POLI 733: European Institutions and Integration

This seminar will introduce you to key concepts and developments of Europe and critically assess the evolution of the European Union. We will begin with major concepts and theories of integration, then explore the institutions and finally analyze key policies of the EU. Each week we will also discuss current developments in Europe and the European Union such as the impact of the war in Ukraine, migration, and populism. Questions we will address in the seminar include: How has the meaning of Europe changed over time? Why do states transfer sovereignty to the European level? What is the role of EU-institutions? How does the EU cope with current challenges such as security challenges and Russia, increasing migration, and the democratic backlash in some member countries? How are transatlantic relations changing?

The seminar will take place twice per week. The format of the class includes introductory lectures, student’s presentations and project work. Please be prepared to actively participate in our discussions. There will also be some special features such as guest lectures throughout the semester.

Learning Objectives

* Study major theories and concepts of European integration;
* Critically reflect upon European politics and the EU from a political science perspective;
* Understand the workings of EU-institutions and the decision-making processes;
* Analyze policy issues, such as security, foreign relations, and migration;
* Discuss the causes and consequences of crises Europe is facing today;
* Gain a better understanding of transatlantic relations.

Readings


Required readings will be posted on the course website on the UNC learning platform Sakai. Please complete readings before the class meetings. Please see list of literature attached for additional readings.

For general information about the EU you should use the official website of the EU


For your papers you should also consult journals such as European Public Policy; Foreign Affairs; Journal of Common Market Studies; West European Politics.
Requirements

1) **Assignment 1:** One short essay paper (8-10 pages; with sources) on the question: What is Europe? Give your own perspective based on Video in week 1 and readings. Due on Sept. 7, 2022 (email no later than 6 pm).

2) **Assignment 2:** Event of the Week presentation. 3-4 minute in-class presentation about a current event in Europe based on a news report. Please sign up for a date in class (various dates). Ideally, the topic chosen relates to the topic of the session. The presenter should be able to answer questions and lead the discussion on the news report. Please prepare one-page handout for the class.

3) **Assignment 3:** In-class presentation about one of the European institutions (groups of 4-5; 10-15 minutes per group) due week 7, 8, 9. Use website of EU to study role and function; discuss governance and its role in democratic polity. Lead discussion with questions.

4) **Assignment 4:** Policy Paper critically reflecting on one of the policy areas of the EU (10-12 pages; with sources). Due on Nov 30. Choose your own topic in consultation with the instructor. This paper should be based on your own research.

Grading

The first short paper (Assignment 1) counts for 20%. The policy paper (Assignment 4) counts for 40% of the grade. The event of the week (Assignment 2) and the in-class presentation (Assignment 3) each count for 15%; the remainder is for class participation.

Expectations

**Office hours**

Everyone is welcome to come see me during my office hours. To speak in person, please send me an e-mail to set up an appointment.

**Honor code**

The Honor Code is in effect in this class. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with the terms of the Honor Code at http://instrument.unc.edu.

If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Code’s application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.
| Week 1 | Aug 15 and 17 | **Introduction: What is Europe?**  
**Topics:** The changing meaning of Europe over time; Europe and the EU: How can we conceptualize European integration? States and the EU  
**Readings:**  
**Video:**  
“What is Europe?” Video UNC 2018  
YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8_wLaseNYA |
|---|---|---|
| Week 2 | Aug 22 and 24 | **What is Europe: History, Politics and the Changing Meaning of Europe Over Time**  
**Topics:** Post-WW II history of Europe; war, peace and European identity; the role of the Cold War; construction of the EU; federalism and neo-functionalism  
**Readings:**  
- Patel (2020). Project Europe, chap. 8 (Europe and the World)  
- Olsen (2021). The European Union. Part I (History), chap. 1, 2  
- EU-Websites on countries; Eurobarometer on public opinion |
| Week 3 | Aug 29 and 31 | **Intergovernmentalism and EU-Governance**  
**Topics:** Why do states transfer sovereignty? States and the EU; Maastricht-Treaty and beyond; intergovernmentalism; governance and multi-level governance  
**Readings:**  
- Olsen (2021). The European Union chap. 3 |
| Week 4 | (Labor Day) Sept. 7 | **Constructing the „New Europe“ after 1990**  
**Topics:** 1989/90 as a turning point; the construction of the “new” Europe; deepening and widening; the accession of new EU-members; social constructivism  
**Readings:**  
| First Paper Due | • Lemke/Welsh (2018) Germany Today, chap. on EU  
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Week 5** Sept. 12 and 14 | **Europe and Post-Colonialism: Legacies and “Blind Spots”**  
**Topics:** How does colonialism matter for European identity? Legacies and policies; memory politics and restitution today; post-colonialism as theory and practice  
• Patel (2018). Something new under the sun? Greenland and Algeria  
• Sierp (2020). EU Memory Politics and Europe’s Forgotten Colonial Past  
• Fanon (1961). The Wretched of the Earth.  
• Video on Post-Colonialism (link on Sakai Week 5) |
| **Week 6** Sept. 19 and 21 | **Europe in Crisis and Transitions**  
Topics: Transferring sovereignty: More or less integration? Euro-crisis; Brexit; Ukraine; Post-functionalist theory  
Readings:  
• Hobolt (2016). The Brexit Vote  
• Hooghe/ Marks (2019). Grand theories of European integration  
• Olsen (2021). The European Union, chap. 4  
• Von Middelaar (2020). Alarums and Excursions, pp. 65-90 (on Ukraine) |
| **Week 7** (Wellbeing Day) Sept. 28 | **EU-Commission: Administration and Regulation**  
**Topics:** EU-Commission; EU-Council (heads of state); regulating the EU; Is there a democratic deficit?  
Readings:  
• Olsen (2021). The European Union. chap. 5 (Commission) chap. 6 (EU Council)  
• Website of the EU  
**Groups:**  
1) European Commission  
2) EU Council |
| **Week 8** Oct 3 and 5 | **Legislature: EU-Parliament and Council of Ministers**  
**Topics:** EU-Parliament; Council of Ministers; EP-elections 2019; Euroscepticism and the rise of populism |
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<tr>
<th>Group presentations</th>
<th>Readings:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Olsen (2021). The European Union. chap. 6 (Council of the EU), Chap. 7 (European Parliament)</td>
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<td>Website of the EU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groups:</td>
<td>3) European Parliament</td>
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<td>4) Council of Ministers</td>
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**Week 9**  
**Oct 10 and 12**  
**The European Courts and the ECB**

