PS 1330: European Union Seminar (CL 126)
Current Challenges Facing the EU
Tuesday/Thursday: 11am – 12:15pm

Instructor: Josh Counselman
Office: European Studies Center (UCIS)
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1-2pm; Thursday, 2-3pm; or by appointment.
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Course Description:
This course explores some of the most pressing challenges facing the European Union and its member states: Representation, identity and public opinion, immigration, and the Eurozone crisis. Some of the questions we will cover include why did the Eurozone crisis occur and why did member states respond differently; how does public opinion influence support for and elections in the European Union? We will examine the rise of these challenges as well as the EU and its member states’ responses. The course starts off with a brief refresher on the EU’s institutions and then proceeds to the challenges facing Europe. Each student will research a topic based on his/her interest related to the European Union and Europe.

Course Objectives:
- Identify the causes for some of the most pressing challenges facing Europe.
- Explain how the challenges impact Europe.
- Rationalize the variation in EU member state actions.

Required Reading:

This is the only required textbook for you to purchase. Any other book on the syllabus can be found in Hillman Library (on reserve) or electronically through Hillman (library.pitt.edu). Although not required, you are encouraged you to follow current events in Europe over the semester (and beyond). There are many great on-line resources for European/EU news, including: the New York Times—www.nyt.com, Economist—www.economist.com, BBC—www.bbc.co.uk, Der Spiegel—www.spiegel.de/international. Some of these may have a limited number of free articles you can browse from the website, but there are student subscriptions and unlimited access through the library for most. I’d also suggest listening to NPR (www.npr.org) listener. Our local station is WESA, 90.5 FM—www.wesa.fm.

Evaluation:
Your grade for this course will be calculated on an A-F scale. The grade will be calculated based on grade distribution below:

- 97-100 = A+  
- 94-96 = A  
- 90-93 = A-  
- 87-89 = B+  
- 84-86 = B  
- 80-83 = B-  
- 77-79 = C+  
- 74-76 = C  
- 70-73 = C-  
- 67-69 = D+  
- 64-66 = D  
- 59 and below = F

- 60-63 = D-
• Attendance and Participation (15%)
• Midterm Exam (25%)
• Final Paper (35%)
  o Paper (25%)
  o Presentation (10%)
• Response Papers (12.5% each - 2)

**Attendance and Participation**: It is not enough to simply show up! This is an upper level seminar and participation is expected, which is reflected in the percent allocation. I will briefly lecture at the start of class, but the course will focus on discussion. You are required to come to class prepared having read the assigned readings. This a small class, so please read the material and come prepared to participate.

**Response Papers**: There will be 4 prompts over the course of the semester, but you are **ONLY** required to write on 2 of the prompts. These papers should be no more than 5 pages double spaced in 12 pt. font. Response papers will be assigned on Tuesdays and due on the following Thursday.

In these papers, you should briefly discuss relevant readings from class and no more than 1 outside source. The focus of these papers is to explore the assigned topic at hand. For example, if the prompt asks, “How does support (or opposition) for further integration differ between Western and Eastern Europe?” The paper should explore arguments for and against more integration in both Western and Eastern Europe individually and then provide a comparison between the two regions and what it means for Europe and the EU.

**Midterm Exam**: There is only a midterm exam for the course. The midterm will be on Thursday, March 1\textsuperscript{st}. The exam will be essay based with a couple of identifications (IDs).

**Final Paper**: Each student is required to write a 12-15pg research paper (excluding the abstract and title page and bibliography) in 12 pt. font on a topic of your choice related to Europe/European Union. Each student is required to meet with me to discuss research topics before submitting a proposal. A formal research proposal is due on February 8\textsuperscript{th}. Each student will review and provide feedback for one of their classmates’ paper. The first rough draft (Literature review and Theory) is due March 15\textsuperscript{th}. The second rough draft (Research design and Analysis) is due on April 5\textsuperscript{th}. We will have a paper workshop on April 12\textsuperscript{th}. Final papers are due on April 19\textsuperscript{th}. On this day, each student will prepare a presentation using slides.

**University and Classroom Policies:**
1) **Attendance**: I will take attendance each class. You are allowed **three (3) absences** during the semester. You do not need to email or provide any documentation for these absences because they will not count against your grade. However, if you miss class, you are responsible for getting the information covered in seminar. I am also more than happy to meet with you during my office hours to discuss the readings or if you have questions. Each additional absence beyond the initial three will result in a **2%** reduction in participation grade (excused absences will not count against your grade).
2) *Email*: I will send emails to you via your Pitt email. Please check it regularly and ensure that it is linked to another email account if you do not use your Pitt email directly. If you email me, please do it directly rather than using CourseWeb.

3) *CourseWeb*: I will post announcements in CourseWeb about upcoming changes or important deadlines for the course. I will also upload the readings for each week to CourseWeb for your convenience.

4) *Extensions and Alternative Dates*: Generally, extensions on deadlines will not be allowed for papers or exams. If you believe you are in a situation where you will potentially miss a deadline, please let me know as soon as possible. Do not let me know the day of the assignment or exam!

5) *Late Policy*: A late assignment will be deducted 2.5 points each day it is late. If a paper received a 92 and is two days late, the grade drops down to an 87. After a week, it will no longer be accepted. Please be aware of all deadlines in the syllabus.

6) *Grade Appeals*: If you want to appeal your grade, the appeal must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a different grade than the one you received.

