Political Science 317
The Politics of European Integration
Spring 2004

Mondays 3:15 - 5:05 pm
Encina Hall West, Room 202
http://polisci317.stanford.edu

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Purpose

PS 317 is a research seminar focusing on the politics and current institutions of the European Union (EU) and the historical process that led to it. Like an international organization, the EU was originally founded through a series of treaties between six West European nation states, represented by their governments, and the member states retain the final say on many issues. But much also has changed since the 1950s. Eight former East European countries are joining the EU on May 1, 2004, bringing the total number of member states to twenty-five. Discussions are underway to replace the treaty with a "constitution," and the EU already has a quasi-constitutional court, as well as a parliament, organized along party lines. Moreover, meeting in the "European Council" or "Council of Ministers," national governments take binding decisions on an increasing number of issues by majority vote rather than unanimity, and they share executive powers with a supranational European institution, the European Commission. Is the EU thus a state in the making? How might we understand the current politics and policies of the European Union as well as the historical process that led to it?

In this seminar, we will examine a range of theoretical perspectives that might help us explain the EU and the process of European integration. We will read the classics of integration theory, but also examine the EU comparatively as an instance of more common political phenomena, drawing on general theories of international relations, state formation, and comparative (domestic) politics. Empirically, assigned readings focus on the history and current institutions of the EU and cover a few key policy areas in general; for the research papers, student should conduct empirical analyses of a particular aspect of the process of European integration or analyses of EU politics in a specific issue area.

PS 317 is an upper level undergraduate seminar, open to graduate students. Basic familiarity with theories and research methods of International Relations (equivalent to PS1) and/or Comparative Politics (equivalent to PS4) is recommended, though not required. Students who are not Political Science majors should see me before enrolling in the course.

Requirements

Course requirements are writing a research paper on a topic of your choosing (subject to my approval) and active participation in seminar discussion, based on the assigned readings.

Participation: Active and thoughtful class participation, based on having read (and thought about) the assigned chapters and articles is crucial. It allows you to probe your own understanding as well as benefit from your peers' insights. I might ask individual students or small groups to start off our discussion once or twice during the quarter. In assigning a participation grade, I heavily weigh the quantity of participation by the quality of contributions.

Research Paper: The research paper should be 15-20 pages in length (about 5,000 words ±20%, including all notes and references). I encourage you to see me early and often to discuss possible paper topics. At the end of the second class meeting (April 12), we will have an introduction to the EU Documents collections at Stanford library. In addition, looking through recent issues of EU-specific journals such as the Journal of Common Market Studies, the Journal of European Integration, or European Union Politics, as well as browsing EU-related sections in the library (e.g. shelves with call numbers starting with JN1 - JN50 and HC241.2 in the LC number section of the library) might also help you in selecting topics.

By May 3, you must hand in a memo that states clearly (1) what your topic is, (2) why this is interesting to you and should be interesting to others, (3) what your key analytical questions are,
and—very importantly—(4) how you will go about answering them. I will return one copy with comments by the end of that week.

For graduate students, the paper must be 30 pages (8,000 words ±20%). In addition, graduate students should read the full original article whenever an abbreviated version or summary is assigned.

For all students, the final grade for the course will be based on:

- research paper: 60%
- research presentation: 10%
- class participation: 30%

Readings

Many of the required readings are available to you online via Stanford's e-journal collections or similar sources; the syllabus on the course website links directly to those readings (marked "online" below). Some other readings have been placed on physical reserve (Green library) and/or electronic reserve (linked to the course website); those readings are marked "reserve" below. Access may be restricted to students registered for the course; students registered for the course receive a 20MB increase in personal disk space. All other required readings are contained in the books listed below, which are available for purchase at the Stanford Bookstore.


1. European Integration & the EU: International or Domestic Politics? (Mon, April 5)


Recommended


2. The Early Years: Functionalism and the Founding of the European Communities (Mon, April 12)

NOTE: We will end seminar discussion early today and walk over to Green library together, where Chuck Eckman, the international agencies documents librarian, will give us an introduction to the documents in the EU Depository collection at Stanford from 4:50pm to 5:20pm (meeting & tour begins in SSRC seminar room).


[+ skim 1 of]


Recommened


3. Intergovernmentalism, Realist and Liberal Variants (Mon, April 19)


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[+ skim:]


Recommended

more intergovernmentalism:

Hoffmann, Stanley. "Obstinate or Obsolete? The Fate of the Nation-State and the Case of Western Europe." Daedalus vol.95 no.3 (Summer 1966): 862-915.


critiques & debates:


4. Neofunctionalism: Changing Interests and Identities? (Mon, April 26)


Recommended

[more neofunctionalism:]


[more on European Court of Justice:]


5a. Marxist, Feminist, and Constructivist Perspectives (Mon, May 3)

RESEARCH PAPER MEMO DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!


5b. Social Science Research and Writing (Mon, May 3)


Recommended:

6. Generalizing Beyond Europe: Regional Integration and State Formation Perspectives
(Mon, May 10)


7. Interests & Power in the EU: National Prerogatives or European-Level Domestic Politics?
(Mon, May 17)


8. EMU/Common Currency and Common Foreign & Security Policy (Mon, May 24)


online Smith, Michael E. "Conforming to Europe: The Domestic Impact of EU Foreign Policy Co-operation." Journal of European Public Policy vol.7 no.4 (October 2000): 613-631.

Recommended

9. Research Presentations
(Time & Place TBA: makeup class since May 31 is the Memorial Day holiday)

Mon, 7 June 2004, noon: RESEARCH PAPER DUE
If we had more time …

X. The Market vs. Social Equality & the Environment: Varieties of Redistribution and Regulation


+ 1-2 READINGS ON STRUCTURAL & REGIONAL FUNDS (from Toukalis 1997?).

Y. Varieties of Institutional Perspectives


