CPO4101 - Politics of the European Union
Dr. Kerstin Hamann

Syllabus

Instructor Contact:

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Course Information:

Course Name	CPO 4101 Politics of the European Union
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2012
Location	Online course; no face-to-face class meetings

Course Description

Evolution of the European Union, theories of the EU, and EU institutions and policies from a comparative perspective.

Prerequisites: POS 2041 or Consent of the Instructor.

Course Objectives

The course familiarizes students with the history, evolution, institutions, policy-making process, and policies of the European Union. The underlying question guiding all these topics relates to the relationship between individual countries and the EU. What were the origins of the EU? Why do countries decide to join the EU? Why are they willing to give up national sovereignty? How do countries benefit from EU membership? How is the EU perceived by the populations in different countries? What are the current challenges that the EU faces? These are some of the questions this course strives to answer.

Required Text:

Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borragan. *European Union Politics*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 3rd edition.

Supplemental texts:

Additional readings are available online and will be posted in the individual modules.

Course Requirements:

You will have to complete a total of 10 online modules: 1 introductory module, 1 current events module, and 8 substantive modules. I will drop the lowest grade of the substantive modules. The grades for the introductory module and the current events module will not be dropped.

You will also need to be able to save your work in MS Word readable format (.doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt).

Expectations

I expect all students to be actively engaged in the course throughout the entire semester. This class requires that you meet regular deadlines, prepare the readings, complete quizzes, participate in online discussions, complete some research, and write several short essays. I also expect students to regularly read a European newspaper of their choice that deals with EU issues regularly so you can contribute to the discussions with reference to current events and issues concerning the EU. The EU is a very dynamic organization, and it is important to update your knowledge learned in the class by following EU news. You are also expected to follow the Course Protocol and to read all e-mails and announcements related to the course.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

- All late essays will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module); this includes work submitted in a format that I cannot open.
- If only parts of a module are submitted late, that particular assignment will receive the late penalty (unless noted otherwise in the module).
- Late discussion postings will receive no credit - there is no late option for discussion postings.
- Late postings on Current Events module will receive NO credit.
- Quizzes will NOT be reopened after the due date; no exceptions! Please plan ahead accordingly; quizzes cannot be submitted late.
- No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline.
- There are no substitute assignments and positively no extra-credit, so please don't ask!
- Please familiarize yourself with the Course Protocols; they contain additional grading guidelines and policies.

Evaluation and Grading

To repeat, you will have to complete a total of 10 online modules: 1 introductory module, 1 current events module, and 8 substantive modules. I will drop the lowest grade of the substantive modules. The grades for the introductory module and the current events module will not be dropped. Thus, if your schedule becomes particularly busy, you miss deadlines, or something unexpected happens, you can use the "drop" option for that module.

- The nature of online classes requires cooperation among students. So, this class is not a "competitive sport" but should be an interesting, thought-provoking, collaborative discovery of major issues and topics in European Union Politics.
- Excpetions for late work will only be made for documented unexpected personal emergencies, such as illness. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work!
- Grading information on specific assignments will be provided in the assignment itself.
- The class takes an active learning approach. Thus, students should be prepared to engage in discussions, read and think, write short essays and papers, complete quizzes, and identify additional sources to share with the class.
- You are responsible for keeping a copy of all assignments for this class.
- You are also responsible for checking that the grades posted online are correct; any discrepancies must be reported to

the instructor within one week of being posted.
- All essays will have to be submitted through turnitin.com at the same time as they are submitted to the course Assignment Dropbox. Further instructions for end turnitin.com will be distributed via e-mail after the Drop/Add deadline.

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Introductory Module	2%
Current Events Module (2 parts)	7%
8 substantive modules (lowest grade dropped)	13% each
Total	100%

Your course grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in a "o" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "0" for the entire course). A module in which plagiarism has been detected in any part may not be used as the lowest grade "Drop" module. Any case of plagiarism may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. You can find further information on plagiarism and citations at http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/ClassroomManagement/AcademicIntegrity/PlagiarismStatement.php . I expect you to be familiar with these rules and guidelines, including those on self-plagiarism. If you are unclear what needs to be cited, put in quotation marks etc., please complete the short information literacy module on plagiarism provided by the UCF Libraries.

I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. Any attempt to save, store, share, or discuss quiz questions with any other student will be interpreted as an attempt to cheat and will be treated as such. All work must be done on your own and must be original work for this course. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade against course rules or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Copyright

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Disability Statement:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has contacted the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Schedule:

There is no final exam in this course since all course work is graded in the individual Modules. All chapter readings below refer to the assigned textbook; additional readings will be available online and detailed in the individual modules. Each module has additional deadlines for different parts that need to be completed; please check each module for deadlines as soon as it opens.

Date	Topic	Dates	Due Dates
Part I: Introduction to the European Union			
1/9-1/18	Module 1: Course Introduction	Ch. 1	1/18
1/11-1/23	Module 2: The EU - a Unified and Diverse Organization?	Chs. 2, 3	check module for due dates
1/13-3/2	Current Events 1	see module	3/2
Part II: EU Institutions and Actors			
1/24-2/2	Module 3: The European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament	Chs. 8, 9, 10	check module for due dates
2/3-2/14	Module 4: The Courts of the European Union Comparing and Understanding the Role of the EU Institutions	Chs. 11, 12	check module for due dates
Part III: Policies and Policy-Making			
2/15-2/27	Module 5: The EU and Foreign and Security Policy	Chs. 13, 14, 15	check module for due dates
2/28-3/19 (spring break 3/5-3/10)	Module 6: Economic and Social Policies	Chs. 16, 17, 20	check module for due dates
3/14-4/23	Current Events 2	see Module	4/23
3/20-4/2	Module 7: Regional, Environmental, and Agricultural Policy	Chs. 18, 21, 22	check module for due dates
Part IV: Public Opinion and the Future of Europe			
4/3-4/12	Module 8: EU Enlargement and Europeanization	Chs. 4, 25, 26	check module for due dates
4/13-4/23	Module 9: Public Opinion and the Constitutional Issue	Chs. 7, 23, 24	check module for due dates

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