7) *Technology Policy*: The use of laptops is perfectly fine. Personally, I do all of my reading electronically via my laptop. However, laptops are only to be used for 1) notetaking and 2) to refer back to the readings and your notes. Since I do all of my reading electronically, I am very much aware of when you are referring back to notes and when you are simply scrolling through Facebook. If you are caught on Facebook or using your computer for another non-classroom sanctioned reason (note taking and referring to the readings), you will be docked 2 participation points. For first time offenders, I will ask you after class to refrain from such actions during class time. After the first time, I will dock participation points without addressing you. This includes cellphones and other electronic devices. There is also no reason to have your cellphone in your hand. I will keep track of time and ensure we end at the scheduled time. If you are on your phone during class, you will be docked 2 participation points per offense.

8) *Academic Integrity*: All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty. Any student engaged in cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty would be subject to disciplinary action. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating the University Policy.

9) *Accommodations*: If you have a disability, contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

*Course Schedule:*
Part 1: EU Institutions and Roles

Week 1: What is the EU? and the Executive
Tuesday, Jan. 9: Introduction (to the Course and Debate Over Future of the EU)
Readings:
Lenoir, Noëlle, “The United Europe of Tomorrow?” Project Syndicate. 15 March 2017

Thursday, Jan. 11: The Executive (Commission)
Readings:
Hix and Hoyland – Chapter 2 (skim for background)

Week 2: Legislative
Tuesday, Jan. 16: The Legislature (Council and Parliament)
Readings:
Hix and Hoyland – Chapter 3 (Skim for background)

Thursday, Jan. 18: Which Institution is the Most Important and Intro Democratic Deficit Debate
Readings:

Part II: Challenges to the EU and Its Response
Weeks 3-4: Representation in the EU

Week 3: Democratic Deficit
Tuesday, Jan. 23: Is There a Democratic Deficit and Does It Matter?
Readings:
Hix and Hoyland – pages 132-137

Thursday, Jan. 25: Reassessing the Democratic Deficit?
Readings:

Extra Credit Opportunity: The European Studies Center is co-hosting a roundtable on “Will the EU Fall Apart?” Attend and write a 1.5-2-page summary of the discussion.

Tuesday, Jan. 30: Voting in EP Elections
Readings:
Hix and Hoyland – pages 146-157

Thursday, Feb. 1: Signals from EP Elections?
Readings:
EP Election Activity: Explore the results of the 2009 and 2014 EP Elections – Changes in party vote share, turnout, seat allocation, depend on country?

Week 5-7: Integration, Public Opinion, and EXIT(S)
Week 5: Public Opinion
Tuesday, Feb. 6: Public Opinion of the EU
Readings:
Hix and Hoyland – Chapter 5 (Skim for background)

Thursday, Feb. 8: Enlargement and Public Opinion – Research Proposal Due
Readings:

**Eurobarometer Activity** – Exploring different surveys and opinions across EU member states.

**Week 6: Integration**  
*Tuesday, Feb. 13: Support for More Integration?*  
**Readings:**  
- Focus on the main arguments made for and against further integration. Is this broader conflict between E. and W. Europe?

*Thursday, Feb. 15: Mind the Gap – The Effects of EU Integration*  
**Readings:**  

**Week 7: E(U)xits**  
*Tuesday, Feb. 20: Brexit and the Vote to Leave – Paper option 2 assigned (Motivations for Brexit and arguments for each side)*  

*Thursday, Feb. 22: Brexit – For and Against Post-Referendum*  
Podcast: “Shadow Foreign Secretary, UK – Emily Thornberry MP.” HARDtalk, October 19, 2017.  

**Week 8: Midterm**  
*Tuesday, Feb. 27: Review*  
*Thursday, Mar. 1: Exam*

**Week 9: Spring Break!**
**Week 10-11: Identity, Migration, and Far Right Parties** - Need to include E. Europe here.

**Week 10: European Identity**
Tuesday, Mar. 13: European Identities

**Thursday, Mar. 15: Assimilation into Europe? First Paper Rough Draft Due (Lit. Review and Theory)**

**Week 11: (Im)Migration - Paper option 3 assigned (Immigration and Identity)**
Tuesday, Mar. 20: Who Influences EU Asylum Policy?
Hix and Hoyland – Chapter 11 (273-288)

**Thursday, Mar. 22: Attitudes Toward Immigrants/Immigration**

**Week 12-14: Euro Crisis**
**Week 12: Far Right Parties and What is the Euro and the Single Market?**

Tuesday, Mar. 27: The Far Right – An Overview

- Select article from Comparative Political Studies Special Issue (Volume 49, Issue 7).
Thursday, Mar. 29: Single Market (Central Bank and One Europe)

Readings:
Hix and Hoyland – Chapter 10 (skim for background)

Week 13: The Euro Crisis – Paper option 4 (Why did the crisis occur and what are the effects?)
Tuesday, April 3: Foundations of the Euro Crisis

Thursday, April 5: Political Economy of the Euro Crisis - Second Rough Draft is Due (Research Design and Analysis)
Readings:
Present article from the Comparative Political Studies Special Issue: The Political Economy of the Euro Crisis.

Week 15: Conclude Euro Crisis and Paper Workshop
Tuesday, April 10: Consequences of the Euro Crisis
Readings:

Thursday, April 12: Paper Workshop
Bring a draft of your paper for the workshop. I’ll return your drafts as well.

Week 16: Paper Workshop
Tuesday, April 17: “Is there hope for the EU?” and Recap
Readings:
Palacio, Ana, “Europe’s Chance in 2018.” Project Syndicate. 19 December 2017

Thursday, April 19: Paper Presentations - Turn in your final papers!
10 minutes per presentations – Prepare slides