Course Title

Politics, Power and Society: The Politics of the European Union

Course Number
POL-UA.9471001, EURO-UA.947100, SOC-UA.9471001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS – ACTUAL SYLLABUS MAY VARY

Instructor Contact Information
Dr. Uli Brückner
ulib@nyu.edu

Course Details
Spring 2016
Class meeting: Mondays, 2:00pm - 4:30pm
Location of class: NYUB, Room “Prenzlauer Berg”

Prerequisites
none

Units earned
4

Course Description
This course aims to provide an overview of the history, structure, functions, processes and current issues of European integration with a particular emphasis on the role of Germany – both with regard to its influence on the EU and the Europeanization of its own political system.

European integration is understood in this course to mean the co-operation through which EU member states organize in the framework of the Union and the direction in which this co-operation evolves. For these twenty-eight diverse countries, integration constitutes an increasingly essential component and extension of their own state structure. It permits them to conceive of, to decide on, and to carry out a growing number of important state tasks jointly and under the roof of the European Union. This causes tensions that we are going to address in various case studies.

You will consider the milestones of postwar European integration. You will analyze the institutions, procedures and instruments of European integration, as well as major EU policies and the distribution of competencies between Member States and the Union. You will become acquainted with theoretical models that explain the nature of European integration up to the present.

Course Objective
Upon completion of this class, you should be able to accomplish the following descriptive and analytical tasks:

- To describe the different attempts of the most successful projects and achievements in European integration since 1945;
- To distinguish the different perspectives on European integration in different member states, particularly in Germany, Britain ("Brexit"), Greece ("Grexit") and countries that show growing nationalist and Europhobic trends like Hungary and Poland;
- To organize the principal elements (texts, institutions and mechanisms) which constitute the system of European integration;
- To follow current EU related media coverage, e.g. the different national positions on the future of European integration, the EU's role in the conflict in Ukraine, TTIP, etc.;
- To describe the principal policy domains of European integration and to evaluate the degree of each domain's Europeanization;
- To spell out the principal theoretical explanations for the process of historical integration;
- To understand the different rationales that constitute the points of view of stakeholders in European integration.

Assessment Components
There will be a midterm (questionnaire and book review, 20%) and final paper (10 pages) (25%). Class participation will count for 20%. This includes brief comments on EU news. There will also be an in-class presentation worth 20% (15 minutes) on a EU policy or case study. Because current events are important for this course, an additional paper will be a review (15%) of an EU event in the German capital (1-3 pages).

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class presentation (15 minutes)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm: Questionnaire and book review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of a course related event (1-3 pages)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper (10 pages)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.
Grade Conversion

Your instructor may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>65-66</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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Alternatively:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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Attendance Policy

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in NYU Berlin’s content courses that, unlike most courses at NYU NY, meet only once per week in a double-session for three hours. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately. Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach NYUB’s Director or Wellness Counselor. Your professor or NYUB's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from the Director or Wellness Counselor. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Assistant Director for Academics or the Arts Coordinator, who will inform your professors.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equalling one week’s worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. In German Language classes three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equalling one week’s worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, faculty is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should notify their instructor AND NYUB's Academic Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will re-schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

**Late Submission of Work**

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

(3) Unless an extension has been approved, work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

**Provisions for Students with Disabilities**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website [http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

**Plagiarism Policy**

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: [http://nyu.libguides.com/citations](http://nyu.libguides.com/citations)).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.
It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

**Required Textbooks**

Electronic Course Reader; contains the required readings listed for each session.

Books can be bought at Saint Georges bookshop in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB, where the books are pre-ordered for students. Students can re-sell their used books at the end of the semester to Saint Georges (with the exception of German language books). Additionally, one copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYUB's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.

Readers can be bought at Sprintout copy-shop (situated under the railway arches in front of Humboldt University’s main library, the Grimm-Zentrum, in Georgenstraße / Universitätsstraße – S-Bahn-Bogen 190 - please allow five hours between booking and collecting readers).

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**
The course requires students to keep abreast of current political and economic events in Europe by regularly and extensively reading quality international periodicals such as *The Economist*, *The European*, *The European Voice*, and online sources such as Euractiv, Eurotopics and EUobserver. International think tanks that work on course-related questions will be introduced in the first part of the course.

**Optional textbooks** (available in the NYUB library):

**Internet Research Guidelines**
to be discussed in class

**Additional Required Equipment**
none
Session 1 – 01 Feb 2016
Introduction, Presentation of the Course, First Steps
What is the course about? What do we expect? Who are we? How do we work?
What do key terms mean? What is on the agenda of the EU?
How can I find information about politics of the EU?

Session 2 – 08 Feb 2016
What is Europe?
History of European Integration since 1945 (Part 1)
We will begin the course with a discussion of the question, “What is Europe?”, followed by an overview of the main steps of European integration in widening and deepening the EU.
http://www.hum.leiden.edu/history/eu-history/historical/1945-1958.html


Session 3 – 15 Feb 2016
History of European Integration since 1945 (Part 2)
EU Institutions and Procedures 1: Member States and EU Institutions.
The Balance of Power, Intergovernmentalism and Why States Matter
Setting the Stage: Challenges for the EU in 2016
What have been the main stops and go’s of European integration up until today?
What are the main approaches for explaining European integration and its driving forces?
What challenges is the EU facing in 2016?


