

# Politics of European Economic Integration (DRAFT)

**Instructor:** Corinne Tomasi

**Email:** [corie@ufl.edu](mailto:corie@ufl.edu)

**Office:** 3318 Turlington Hall

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Class Meeting Time:** MWF | 3:00-3:50 pm

**Classroom:** AND 21

## Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with a unique perspective on the political economy of European Union (EU) economic integration. While economic integration has been at the heart of the European project, each step toward further integration has led to (often) intense political dialogue on the implications for member states' sovereignty and more broadly for the political trajectory of the EU. From the single market to banking union, students will analyze the political consequences of economic integration and examine the future of the economic integration project.

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the evolution of the European economic integration from limited free trade area to an economic union.
- Analyze the political implications of economic integration
- Assess the efficacy of various EU economic policies and evaluate the prospects for further integration

## Required Materials

- We'll be reading extensively from one book, but it is available to read for free online through UF Libraries:
  - *The Cambridge Handbook of European Monetary, Economic, and Financial Integration* (2023), eds. D. Adamski, F. Amténbrink, J. de Haan (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press)
- Other articles and book chapters to be available in Canvas

## Assignments

### 1. Participation – 10%

Attendance is required to successfully participate in the class. Students are allowed two (2) free unexcused absences. Subsequent absences will result in 3 points off your final attendance grade per absence.

On Fridays, we will have a class discussion on assigned readings. Students will sign up for a specific week to serve as class discussion leader (see below) but are expected to still contribute on weeks when not leading the discussion.

## 2. Class Discussion Leader – 20%

Each student will select one Friday to serve as class discussion leader(s). Discussion leaders will have 10 minutes to present the overall themes from the class readings and present on a current event that highlights the week's core topics.

Individually, each discussion leader will send 3 questions for a class-wide discussion (questions must be sent to the instructor by Thursday, 3:00 pm the week you are leading the discussion). The instructor will select 4-5 questions for the class discussion after the presentation

## 3. Quizzes – 25%

There are five (5) quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will be given at the start of class on Fridays and only cover that week's readings. There are no make-up reading quizzes without an excused absence.

## 4. Fair Fashion Simulation – 20%

Students will participate in an in-class simulation of the Council of the European Union. You will be assigned a member state to represent the Minister of the Industry and the Economy for their respective member state. The simulation will take place over the course of two class days at the end of the semester. Students will be graded on participation during the simulation (see rubric on Canvas).

## 5. Take Home Final – 25%

The final exam is essay-based, intended for students to critically engage with the topics from class and evaluate understanding of core themes covered in class and assigned readings. The exam will be distributed on Friday, December 5 and will be completed at home and submitted electronically. Final exams must be **submitted by Thursday, December 11, 11:59 pm ET**. Late exams will be deducted 10 points per day late.

### Grading Scale (*UF standard*)

| <b>Grade</b> | A        | A-      | B+        | B         | B-      | C+        | C         | C-      | D+        | D         | D-      | E      |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| <b>Score</b> | 93.4-100 | 90-93.3 | 86.7-89.9 | 83.4-86.6 | 80-83.3 | 76.7-79.9 | 73.4-76.6 | 70-73.3 | 66.7-69.9 | 63.4-66.6 | 60-63.3 | 0-59.9 |

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com/>
  - a. Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> , ph. 392-1575. For emergencies contact the University Police Department: ph. 392-1111 or 9-1-1.

## COURSE SCHEDULE\*

### PART I: INTRO TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

#### Week 1 (August 22) – Introduction

#### Week 2 (August 25-29): Historical Survey

- Origins of the EU
- From Rome to Lisbon – EU through treaties

Reading:

1. Olsen. 2021. *European Union: Politics and Policies*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chapters 2-4 (pp. 27-72)

#### Week 3 (September 3-5): Institutions of the EU

**(NO CLASS ON MONDAY, 9/1, LABOR DAY)**

- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch

Reading:

1. Olsen. 2021. *European Union: Politics and Policies*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chapters 5-7 (pp. 79-132).

