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# Politics of the European Union

## POLI 4074

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[Office Hrs.] M 10:30-11:30  
or by appointment

Louisiana State University  
Fall 2018  
Section 001  
27 Allen Hall  
MWF 12:30-1:20pm

### **Course Overview**

#### *Course Description*

This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the political and economic attributes of the European Union. Special emphasis is given to the evolution of the EU community, theories of governance, institutional roles, policy areas, “real world” legislative processes, and EU expansion into Eastern Europe. This comparative politics course is designed to focus on the internal organization of the European Union, but also features brief interludes into the foreign policies of both the EU and national governments of member states, as well as the EU’s place in the contemporary political world.

#### *LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences*

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

#### *Course Objectives*

- 1| Obtain an advanced understanding of the core EU institutions and their role/power
- 2| Improve your understanding of government and governance more generally
- 3| Become equipped with the theoretical knowledge necessary to explain the evolution of European integration
- 4| Enhance your analytical skills and your ability to think critically

### **Required Reading**

There are required readings for this course. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain, access and review the appropriate materials for the assigned class period.

1) The textbook listed below is required for this course. It can be found at university and area bookstores. The textbook is also available online at various online bookstores and websites. You can purchase a used copy or rent the textbook, if possible. You must use the edition indicated.

Lielieveltdt and Princen (2015). **The Politics of the European Union, Second Edition.** Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 978-1-107-54490-1)

2) Some topics and lectures for this course may require additional readings from academic sources (such as book chapters from alternate textbooks) and news media sources (news articles) selected by the instructor. Academic sources are listed on the **Lecture Topics** appendix. News media sources will be selected as we approach the relevant topic. Readings other than your textbook can be found on the course Moodle site in .pdf format for download.

## **Graded Items**

### *Composition of Course Grade*

Scores for each graded item will be based on a range of 0-100, and weighted according to the table below.

<b>Graded Item</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade (Weight)</b>
Attendance	15%
Participation (in-class)	5%
Quizzes (4 x 7.5%)	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

### *Attendance*

Attendance is mandatory in this course, and student roll will be taken for class meetings, at the discretion of the instructor. This policy is in conjunction with a University-wide effort to bolster student attendance, as research has shown that students who attend class regularly have improved performance scores. Attendance scores are based on 100 total points. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences before it affects their attendance score. After three unexcused absences, your attendance score drops 10 points for each unexcused absence. See table below:

<b>No. Unexcused Absences</b>	<b>Attendance Score</b>	<b>No. Unexcused Absences</b>	<b>Attendance Score</b>
3 or less	100	8	50
4	90	9	40
5	80	10	30
6	70	11	20
7	60	12	10
→continued →	→continued	13 or more	0

### *Participation (in-class)*

Student participation in class discussions help to facilitate learning and is a required component of this course. This includes comments related to lectures and assigned readings, as well as appropriate questions that contribute to the discussion. Students are expected to contribute to in-class discussion via their comments and questions on an occasional basis. Participation grades are also based on conduct and compliance with laptop use policies (see below).

### *Quizzes (4)*

Students will take four in-class quizzes on dates noted by the instructor. Content for quizzes will be taken from the course textbook. Quizzes be multiple-choice and you will need a small scantron for quizzes.

### *Exams (2)*

Content for exams are taken from in-class lectures and assigned readings (book chapters & news articles). The format for exams will be multiple choice and short essay.

#### **-Midterm Exam-**

This exam will test for content covered from the beginning of the course to the point of the Midterm Exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice and short essay. The Midterm Exam will be administered in-class on **October 8, 2018 (Monday)**. You will need a small scantron and a bluebook for this exam.

#### **-Final Exam-**

This exam will test for content covered after the Midterm Exam. While this exam is not cumulative, you will still need a fundamental grasp of the concepts and ideas discussed in the first half of the semester to be effective on this exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice and short essay. The Final Exam will be administered on **December 6, 2018 (Thursday)**. The location for the Final Exam will be the normal classroom. You will need a small scantron and a bluebook for this exam.

