

UC Center Program Courses – Fall 2014
PCC 115. **EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**
Prof. MARIAM HABIBI

contact: mariam.habibi@ags.edu

Office Hours:
By appointment

Lecture

Tuesday 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Thursday 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Course description:

Over the past 200 years, the destiny of Europe has witnessed spectacular ups and downs. Once an imperial power controlling some 1/3 of the planet, the Europe of 1945 shrivelled in stature and in strength. At pains with its own reconstruction, it also had to renounce control of its colonial empire. The Cold War, following the Second World War, divided Europe into two hostile camps thus adding to its insecurity and humiliation.

Europe's upheavals in the twentieth century however gave birth to a new vision; a vision that became sensitive to the dangers of ethno-nationalism and over-protective economies and strove to surpass national boundaries. The shattering experience of two world wars that tore Europe apart, gave birth to 'an ever closer union between the peoples of Europe', in other words, the European Union. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the bipolar world, this relatively young institution has come to play a continuously greater role in world affairs. Consequently it has undergone numerous important changes in a short period of time. Today the European Union brings together 27 nations and 455 million people.

France's role in the initial creation and the subsequent evolution of this union has been far from minimal. The very idea of unity was announced in a speech by Jean Monnet, a member of the French Committee of National Liberation, back in 1943. The Plan that led to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the forerunner of the European Economic Community, which eventually became the European Union was named after France's foreign minister, Robert Schuman. It was under the presidency of a Frenchman, Jacques Delors, that the European Union launched the common currency, the Euro. Though significant, France's contributions have however not always been constructive. On many occasions France has been accused of putting her national interests before those of Europe. Their general stance can be summed in President Mitterrand's ambiguous phrase: 'France is our homeland, but Europe is our future'.

The aim of this class is to provide a general introduction to the history, the structure and the current developments of the European Union, with a specific focus on France. We shall start first with a historical examination of the reasons that led to the creation of the union, we will then turn to its evolution over the years and finally look at the recent events and discuss what lies ahead in the future for the European Union. **5.0 credits.** Suggested subject areas for this course: *European Studies/History/Political Science*

Goals:

The overriding aim of this class is to provide students with an overview of the historical background alongside the theoretical tools needed to understand the complex issues and institutions involved in European integration from its inception to its present-day configuration and role in world affairs.

In order to meet this goal, the course focuses on the following topics:

- Locating European construction within the existing theories of integration.
- Raising awareness of the history behind this project: how belligerent countries came to end their discord and form a union.
- Understanding the makings of this organization: its institutions and its functionaries.
- Following the workings of this institution on a day-to-day basis and grasping its importance as an economic and political actor in Europe and the world.

Learning Outcomes:

The course also seeks to develop students' written and oral analytical skills as well as to increase their knowledge base on the topic through the following types of assignments and activities:

- In-class discussions based on lecture
- Weekly oral presentations by students on news items involving the European Union.
- A research paper presented as a case study on one of the policies of the European Union is also an option for those students who choose it.

Both the midterm and final exams test students on their knowledge base, on their ability to apply their analytical skills to discussions surrounding the theory and history of European integration, and on their ability to appreciate and discuss the present-day effects of this organization on European and world affairs.

Course requirements:**Oral assessment:**

- Discussion based on the readings: 10%
- Oral presentation 20%
- Short presentations: 10%

Written assessment:

- First Quiz: 10%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30 %

1. Discussions based on the readings: (10%)

The theme for the discussion will be provided certain weeks. Other weeks the students will use the discussion questions at the end of each chapter of the text book.

2. Oral Presentation: (20%)

Class will break up into groups. Each group will be asked to prepare a presentation on a policy, a decision, a discussion or an event in the European Union. You will be graded on the clarity, accuracy, the depth of research of the oral presentation as well as the ability to answer questions. The group will be grades together. This should take up 20 minutes.

You will find very useful web links at the end of the chapters of your text book. There is also a section on European politics in the Online Resource Centre of your text book. Other material for this assignment should be found in dailies such as the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, and weeklies such as *Time Magazine*, *Newsweek* and the *Economist*.

3. Short presentations (10%)

In some of the classes, you will be asked to research a topic and come to class ready to speak about it. This would be short (between 5-15 minutes of class time).

4. First Quiz (10%), Midterm (20%) and Final (30%)

The format of all three written assessments will be knowledge-based short answer questions. I am looking for comprehension and the ability to recall the information that was acquired.