Session – 22 Feb 2016
No class (Uli will be in Tunis at a Jean Monnet Conference on Migration)

Session 4 – 29 Feb 2016
Germany in the European Union / Tunis debriefing / Photo project introduction
What is Germany’s role in the EU? What does Angela Merkel want? Can one country or a directorate of states dominate the EU? Is there a need for German leadership and what would that mean? Does Germany want a further centralization of competences and what would be the added value of further Europeanization?


Swieboda, Pawel 2013: “Towards a Post-German Europe”, in: Demos Europe, May 22, 10p.


Review Process of German Foreign Policy:

Bertelsmann Foundation 2013: “The European Added Value of EU Spending: Can the EU Help its Members to Save Money”, Gütersloh (Free download: http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/bst/en/media/xcms_bst_dms_38877_38878_2.pdf)

Session 5/6 – FRIDAY!! 4 Mar 2016, 10am-2pm
Excursion to a think tank, a ministry or a SPECIAL WORKSHOP in cooperation with the Schwarzkopf Foundation on Basics of European Integration and EU decision-making

Session 7 – 7 Mar 2016
Crises of European Integration
What is a crisis? Is the EU in a crisis? What does that mean? And what are the consequences?


Session 8 – 14 Mar 2016

Questionnaire on Decision-Making in the EU / Britain and the EU

The British Tories launched a debate about the re-nationalization of national competences from the EU. Cameron wants “a better deal” which could lead to the end of the UK’s EU membership. In this session, we will organize a discussion to identify and weigh the pros and cons of a British exit from the EU.

Möller, Almut / Oliver, Tim (Eds.) 2014: The United Kingdom and the EU, DGAP Analyse, Berlin, September https://dgap.org/de/article/getFullPDF/25764

JCER 2013: Special Edition – 40 years of UK membership in the EU


Session 9 – 21 Mar 2016

Economics of European Integration: The Road to the Monetary Union, the Sovereign Debt Crisis and the Case of Greece

What is a Single Market and a Monetary Union? Why did economic integration become the core of the European integration project? What are the costs and benefits for EU member states? Why are there opt-outs in the EMU? Are there structural deficits? What happened in the Eurozone periphery and Greece in particular?


What are the causes and effects of the Sovereign Debt Crisis? What are the responses? What is the current state of the crisis? What are the options to prevent future crises?


Session – 28 Mar 2016

Easter Monday – No Class / Spring Break
Session 10 – 4 Apr 2016
Identity, Democracy, Legitimacy and the Discourse of whether there is a Democratic Deficit in the EU Political System. Nationalism, Minorities and Separatism

Do Europeans feel European and identify with the EU? Is feeling so necessary? Should and could a European identity be promoted?
Is there a democratic deficit in the EU? What would that mean and how can legitimacy problems be solved?


Session 11 – 11 Apr 2016
EU Energy Policy and Climate Change: Guest lecture by Dr. Andreas Goldthau

18 Apr 2016
Uli will be in Budapest – No class

Session 12 – 25 Apr 2016
European Foreign and Defense Policy / Russia and Ukraine

Does Europe speak with one voice in foreign and security policy? Is the EU a normative actor? Is there an energy dependency that can cause security problems?
What are possible strategies to deal with these challenges?
What does EU foreign policy look like from a Swiss perspective and how can citizens become actively involved in German Foreign Policy and cooperate with NGOs like “foraus”?
Meeting with the founder and director of foraus, Nicola Forster.


Session 13 – 03 May 2016
European Politics Case Studies (e.g. Education, Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, Education, IT / Digital Agenda, Environmental Policy)
Readings will be provided based on the topics students choose for oral presentations.

Session 14 – 10 May 2016
Final discussion: The Future of European Integration
(Final paper is due)

Session 15 – Wed 12 May 2016
WDR Europa Forum at Federal Foreign Office with the Frank-Walter Steinmeier
(German Foreign Minister)

Classroom Etiquette
Food and drinks are accepted, Facebook is not. The instructor appreciates if students do not leave the classroom during the seminar.

Required Co-curricular Activities
Every student is expected to actively participate in course-related events in the German capital and to write a report of 2 pages about one panel discussion, conference or lecture. Invitations will be sent out by the instructor via email during the semester.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Invitations to course related events in Berlin will be forwarded by the instructor.

Your Instructor
Uli Brückner is a political scientist. His field of interest is the European Union and political, economic and cultural questions of European integration. He is a Jean Monnet Professor for European Studies at Stanford University in Berlin and works with universities in Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Romania and France as a visiting professor. He has also taught in Poland, China, Russia, India, Belarus, Turkey, Spain and the USA. Outside academia, he comments on European integration for Al Jazeera and works with the Federal Foreign Office, TEAM Europe of the European Commission, NATO School Oberammergau, the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) and the institute for cultural diplomacy (icd) in Berlin.