\*Note: This exam date/time is set by the University and cannot be moved, modified, or made-up. You must attend this testing session, and you cannot take the Final Exam early or at any different time.

### Grade Calculation

A graded item is an exam, quiz, attendance, etc. Each graded item is based on a point total (0-100). Your score for each graded item is the number of points received. Final grades for students will be calculated by multiplying their score for each graded item times (x) the weighted percentage for each graded item. The weighted graded items are then added together and a final grade given based on 100 point totals.

### ***SAMPLE FOR FINAL GRADE***

<b>Graded Item</b>	<b>% of Grade (Weight)</b>	<b>Score (Example)</b>	
Attendance	15%	90	13.5
Participation (in-class)	5%	100	5
Quizzes (4 x 7.5%)	30%	85	25.5
Midterm Exam	25%	95	23.75
Final Exam	25%	83	20.75
<b>FINAL GRADE</b>			<b>88.5 B</b>

### Extra Credit

There are two options for extra credit in this course:

1) *Participation in survey-based research.* Students have the option to complete a computer-

based survey (or potentially an alternative paper-based survey) on special topics in comparative politics relating to public opinion & attitudes toward political leaders. Details on dates and the survey process will be given at a later date.

-OR-

2) *Policy-based essay*. Students have the option to complete a three-page (double-spaced) essay on a specific EU policy issue of their choice (i.e. economy, agriculture, energy, etc.). Essays should detail the purposes of policy regulations, the intended goal of having such a policy, and other pertinent details.

Students who successfully complete one of the extra credit options listed above will be given seven (7) additional points on the Final Exam. For example, if a student scores 83 points on the Final Exam, seven points will be added to their final score, meaning that the student will receive a 90 score.

## **Grading Policies**

### *Absences, Missed Exams and Make-ups*

Allowance for the excusing of missed class and make-ups of missed exams & quizzes will be in accordance with University policy, which outlines valid reasons for such occurrences. Valid reasons include, but are not limited to, serious illness, death in the immediate family, religious observances, and scheduled trips for academic purposes. Proper documentation is required for any excused absence or missed examination period. If possible, let the instructor know before missing class. Excused absences do not hurt participation grades. If you miss a class lecture, feel free to obtain notes from a classmate. You can then ask me specific questions concerning the material, but I cannot provide you with notes or presentation slides.

If you miss an exam, contact the instructor immediately so that the situation can be evaluated and arrangements made, if applicable. If you have documentation that notes your excused absence, either present it to me before/after class, or email me a scanned version of the document. In cases where make-ups are allowed, you will be given an alternate make-up exam different from the in-class examination. Note that the Final Exam schedule is set by the University and cannot be amended, meaning that make-ups are not allowed for this exam. For complete information on the University's attendance and exam make-up policy, see the Regulations section of the LSU Catalog.

### *General Grading Policy*

Grades are based on the academic performance of the student, as it pertains to assigned coursework and examinations, and in accordance to the grading scale, weighting, and policies listed in this syllabus. Any questions or concerns about graded work are welcome, and should be directed toward the instructor in-person during office hours or by appointment.

### *Grading Scale*

Grading for this course will be consistent with the plus/minus grading scale adopted by the University, and as outlined in the LSU General Catalog.

Letter grade	Score				
A+	100-97	A	96-94	A-	93-90
B+	89-87	B	86-84	B-	83-80
C+	79-77	C	76-74	C-	73-70
D+	69-67	D	66-64	D-	63-60
F	<60				

## **Course Policies & Expectations**

### *Note on Participation and Preparation*

This course is structured to facilitate student learning through lecture, discussion and at-home assigned reading. Students are expected to come to class on-time, prepared and ready to engage in material comprehension, as well as ready to participate in classroom discussions concerning the week's topics. This means that assigned readings should be completed before each class meeting. Students should frequently check the course Moodle page in order to access additional readings or supplemental materials posted by the instructor at an on-going basis. Furthermore, exams will consist of material provided in lectures, assigned readings, and any supplemental materials provided to the student.