#### Week 4 (September 8-12): Institutions (cont.) & Theories of Economic Integration

- Structure and Function of the European Central Bank
- Belassa's Stages of Economic Integration

Reading:

1. de Grauwe. 2023. *Economics on Monetary Union*, 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Chapter 9 (pp. 164-187).
2. Verdun, Amy and Lucia Quaglia. 2025. "[The European Central Bank: An Overstretched, Multi-Tasking Central Bank](#)." in *The European Central Bank in the International Political Economy* (International Studies Review): 5-10.
3. Sapir, André. 2011. "European Integration at the Crossroads: A Review Essay on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bela Balassa's *Theory of Economic Integration*." *Journal of Economic Literature* 49(4): 1200-1229.

### PART II: THE SINGLE MARKET & MICROECONOMIC POLICIES

#### Week 5 (September 15-19): Evolution of the Single Market

- From Coal and Steel to Digital Markets
- Reforming the Single Market

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\* Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule if needed and will update students in advance of any adjustments.

- Brussels Effect

Reading:

1. Egan, Michelle. 2022. "The Single Market." in *European Union Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 293-307.
2. Bradford, Anu. 2019. *The Brussels Effect*, Introduction (pp. 7-24).
3. Berg, Aslak and Zach Meyers. 2024. "[Enrico Letta's Report: More than a Market but Less than a Report.](#)" Centre for European Reform.

**Week 6 (September 22-26): Core Micro Policies in the Single Market**

- Competition Policy
- Common Agricultural Policy

Reading:

1. Baldwin and Wyplocz. 2022. *The Economics of European Integration*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chapters 9, 11 (pp. 213-235; 261-279).
2. Court of Justice of the European Union. 2023. "[The FIFA and UEFA Rules on Prior Approval of Interclub Football Competitions](#)" Press Release No. 203/23, 21 December.

**Week 7 (September 29-October 3): Is the Single Market Good for Everyone?**

- EU Regional Policy
- Enlargement and Economic Integration
- Geographies of Discontent

Reading:

1. Schwab, Thomas. 2024. "Quo Vadis, Cohesion Policy? European Regional Development at a Crossroads." *Intereconomics* 59(5): 284-92.
2. Chupilkin, Maxim, Zsoka Koczan, and Alexander Plekhanov. 2025. "20 Years of EU Membership: What Explains the Accession Bonus?" EBRD Working Paper No. 305, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. 27 May.
3. Dijkstra, Lewis, Hugo Poelman, Andres Rodriguez-Pose. 2020. "The Geography of EU Discontent." *Regional Studies* 54(6): 737-53.

**PART III: EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION**

**Week 8 (October 6-10): Evolution of EMU**

**(NO IN PERSON CLASS ON 10/10 – VIDEO ASSIGNMENT)**

- History of the EMU
- Global Financial Crisis and the Eurozone Crises

Reading:

1. Verdun, Amy. 2023. "Theorizing Economic and Monetary Union: Between Concepts and Pragmatism." in *The Cambridge Handbook of European Monetary, Economic, and Financial Integration*, eds. D. Adamski, F. Amtenbrink, J. de Haan (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press): 33-50.

2. Hall, Peter. 2012. "The Economics and Politics of the Euro Crisis." *German Politics* 21(4): 355-371.

Video Assignment (October 10 – see Canvas)

- "Inside Europe: Ten Years of Turmoil: Going for Broke." BBC.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jf\\_CW44S70](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jf_CW44S70).

**Week 9 (October 13-17): The Euro**

**(NO CLASS ON 10/17 – HOMECOMING)**

- Is the Euro an Optimum Currency Area?
- Digital Euro

Reading:

1. Hafner, Kurt and Jenifer Jager. 2013. "[The Optimum Currency Area Theory and the EMU](#)." *Intereconomics* 48(5): 315-22.
2. Andor, Laszlo. 2018. "[The Unifying Role of the Single Currency](#)." *Intereconomics* 53(4): 215-220.
3. Quaglia, Lucia and Amy Verdun. 2025. "The Geoeconomics of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs): The Case of the European Central Bank." *New Political Economy*: 1-13.