**Topics:** European and national law; rule of law; role of the European Central Bank

**Readings:**
- Olsen (2021). The European Union, chap. 8 (European Court of Justice), chap. 9 (ECB), chap 12 (Monetary Union)
- Website of the EU

**Groups:**
- 5) European Court of Justice (ECJ)
- 6) European Central Bank (ECB)

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<th>Modul III: Policies of the EU</th>
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| Week 10**  
**Oct 17 and 19**  
**(fall break Oct 20-23)** | **Economic Integration, Internal Market, and Climate Change Policy**

**Topics:** How does the common market work? Regulation and trade; the EU-budget 2021-27; climate change and environmental Policies; energy policy

**Readings:**
- Oberthür/Dupont (2021). The European Union’s international climate leadership
- Olsen (2021). The European Union, Part III, chap. 11, 12,13

| Week 11**  
**Oct 24 and 26** | **Immigration, Integration and the Refugee Policy**

**Topics:** Does the EU have an immigration policy? Refugee Crisis and Responses; asylum policy; integration policies; security vs. human rights

**Readings:**
- Lemke/Welsh (2018) Germany Today, chap 7(Immigration)
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<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Backlash: Illiberalism and Democratic Backsliding</th>
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<td>Oct 31 and Nov 2</td>
<td><strong>Topics:</strong> Rise of Populism and Nationalism; Brexit; Illiberalism in Poland and Hungary; rule of law procedures; EU-conditionality</td>
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• Hobolt (2016). The Brexit Vote  

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<th>Week 13</th>
<th>EU Foreign and Security Policy I</th>
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<td>Nov 7 and 9</td>
<td><strong>Topics:</strong> Developing a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP); fighting terrorism; NATO; relations with Russia; Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Ukraine and the EU; how will the war in Ukraine end?</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Readings:** | • Olsen (2021). The European Union, chap. 15 (Security).  
• Snyder (2017) Germany’s Historical Responsibility  
• NATO 2022 strategic concept [https://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/](https://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/)  
• van Middelaar (2019). Alarums & Excursions. Chap. 2 (Negotiating the Ukraine crisis) |

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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Europe and the US: Transatlantic Relations</th>
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<td>Nov 14 and 16</td>
<td><strong>Topics:</strong> What are the most important policy issues (trade and economy; health; security policy; environment change; immigration and race)? Public Opinion and political perceptions</td>
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| **Readings:** | • Olsen (2021). The European Union, chap. 16 (EU and the World).  
| **Note:** | For those interested there are Blog Posts from the TAM-course 2021: [https://medium.com/unceurope/blog-posts-transatlantic-seminar-2021-f53b9e2ef523](https://medium.com/unceurope/blog-posts-transatlantic-seminar-2021-f53b9e2ef523) |

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<th>Week 15</th>
<th>Europe and the US: Transatlantic Relations (Continue)</th>
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<td>Nov 21 (Thanksgiving)</td>
<td><strong>Topics:</strong> What are the most important policy issues (trade and economy; health; security policy; environment change; immigration and race)? Public Opinion and political perceptions</td>
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| **Readings:** | • Olsen (2021). The European Union, chap. 16 (EU and the World).  
| **Note:** | For those interested there are Blog Posts from the TAM-course 2021: [https://medium.com/unceurope/blog-posts-transatlantic-seminar-2021-f53b9e2ef523](https://medium.com/unceurope/blog-posts-transatlantic-seminar-2021-f53b9e2ef523) |
| Week 16  
Nov 28 and 30  
Policy Paper due Nov 30 | Review and Conclusion  
Individual paper consultations |

**Literature Poli 733: European Institutions and Integration**

(Note: this list contains references to books and articles beyond class materials which you may find helpful for your papers)


Fanon, Frantz (1961). *The Wretched of the Earth* (various editions).


Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks (2001). Multi-Level Governance and European Integration, Lanham et.al.: Rowman and Littlefield

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123408000409


A classic, comprehensive account by former NYU historian.


NATO 2022 strategic concept https://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/


https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvnjbf19