ISC340: An Introduction to the European Union
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

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Course Description
This is a class on European Integration. The European Union (EU) is a unique international organization, a political project, and a political experiment. The goal of this class is to both introduce you to the accomplishments of the EU and help you become critical participants in the vibrant debates over its future. You will learn the history, structure, and politics of the European Union, including the challenges it faces today. In the first part of the course, we will cover the most prominent explanations of the emergence of the European Community; its historical evolution since the end of World War II; and the main institutions of the EU today. We will also focus on competing visions within the EU (e.g., intergovernmentalism vs. federalism). In the second part, we will focus on the most important policy areas of the EU—that is, economic and market integration, economic and monetary union (EMU), Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). Finally, special attention will be given to the “EU Enlargement” debate. In the final part, we will focus on transatlantic relations and the EU’s position in the world.

Texts
There are 3 required books, available for purchase online.


Learning Outcomes
As a result of completing this course, students will:
1. Know the history of the European Union and understand its institutional structure.
2. Understand the contemporary political debates about the future of the EU.
3. Have developed an understanding of EU foreign, security, defence, economic, and environmental policy.
4. Improve your presentation skills.
5. Compose a publishable opinion piece on the topic.
Class Policies
The following policies are important. Read them carefully.

Grading
There are four components to your grade:

• **Class Participation: 20%** - Students will have to read 1-2 texts per class. They are academic articles or chapters. They aim to introduce the issues and debates for each class and they are the beginning and not the end of the discussion. Active participation in the class is strongly encouraged. You are encouraged to bring with you news stories that are relevant to our class.

• **In class midterm: 30%** - The midterm will consist of two parts. The first part will be a short knowledge quiz (multiple choice and identification questions) that will count for 75% of your grade. The second part will count for 25% of your grade and will require you to write a Policy Note to a leader. You will be given two questions/topics and you will be expected to write on one of them. Please do not bring with you any notes or reading materials.

• **2 Short assignments: 20% of your grade** - Students will have to write two short assignments on themes covered in class or on specific cases.

• **Final Paper: 30%** - There will be an in-class closed-book final that will follow the same structure as the midterm.

If you would like me to re-grade your midterm or the final paper, you must submit a written request, explaining why you believe you did not receive the proper grade. I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade. There will not be opportunities to do extra-credit work to improve your grade.

Make-up exams
Make-up exams are allowed only if you have consulted with me in advance.

Late Work
Late assignments will lose one third of a full grade (e.g., from an A to a A-, to B+ etc.) for each day after the deadline. There are only two exceptions to the late-assignment policy: illness or family emergency. If either of these circumstances applies, you must provide written documentation (such as a doctor’s note if you are ill), and you must communicate with me before the assignment is due (i.e., emailing me on the morning the assignment is due and saying you are sick is not acceptable for avoiding a penalty). I am willing to accommodate documented requests, but you must communicate with me before the assignment is due.

Attendance and Participation: Class attendance will be formally recorded and participation incorporated into your final grade. Please come to class on time. Feel free to bring a cup of coffee/tea or water, but please don’t bring food. Cell phones must be turned off. Laptop volume must be set to “mute.” In case of medical and other emergencies, make sure you notify me in advance and submit relevant documents later.
Course Schedule:

July 2. Introduction and Overview


Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95CuBI-BL4E

July 3. The Idea of European Integration and the Challenges It Currently Faces

Nugent, Chapters 1 and 2

Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwWTMdTlRq0&list=UUUqIbimFVzz5Wj1rUuQxcw&index=1&feature=plcp

HISTORY & ORIGINS

July 4. Explanations for European Integration I

Moravcsik. Introduction and Chapter 7.

July 8. Explanations for European Integration II


July 9. Explanations for European Integration III - DEBATE


Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA2kPNwTkhc

July 10. European Political Development: From the Cold to the Post-Cold War Era

Nugent, Chapter 3 and 4

INSTITUTIONS

July 11. The European Commission

Nugent, Chapter 8
http://ec.europa.eu/about/index_en.htm

July 15. The Council of Ministers and the European Council

Nugent, Chapters 9 and 10
Council of Ministers
http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/council/index_en.htm

European Council

July 16. The European Parliament and Its Main Political Groups

Nugent, Chapter 11

Parliament
New European Parliament: more power, more responsibility. Available at:
Watch the videos on this webpage:

Assignment #1: Choose one of the parties that are members of the European People’s Party
and write a brief memo on its political platform and organizational structure.

July 17. The European Court of Justice and Other Institutions

Nugent, Chapters 12 and 13

Court of Justice
Available at: http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_7024/
Available at: http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/justice/index_en.htm

The European Central Bank

July 18. MIDTERM EXAM

POLITICS and POLICIES

July 22. Interests, Lobbying, and Access to Decision-Makers

Nugent, Chapters 14 and 15

July 23. How is Policy Formulated and Applied? - DEBATE

Nugent, Chapters 16-18

July 24. The Single Market, the CAP & EMU

Nugent, pp. 323 to 335 and Chapter 20
July 25. **The European Debt Crisis**


July 29. **EU Enlargement - DEBATE**


July 30. **EU Foreign Policy Today**


July 31. **European Security and Defence Policy**


August 1. **Immigration Policy**


**Minority Rights – DEBATE**


THE FUTURE OF THE EU IN THE WORLD SYSTEM

August 5. **EU-USA-China-Russia Relations**


August 6. **The Future of Europe - DEBATE**

Nugent, Chapter 24

August 7. **FINAL EXAM**