**Week 10 (October 20-24): European Fiscal Union?**

- Stability and Growth Pact
- Fiscal Adjustments

Reading:

1. De Haan, Jakob and Bram Gootjes. 2023. "National Fiscal Policy in the EMU." in *The Cambridge Handbook of European Monetary, Economic, and Financial Integration*, eds. D. Adamski, F. Amtenbrink, J. de Haan (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press): 332-348.
2. Fabbri, Sergio and Andrea Capati. 2023. "Adjustments in Economic Crises: The Different Outcomes of the Sovereign Debt and Pandemic Crises in Europe." in *The Cambridge Handbook of European Monetary, Economic, and Financial Integration*, eds. D. Adamski, F. Amtenbrink, J. de Haan (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press): 363-76.
3. Bergmann, Max and Federico Steinberg. 2024. "[Europe's Fiscal Crossroads](#)." Center for Strategic and International Studies.

**Week 11 (October 27-31): Completing EMU**

- Banking Union
- Capital Markets Union
- European Safe Asset

Reading:

1. Ríos Camacho, Elena. 2023. "The Politics Behind the Creation of the Banking Union." in *The Cambridge Handbook of European Monetary, Economic, and*

*Financial Integration*, eds. D. Adamski, F. Amtenbrink, J. de Haan (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press): 443-58.

2. Veron, Nicolas. 2024. "Capital Markets Union: Ten Years Later." European Parliament In-Depth Analysis.
3. Gosse, Jean-Baptiste and Anass Mourjane. 2021. "A European Safe Asset: New Perspectives." Banque de France Bulletin 234/6.
4. European Commission. 2015. "Five Presidents' Report: Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union."

## PART IV: TRADE POLICY AND THE GEOECONOMIC TURN

### Week 12 (November 3-7): Internal Politics of EU Trade Policy

- Creating EU trade policy
- Domestic Preferences in EU trade policy

Reading:

1. Titievskaja, Jana. 2019. "[EU Trade Policy: Frequently Asked Questions](#)." European Parliamentary Research Service: pp. 5-17.
2. Ehrlich, Sean. 2009. "How Common is the Common External Tariff?" *European Union Politics* 10(1): 115-41.
3. Conconi, Paola, Cristina Herghelegiu, Laura Puccio. 2021. "EU Trade Agreements: To Mix or Not to Mix, that is the Question." *Journal of World Trade* 55(2): 231-60.

### Week 13 (November 10-14): External Dimension of EU Trade Policy

- Geoeconomic turn in EU trade policy
- EU Trade and ACP Countries
- Trade Wars?

Reading:

1. Danzman, Sarah and Sophie Meunier. 2024. "The EU's Geoeconomic Turn: From Policy Laggard to Institutional innovator." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 62(4): 1097-1115.
2. Mshomba, Richard. 2024. "The Economics and Politics of Economic Partnership Agreements." In *Africa and Preferential Trade: An Unpredictable Path to Development* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press): 79-116.
3. Matthijs, Matthias. 2025. "[US-EU Trade Deal Avoids a Tariff War, but Deepens European Dependence](#)." Council on Foreign Relations.

### Week 14 (November 17-21): Where does Economic Integration Go from Here?

- Is the single market complete?
- Is integration a process or an outcome?

Reading:

1. Kammer, Alfred. 2025. "[Europe's Integration Imperative](#)." Finance and Development Magazine, International Monetary Fund.

2. Jones, Erik, R. Daniel Kelemen, Sophie Meunier. 2021. "Failing Forward? Crises and Patterns of European Integration." *Journal of European Public Policy* 28(10): 1519-36.

**Week 15 – (November 24-28) Thanksgiving Week**

**Week 16 – (December 1-3) Fair Fashion Simulation**

**Exam Week – Take Home Final Due Thursday, December 11, 11:59 pm**