislative institutions
- The emergence of bicameralism in the EU

#### Readings:

1. Hix & Høyland Chapter 3
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 3
- 3.

### Week 11 (Oct. 27-31): The Judicial Branch

- The (changing) role and structure of the European Court of Justice
- Multi-level judicial decision making
- *Short paper 3 (Institutions) due Nov 2nd*

#### Readings:

1. Hix & Høyland Chapter 4
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 3

## PART IV: POLITICS AND POLICY-MAKING IN THE EU

### Week 12 (Nov. 3-7): Decision Making in the EU

- Who decides what (and how)
- Revisiting multi-level governance

#### Readings:

1. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 4, Chapter 8, and Chapter 10
2. [Rhinard, M., The "Crisisification of Policy-making in the European Union," \*Journal of Common Market Studies\*, pp.1-18 2019](#)

### Week 13 (Nov. 10-14): Agenda Setting and implementation in the EU

- Who decides what to decide?
- Revisiting liberal intergovernmentalism and neo-functionalism

#### Readings:

1. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 9 and Chapter 11
2. [Kreppel and Oztas, "Leading the Band or Just Playing the Tune? Reassessing the Agenda-Setting Powers of the European Commission" \*Comparative Political Studies\*, Vol 50, No. 8, pp. 1118-1150, 2017.](#)
3. [Thomson, R. R. Torenvlied and J. Arregui, "The Paradox of Compliance: Infringements and Delays in Transposing European Union Directives," \*British Journal of Political Science\*, No. 37, pp. 685-709, 2007.](#)

### Week 14 (Nov. 17-21): Representation and Public Opinion

- Who represents what in the EU
- The rise of Euro-skepticism and its implications
- Democratic deficit

#### Readings:

1. Hix & Høyland Chapters 5 & 6
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapters 5 & 6

### Week 15 (Nov. 24-28): THANKSGIVING (no class)

### Weeks 16 (Dec 1 & 3): Conclusions – What kind of Political System in the EU?

- What is the EU?
- Failing forward? The EU in (perpetual) crisis
- *Short paper 4 (Policy) due December 7th*

#### Readings:

1. Hix and Høyland Chapter 13
2. Lelieveldt & Princen Chapter 12