

**POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
**CPO 3104**

**SPRING 2008**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 3.30 – 4.45 pm**  
**PC 241**

<b>Professor: Markus Thiel, Ph.D.</b> <b>E-Mail: thielm@fiu.edu</b> <b>Phone: 305-348-2227 (Pol. Science Dept)</b>	<b>Office: DM 481 A</b> <b>Office hours: T/R 2 -3 pm &amp; by appointment</b>
--	--

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the structures, policies and current political issues of the European Union (EU). The focus will be on the institutions and policies of the EU as overarching integration project in Europe and its impact on the member states. This course examines the policymaking structures and functions of EU institutions, transitions and integration with particular attention to political culture and the tension with national politics in Europe. The course will include a combination of lecture and discussions as well as a interactive learning exercises (simulation).

**Course Objectives**

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand the current state of politics in Europe. In this course students will:

1. gain a good understanding of the institutional makeup of the European Union;
2. become familiar with the workings of the European Union and its impact on member states;
3. become equipped with theoretical knowledge necessary to explain the evolution of European integration

**Required Texts:** (available in the FIU bookstore or through online bookseller)

*Cini, Michelle. **European Union Politics**, Oxford University Press, 2007 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*

**Recommended:**

***Regular reading of the New York Times (online, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))***

Plus: consultation/subscription of think-tanks such as: [www.euractiv.org](http://www.euractiv.org), [www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)

An additional useful source: <http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm>

## **Course Requirements:**

### Class Participation and Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded. Each student is expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to actively participate in class room discussions. If you cannot attend class because of emergencies or special circumstances, let the instructor know about it in advance. Attendance and participation will account for 8% of the final grade.

### Mid-Term Examination & Quiz

The examinations will consist of a combination of short answer, multiple choice and essay type questions, which will be done in class. Students will be expected to combine assigned readings, current events, class materials, lectures and discussions to critically analyze EU politics. The quiz accounts for 10 % (including a map portion, for which you can train with the help of this site: <http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/euroquiz.html>) and the examinations account for 30% of the final grade. The midterm and the final exam need to be taken on the scheduled days. A makeup exam will only be allowed if the student provides documentation of an ‘official’ scheduling conflict, serious illness or family emergency. Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.

### EU Council Simulation

Each student will participate in a simulation of the Council of the European Union. This exercise consists of written assignments of approximately four pages each (late paper rule applies) and 2 class days of oral participation. Negotiation topics and extra info handout will be provided during the second week of class. At this time, students will select, in random order and based on availability, the country they wish to represent during the simulation. Preparatory books (“The EU & the Member States”) will be on course reserve in the library.

### Final Examination

The final examination will cover all materials presented during the course but will focus on the material covered after the mid term through the end of the course, again consisting of a mix of short answer, essay and multiple-choice questions. This examination is worth 30% of the final grade.

### Evaluation Summary:

Quiz	10%
Midterm exam	30%
Simulation (& preparation papers)	22 % (8 pts/paper +6 partic.)
Final exam	30%
Attendance & participation	8 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 % or 100 points</b>

### Grading/Evaluation System:

Students will be evaluated on the following grade scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

### Reading Assignments and Examination Outline

TUE, 1/8: Course overview/introduction/announcements

THU, 1/10: Origins of European integration & the EU

Reading: Cini, Ch. 1

TUE, 1/15: European integration: History of the EU

Reading: Ch. 2

THU, 1/17: From Community to Union

Reading: Ch. 3

TUE, 1/22: Theories of European Integration: the classics

Reading: Ch. 5, 6

THU, 1/24: New Theories of European Integration

Reading: Ch. 7, 8

TUE, 1/29: European Commission & **QUIZ !**

Reading: Ch. 9

THU, 1/31: European Council & the Council of Ministers

Reading: Ch. 10

- TUE, 2/5: European Parliament  
Reading: Ch. 11
- THU, 2/7: EC Law and the Courts + Guest Lecture: Prof. Downs?  
Reading: Ch. 12
- TUE, 2/12: Other agencies, bodies and institutions  
Reading: Ch. 18  
EU Guide for Americans (online, Ch.2)  
**DUE: SIMULATION ASSIGNMENT I**
- THU, 2/14: The EU & the Constitution/Lisbon (Reform) Treaty  
Reading: Ch. 4
- TUE, 2/19: Midterm review
- THU, 2/21: MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- TUE, 2/26: Enlargement  
Reading: Ch. 26
- THU, 2/28: The Single Market & European Ext. Trade  
Reading: Ch. 14, 16  
**DUE: SIMULATION ASSIGNMENT II**
- TUE, 3/4: Econ & Monetary Union/Euro  
Reading: Ch. 20
- THU, 3/6: Common Agricultural Policy, Social Policy  
Reading: Ch. 21, 17
- TUE, 3/11: SIMULATION (1<sup>st</sup> part: country declarations & discussion)**

- THU, 3/14:**                    **SIMULATION cont. (discussion cont. & voting)**
- March 17-22**                **SPRING BREAK**
- TUE, 3/25:**                Organized interests & lobbying in the EU  
    Reading:            Ch. 13
- THU, 3/27:**                **NO CLASS**
- TUE, 4/1:**                 Attendance of ‘Diversity & European Integration’ EU Center  
    Conference, guest lecture by Mr. Pangratis, EU Diplomat, GC 243
- THU, 4/3:**                 Common Foreign & Security Policy  
    Reading:            Ch. 15
- TUE, 4/8**                    Justice and Home Affairs  
    Reading:            Ch. 19
- THU, 4/15:**                Public Opinion & Identity in Europe  
    Reading:            Ch. 22 & 23
- THU, 4/17:**                Future of the EU? Differentiated Integration/Conclusion & Review  
    Reading:            Ch. 24, 27
- April 21-26**                **Final examination in classroom, exact date TBD**