

POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Semester: Fall 2023
Course Number: PSCI 4309

Instructor: Dr. Sivaram Cheruvu	Time: Mon/Wed 8:30 - 9:45 AM
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Course Description: This course will examine the history, institutions, and contemporary politics of the European Union (EU). It will start by providing students the normative and strategic foundations for the creation of the EU's predecessor organizations. It will then explore the EU's institutions such as the Commission, Parliament, and Court of Justice and their interactions with one another. Students will also explore the politics of the Euro and the consequences of a unified monetary policy. Furthermore, students will learn about the intertwined relationship between national governments and the EU. The course will additionally provide context for emerging euroskepticism and the political dynamics behind Brexit and other anti-EU movements. Lastly, the course will finish by tackling contemporary issues of democratic backsliding in Europe and challenge students to think about whether the EU is a suitable organization to protect liberal democracy

Objectives: Students will become knowledgeable in the major themes within the academic literature on the politics of the European Union. By engaging with contemporary events, students will be able to apply what they learn in class to the real-world outcomes. Other objectives include:

- To provide students with the conceptual and theoretical foundations to understand the design of the EU
- To empower students to apply these contexts in both contemporary and historical topics
- To develop students analytical and research skills through critical reading and written application assignments

Office Hours: Tuesday 9-10 AM or by appointment (Virtual or In Person in GR 3.802B)

Required Books:

- Hix, Simon, and Bjørn Høyland. The political system of the European Union. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022. (**Make sure to purchase 4th edition**)
- Direct from Publisher: <https://tinyurl.com/bpa34r8m>
- Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Political-System-European-Union/dp/1350325473>

Course Format: This course will be primarily lecture-based. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings in preparation for lecture.

Grading Policy:

1. **Participation (20%):** Students are expected to actively participate in class each week. Students will have the option of commenting on the readings or opting into cold-calling.

- **Commentary:** Each student is required to select four class sessions during the semester in which they will write a paragraph and submit at least two discussion questions on blackboard based on the readings for that class. Each commentary is worth 25% of the participation grade. A google document will be circulated after the second class session for students to sign up for the sessions in which they will submit their discussion questions. Students must submit their commentary by 8 am the day of class. Students who choose this option will not be cold called.
 - **Cold Calling:** Students will be called on at random during class sessions to answer questions or provide their thoughts on the topic at hand. If a student is cold called and they are not present in class for the session they will lose 10% of their participation grade. Students who choose this option do not have to provide commentary on the readings for four different sessions.
2. **Exams (40%):** Students will take two non-cumulative exams during the semester. The exams will be on elearning.
 3. **Final Paper or Final Exam (40%):** Students will have the option to complete a final paper assignment for the class will be due on the final class session or take a final exam. The paper will 8 - 10 pages in length, double space, 1 inch margin, and 12pt font not including the bibliography. Students are encouraged to ask any questions regarding this final assignment in office hours. Alternatively students can take a cumulative final exam on the last day of class.
 4. **Final Exam Exemption:** Students will be exempt from the final exam if they fulfill the following criteria:
 - They have an average of an A grade in the class following Exam 2
 - They have a participation grade of 90% or higher following Exam 2:
 - Students who sign up for reading commentaries must submit all four reading commentaries by Exam 2
 - Students who sign up for cold calling are only allowed to have been absent from class once when cold called
 - They submit four additional reading commentaries between Exam 2 and the Final Exam **OR** they sign up for cold calling and are not absent when cold called
 5. **Grading Scale:**
 - **A+** 96.45 – 100
 - **A** 92.45 – 96.44
 - **A-** 89.45 – 92.44
 - **B+** 87.45 – 89.44
 - **B** 82.45 – 87.44
 - **B-** 79.45 – 82.44
 - **C+** 77.45 – 79.44
 - **C** 72.45 – 77.44
 - **C-** 69.45 – 72.44
 - **D** 64.45 – 69.44
 - **F** 0 – 64.44

Class Attendance:

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

Class Participation:

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Recordings:

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Support Resources:

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Course Schedule

Class 1 August 21: Introduction to the class

Class 2 August 23: Introduction to the EU pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 1, p. 1 -10

Class 3 August 28: Introduction to the EU pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 1, p. 10-22

Class 4 August 30: Executive Politics pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 2, p. 25-42

Class 5 September 6: Executive Politics pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 2, p. 42-56

Class 6 September 11: Legislative Politics pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 3, p. 57-72

Class 7 September 13: Legislative Politics pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 3, p. 72-88

Class 8 September 18: Judicial Politics pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 4, p. 89-106

Class 9 September 20: Judicial Politics pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 4, p. 106-120

Class 10 September 25: **First Exam**

Class 11 September 27: Public Opinion pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 5, p. 121-133

Class 12 October 2: Public Opinion pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 5, p. 133-144

Class 13 October 4: Democracy, Parties, and Elections pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 6, p. 145-160

Class 14 October 9: Democracy, Parties, and Elections pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 6, p. 160-174

Class 15 October 11: Interest Representation pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 7, p. 175-194

Class 16 October 16: Interest Representation pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 7, p. 194-204

Class 17 October 18: Regulation of the Single Market pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 8, p. 205-222

Class 18 October 23: **Second Exam**

Class 19 October 25: Regulation of the Single Market pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 8, p. 222-240

Class 20 November 1: Expenditure Policies pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 9, p. 241-254

Class 21 November 6: Expenditure Policies pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 9, p. 254-272

Class 22 November 8: Economic and Monetary Union pt. 1

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 10, p. 273-289

Class 23 November 13: Economic and Monetary Union pt. 2

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 10, p. 289-298

Class 24 November 15: Interior Policies

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 11, p. 299-330

Class 25 November 27: Foreign Policies

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 12, p. 331-356

Class 26 November 29: A Political System in Crisis

- Hix and Høyland Ch. 12, p. 357-364

Class 27 December 4: **Final Exam or Final Paper Due at beginning of class**