*****PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A MAKE-UP CLASS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH *****

TRIP TO BRUSSELS

I take a group of students to Brussels. We will visit the Commission and the Parliament and meet with people who work for the EU. The date for this trip will be announced at the start of the class. If you are interested in coming, please let me know as soon as possible. There are a limited number of places. You will need to get your own tickets.

Class Policy:

Absence Policy: Students are expected to attend all sessions. Students are allowed only 2 course absences for any reason (illness, travel delays, etc). Please note: three tardies (10 minutes late to class) equal one course absence. Students arriving more than 20 minutes late to a course meeting will be counted as absent. Excessive absences will result in the lowering of the student's final grade for the course, per UC Paris Attendance Policy. Additionally, any and all absences, including the permitted 2 course absences, and tardies will affect students' participation grades. Moreover, when a student misses a class, responsibility for making up missed work rests solely on his or her shoulders.

Academic dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a 'failing grade' in the class and possible expulsion from the Program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources, without the acknowledgment of having done so, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams.

Late assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. Late assignments will be downgraded. There are NO additional or make up assignments.

A note on electronic devices: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other electronic devices during class, even to check the time. Make sure phones are turned off. Use of these devices will lower your participation grade. No recording (audio or visual) of class sessions will be permitted.

Required books:

Elizabeth Bomberg, John Peterson and Richard Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* Oxford University Press, 3rd edition 2012.

Additional articles.

Week Schedules:

Week one:

September 16th & 18th (exceptionally the Thursday class will start at 16.00 and finish at 17.30)

Introduction to the European Union.

The History of Europe and the birth of the 'Idea of Europe'

Reading:

- The Briand Memorandum
- Read the speech by Jean Monnet

Study Question:

1. Define what the term 'Europe' means to you. What are the biases inherent in your definition?
2. How important have historical factors been in shaping the idea of European integration?

Exceptionally class on Thursday will start at 4.00 instead of 3.00

Week two

September 23rd & 25th

France during the Second World War

France Immediately after the Second World War

Why was France in a position to lead?

Reading:

- Read Tint, Chapter 7: 'Defeat and Occupation 1939-1944
- Read Henri Rousso, passages from *The Vichy Syndrome*
- Look at the map of Vichy France

Class excursion on Thursday: We will leave the Accent centre at 3.00

Study Questions:

1. Why does Monnet consider France *alone* capable of leading Europe after the war?
2. What is meant by France's *strange defeat*?
3. Was nationalism discredited after WW2?

Week three:

September 30th & October 2nd

The European Union: an overview

The theoretical approach

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 1

Week four:

October 7th & 9th

The European Union: an overview

The historical approach

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* Chapter 2.
- Robert Schuman ' Declaration of 9 May 1950'

Thursday: quiz (10%)

The format of the quiz will be short answer questions and multiple choice questions. It will cover the first 2 weeks of class as well as the first 2 chapters of your text book.

Week five:

October 14th & 16th

The Institutions of the EU:

What is the role of each institution and how do they work

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 3

Thursday :

Short presentation 1 : Look up one of the institutions on the EU website and come to class ready to discuss a news item in relation to the institution of your choice.

Week six:

October 21st & 23rd

Member states: merging Old and New

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 4

Week seven:

Review & Midterm Examination – Date and Times TBA

Review and Midterm (20%)

The format of the midterm will be short answer questions and multiple choice questions.

Fall break

Week eight:

November 13th & 14th (Exceptional Course time Friday, Nov. 14th 12:30-2:00 pm)

The purposes of the EU as a polity:

Key policies

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 5

Week nine:

November 18th & 20th

The purposes of the EU as a polity:

How decisions are made

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 6

Thursday:

Short presentation 2: Look up the websites of both the Commission on Agriculture and the European Central Bank and come to class ready to discuss a news item in relation to each.

Week ten:

November 25th & 27th

Interest Groups and lobbies: Governance and democracy

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 7

Thursday : Oral presentations

Week eleven:

November December 2nd & 4th

Enlargement

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 8

Thursday: Oral presentations

Week twelve:

December 9th & 11th

The purposes of the EU as a polity:

Case study: Justice and Home Affairs

Internal security

Reading:

- Bomberg , Peterson and Corbett, *The European Union: How does it work?* chapter 9

Thursday: Oral presentations

Week thirteen:

Review & Final Examination – Date and Times TBA

Review and Final exam (30%)

The format of the final will be short answer questions and multiple choice questions as well as what we learnt through the oral presentations.