

# History and Theories of European integration

University of Namur  
BA 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
First semester

Teacher: Nora El Qadim  
[nora.elqadim@unamur.be](mailto:nora.elqadim@unamur.be)

Course code	EPOLB213
Number of credits	3
Number of sessions	14 x 2 hours
Day and place	Thursdays 10:40-12 :40, Room E32(304)
Evaluation	50% participation in-class participation 50% final oral exam

## Aims

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with the history and functioning of the European Union. It is also to help you acquire the language proficiency, particularly the vocabulary, required to discuss this topic in English. The course will be divided into 3 main sections: 1) first, we will discuss the history and theories of European integration; 2) second, we will turn to the main institutions and actors of the European Union; 3) finally, we will look at different European policies.

## Learning outcomes and method of teaching

By the end of this course, you should be able to 1) recount the main steps of European construction, explain the institutional functioning of the EU and talk about various European policies; 2) discuss these topics with a structured argument presenting the different possible takes on an issue and its ins and outs. In order to achieve these outcomes, the class will largely rely on *your* work: weekly readings and in-class participation to the discussion. I am here mainly to guide and organize the discussion, rather than lecture you on the European Union.

Reading in English might be unusual, and will take a lot of your time, especially in the first weeks, until you get more familiar with the topic. This is absolutely normal, so don't forget to set aside sufficient time each week to read and prepare for the discussion.

## Evaluation

Your final grade will take into account two components: in-class participation (50%) and a final exam (50%).

## Participation

Participation is a central component of the class... and of your final grade! Each week, you will have to prepare a reading. The questions listed at the end of each chapter can be helpful for you to prepare for the discussion. Here is the list of criteria I will be using to grade your participation:

- Participation shows student has done the readings.

- Relevant contribution.
- Student is careful to avoid anecdotal or off-topic answers.
- Encouragement of others' contributions.
- Respect of others' opinions and beliefs.
- Ability to identify the main lines of reasoning and argumentation in the text.
- Ability to critically engage with various concepts and analyses.
- Concern not to dominate the discussion.
- Ability to use constructive feed-back to improve participation over time.

### **Final Exam**

For the final exam, you will be given a set of 4 questions. You will have 15 minutes to prepare your answers. The main questions will largely be inspired by the questions you can find at the end of each of the chapters you will be reading. It can therefore be most useful to prepare them ahead. In this perspective, collaborative work can be helpful, but remember that no one can *understand* issues *for* you, so you still have to work hard on all chapters in order to avoid disappointment at the end of the semester!

### **Readings**

For each session, you will have to read a chapter from the textbook:

Cini, M. and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N., *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

### **Other recommended readings**

Nugent, N., *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Jones, E., Menon, A., and Weatherill S., *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

Mérand, F., et Weisbein, J., *Introduction à l'Union européenne. Institutions, politique et société*, De Boeck, 2011.

And don't forget to follow **the news**!

### **Programme of sessions**

#### **Session 1: September 18<sup>th</sup>: Introduction**

Introduction to the class: presentation of the topic and requirements.

Why study the EU? What is the EU? Presentation of the programme for the course.

<b>PART 1: HISTORY AND THEORIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION</b>
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#### **Session 2: September 25<sup>th</sup>: From the idea of a European Community to the European Union**

Reading: Chapter 2, "The European Community: from 1945 to 1985", and part of chapter 3 "The European Union: Establishment and Development", p.32-37 (2010 edition), or until 1995.

**Session 3: October 2<sup>nd</sup>: From the establishment of the European Union to the Lisbon Treaty**

Readings: Part of chapter 3, “The European Union: Establishment and Development”, p.37-47 (2010 edition), or from 1996, and chapter 4, “From the Constitutional Treaty to the Treaty of Lisbon and Beyond”.

**Session 4: October 9<sup>th</sup>: Theories of European integration**

Readings: Group A will read chapter 5, “Neo-functionalism”, and Group B will read chapter 6, “Intergovernmentalism”.

<b>PART 2: INSTITUTIONS AND ACTORS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION</b>
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**Session 5: October 16<sup>th</sup>: The European Commission**

Reading: Chapter 10, “The European Commission”.

**Session 6: October 23<sup>rd</sup>: The Council of the European Union**

Reading: Chapter 11, “The Council of the European Union and the European Council”.

**Session 7: October 30<sup>th</sup>: The European Parliament**

Reading: Chapter 12, “The European Parliament”.

**Session 8: November 6<sup>th</sup>: Interests Groups and the European Union**

Reading: Chapter 14, “Interests Groups and the European Union”.

<b>PART 3: POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION</b>
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**Session 9: November 13<sup>th</sup>: The Single Market**

Reading: Chapter 19, “The Single Market”.

**Session 10: November 20<sup>th</sup>: The Common Agricultural Policy**

Reading: Chapter 23, “The Common Agricultural Policy”.

**Session 11: November 27<sup>th</sup>: The EU’s Social Dimension**

Reading: Chapter 20, “The EU’s Social Dimension”.

**Session 12: December 4<sup>th</sup>: Justice and Home Affairs**

Reading: Chapter 21, “Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice”.

**Session 13: December 11<sup>th</sup>: The EU’s Foreign, Security and Defence Policies**

Reading: Chapter 18, “The EU’s Foreign, Security and Defence Policies”.

**Session 14: December 18<sup>th</sup>: European Union External Relations**

Reading: Chapter 16, “European Union External Relations”.