### *Diversity*

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority.

### *Special Accommodations*

LSU is committed to providing adequate accommodations to all students with documented and approved disabilities. As per University policy, special accommodations approved by LSU Disability Services will be incorporated into individual student learning, and will remain confidential. Eligible students should contact Disability Services (115 Johnson Hall, 225-578-5919), so that proper documentation can be processed. Eligible students should also notify the instructor as soon as possible.

### *General Statement on Academic Integrity*

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at [www.lsu.edu/saa](http://www.lsu.edu/saa). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

### *Plagiarism*

Students will refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of others and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. For this course, it is recommended that you use the APSA

citation style. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting, and how to properly cite each respectively.

### *Technology Use*

Laptop use in class is for note-taking, research purposes and academic-centered use. This privilege is contingently permitted, but may be rescinded at any time. It is an obvious concern that laptop use is a distraction to students during lectures, and I encourage you to keep electronic use to a minimum. Sustained abuse of laptop privileges may result in punitive adjustments to a student's participation grade when it becomes apparent to the instructor that technology is being used for purposes other than academic learning. Cell phone use is not allowed and should be avoided. Likewise, use of other technological devices is prohibited, unless approved by the instructor. Students may not record lectures or class discussions using any type of electronic device. Concerns related to this or any policy listed above should be discussed with the instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

### *Communication and Conduct*

All communication with the instructor and all written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use "texting" language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class.

Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and in a professional, courteous manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others with respect and courtesy. Talking while the instructor or another student is talking will not be tolerated. Conduct that is disruptive and/or not respectful of an academic environment will also not be tolerated. Severe violation of these guidelines will be reported to the LSU Office for the Dean of Students.

### *General Statements*

If in doubt about any policy, requirement, or content-related matter, please contact the instructor. Also, it would greatly benefit students to read and become familiar with the LSU General Catalog. This catalog contains the official policies and regulations of the University. I am more than willing to provide additional information or explanation to questions related to course content posed by students. Questions or concerns may be addressed in-class, through email, in-person during office hours, or by appointment. I will respond to emails within a timely manner, but allow up to 24 hours for responses. I am also available to meet before/after class to discuss questions or concerns.

LSU provides each student with a University-affiliated email (ex. jsmith4@lsu.edu) which you should have already activated and currently use. If you have not activated your University email account, you should do so immediately, as all course communication will be sent to this email address.

The instructor reserves the right to amend any of the policies, requirements, or statements pertaining to this course/syllabus. Any modification of the syllabus or class schedule (for unexpected events such as emergencies, extenuating circumstances, etc.) will be conveyed to student either in-class or via email, with as much advance notice as reasonably possible.

There are two appendices to this syllabus:

1) **Lecture Topics**, which provides topical information that is to be discussed during the course, along with assigned reading chapters. It is your responsibility to keep with where we are in terms of topics and lecture material.

2) **Course Calendar**, which list the dates for: class meetings, exams & quizzes, university holidays, and other notations needed by the student.

Have a great semester and Geaux Tigers.

# **LECTURE TOPICS**

**(in order of class discussion)**

## **Topic I. European Union Overview**

*This section provides a brief overview of the key tenets of the European Union (EU), including introductory remarks on historical origin, core institutions, role of national governments, policy areas, and the EU's role in the contemporary political world.*

Required Reading: Cini & Borrigan 2016 [on Moodle]  
News Articles

## **Topic II. Historical Context of the EU**

*This section provides a historical survey of the evolution of the EU from its economic origins (1940s-1950s) to its current political form.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 1  
News Articles

## **Topic III. Theories and Concepts of Governance**

*This section examines theories and concepts related to EU governance, specifically issues of sovereignty & national politics, integration theories (neo-functionalism), systems politics theories, and the EU's unique organization type.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 2  
News Articles

