Contact: mh146@nyu.edu
Class schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays 14.15-15.45

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.

**Course requirements:**

You are required to keep to the assigned readings every week and come prepared for questions in class. The text book provides both discussion questions and multiple choice questions at the end of every chapter. These should be used as a way to check your general understanding of each topic.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1:</th>
<th>Option 2:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation 10%</td>
<td>Presentation 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>First assignment: a quiz 10%</td>
<td>First assignment: a quiz 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 25%</td>
<td>Midterm 35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final 30%</td>
<td>Final 45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper 25%</td>
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Below you will find a brief description of what is expected for each requirement:

- **Presentation**
  A class presentation: 'European Union this Week' (10 minutes) followed by a one page write-up:
  You will be asked to provide a brief presentation on ONE event in the European Union during their assigned week. You will be graded on the choice of topic (relevance); clarity of the oral presentation; the ability to answer questions; a clear summary of the event in the write-up.

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.

- An in class quiz
- An in class mid-term exam.
- Option 1: A case study on a topic of the student's choice. Instructions for this paper will be found at the end of this syllabus. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS. The paper should NOT exceed 5 pages.
- An in class final exam.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**THERE WILL BE A CLASS EXCURSION ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30th**

**OPTIONAL TRIP TO BRUSSELS**

I take a group of students from another program to Brussels on Friday November 25th. We will visit the Commission and the Parliament and meet with people who work for the EU. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in joining us, please let me know as soon as possible.
**Class Policy:**

**Absence Policy:** Students are expected to attend all sessions. Students have the right to two non-excused absences. Excused absences fall into two categories: sickness or unforeseen emergency and school-sponsored activities. 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.

**Required books:**


Additional articles.

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**Week Schedules:**

**Week one:**

**September 19th & 21st**

*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?

**Week two**

**September 26th & 28th**

*Nationalism in Europe.*
*Why was France in a position to lead?*  
*France during the Second World War*
France Immediately after the Second World War

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

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?

Extra class: Friday September 30th:
Class excursion:
Mémorial de la Libération de Paris & Musée Jean Moulin
Meet at 13.00 metro Gaité (line 13)

Week three:
October 3rd & 5th
The European Union: an overview
The theoretical approach

Reading:
- Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work? chapter one

Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week four:
October 10th & 12th
Monday: In class quiz testing knowledge on all that has been covered so far.

The European Union: an overview
The historical approach

Reading:
- Robert Schuman ' Declaration of 9 May 1950'

Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.
Week five:
October 17th & 19th

The Institutions of the EU:
What is the role of each institution and how do they work

Reading:
- Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work? chapter 3
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week six:
October 24th & 26th
Monday: review session
Wednesday: midterm exam.

Week seven:
October 31st & Nov 2nd
Member states: Enlargement, merging Old and New

Reading:
- Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work? chapter 4 and chapter 9
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week eight:
November 7th & 9th
Interest Groups and lobbies: Governance and democracy

Reading:
- Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work? chapter 5 & 8
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week nine:
November 14th & 16th
The purposes of the EU as a polity:
Key policies: The Common Agricultural Policy & The monetary Policy

Reading:
- Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work? chapter 6
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week ten:
November 21st & 23rd
The purposes of the EU as a polity:
Case study: Justice and Home Affairs
Internal security

Reading:
• Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work?
  chapter 7
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

REMINDER:
OPTIONAL BRUSSELS TRIP FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25TH.

Week eleven:
November 28th & 30th
The EU as a global actor

Reading:
• Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work?
  chapter 10
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week twelve:
December 5th & 7th
Conclusion: the future of the EU
Review for the final examination.

Reading:
• Stubb, Bomberg and Peterson, The European Union: How does it work?
  chapter 11
Remember to look over both the questions and the multiple choice questions on the online resource centre.

Week thirteen (last week):
Monday December 12th:
Final examination & hand in the research paper (OPTION 1).

As we took one Friday for the excursion, this week we will only meet once for the final exam.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WRITE-UP OF THE PRESENTATION

You need to hand in a write-up of your presentation a week AFTER your oral presentation in class.

This write-up should be divided into two paragraphs:

**Paragraph 1:**

a summary of the news item you chose to present.

You need to state

- what happened;
- why you chose it;
- what, in your opinion was significant about the event;
- how this event highlights the role of the EU as an institution.

You should state very clearly your sources and if it is relevant comment on the source:

- why you chose it as a source;
- is it a reliable source?
- does it have, in your opinion, a particular bias?

**Paragraph 2:**

a summary of the discussion/ questions that your presentation raised in class.

This section will depend very much on the type of questions that are raised in class. Prepare a few questions as a way of starting a brief discussion.