## **Topic IV. Institutions of the EU**

*Topics of discussion include the roles, power, representation and organization of core EU Institutions [European Council, European Commission, Council of the European Union, European Parliament].*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 3  
News Articles

## **Topic V. Legislation & Decision-Making Process**

*Discussion given to how legislation is adopted via legal instruments and to the specific decision-making procedures of the core EU institutions.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 4  
News Articles

## **Topic VI. Policy-Making and Policy Areas of the EU**

*Topics of discussion include overall goals of the EU, identification of core policy areas, and how policy areas are adopted & implemented. Specific policy areas for discussion include 1) monetary policy & the Euro, 2) foreign policy & security, and 3) immigration & the Schengen Zone, EU budget, among others.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 8  
News Articles

**Topic VII. Key Actors in the EU [Part I]**

*Topics of discussion include the public & political participation, as well as the types of interest groups and their role in the EU system.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5 & Chapter 6  
News Articles

**Topic VIII. Key Actors in the EU [Part II]**

*Topics of discussion include the types political parties & their role in legislating, as well as specific attributes of national governments in EU governance.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 7  
News Articles

**Topic IX. Agenda-Setting and Decision-Making Process**

*This section examines types of agenda-setting processes and how agenda-setting plays an important role in EU decision-making. Further discussion looks at levels of decision-making and policy shaping.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 9 & Chapter 10  
News Articles

**Topic X. Implementation Process**

*This section examines the types of implementation processes, practical procedures and how processes are monitored by various agencies.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 11  
News Articles

**Topic XI. Special Topics: Brexit, Eastern Europe Expansion & Recent Events**

*This section discusses details of Brexit & what it means for the EU, domestic and international consequences of EU enlargement with Eastern European states, and other special topics of note, including more recent events.*

Required Reading: Textbook, Chapter 12  
News Articles

**Topic XII. EU in the World**

*This section provides an IR-oriented look at the EU's current role in global affairs, as well as what this means for its citizenry. Specific topics relate to the EU's relations with the United States, Russia & former Soviet states, and other key states.*

Required Reading: Chapter (TBD)  
News Articles

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CLASS TYPE</b>	<b>GRADED ITEM/SPECIAL</b>
Aug 20	Syllabus / Course Outline	First Class Meeting
Aug 22	Lecture	-
Aug 24	Lecture	-
Aug 27	Lecture	-
Aug 29	Lecture	-
Aug 31	Lecture	-
Sept 3	*No Class*	Labor Day
Sept 5	Lecture	-
Sept 7	Lecture	Quiz #1
Sept 10	Lecture	-
Sept 12	Lecture	-
Sept 14	Lecture	-
Sept 17	Lecture	-
Sept 19	Lecture	-
Sept 21	Lecture	-
Sept 24	Lecture	-
Sept 26	Lecture	-
Sept 28	Lecture	Quiz #2

Oct 1	Lecture	-
Oct 3	Review Session	-
Oct 5	*No Class*	Fall Holiday
Oct 8	Examination Period	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Oct 10	Lecture	-
Oct 12	Lecture	-
Oct 15	Lecture	-
Oct 17	Lecture	-
Oct 19	Lecture	-
Oct 22	Lecture	-
Oct 24	Lecture	-
Oct 26	Lecture	Quiz #3
Oct 29	Lecture	-
Oct 31	Lecture	-
Nov 2	Lecture	-
Nov 5	Lecture	-
Nov 7	Lecture	-
Nov 9	Lecture	-
Nov 12	Lecture	Extra Credit Assignments Due
Nov 14	Lecture	Quiz #4
Nov 16	<i>Tentative</i>	<i>See Instructor</i>

Nov 19	<i>Tentative</i>	<i>See Instructor</i>
Nov 21	*No Class*	Thanksgiving
Nov 23	*No Class*	Thanksgiving
Nov 26	Lecture	-
Nov 28	Lecture	-
Nov 30	Review Session	Last class meeting
Dec 6 (Thursday)	Examination Period	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> <b>7:30AM – 9:30AM</b>