

Model European Union

Credits 1 or 3

Tuesdays, 9:35 – 10:25 am, Turlington Hall 2333

Instructor: Corinne Tomasi, MPIA

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Office Hours: Mondays | 2:00 – 4:00 pm; Thursdays | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Course Description

This course will provide students with basic background information on the European Union (EU), its core institutions and decision-making processes as well as basic training in targeted research, public speaking, and debate strategies. All course materials and training are designed to provide students with core skills in preparation for student participation in a mandatory Model EU program (open to students outside of the course as well). Students can enroll in the course as a 1-credit preparation unit or a full 3-credit course (with additional assignments).

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course all students will have a basic understanding of the history, institutions and functioning of the European Union, as well as specialized information on core a specific country and the topics addressed during the Model EU sessions. In addition, students will gain basic training to improve research skills, public speaking and debate strategies. Students completing the course for three credits will obtain additional experience in developing blogs and e-portfolios.

Required Materials

- Various articles and book chapters assigned in syllabus (to be available in Canvas)

Suggested Reading *(for those without previous EU coursework)*

- Pinder, John, and Simon Usherwood. *The European Union: A Very Short Introduction*. 4th edition. Oxford University Press. 2018.

Assignments (additional info/instructions provided on Canvas)

If you are taking the class for 1-credit

- Attendance & Participation – 15%
- Position Paper – 30%
- Country perspective presentation – 15%
- Model EU Simulation – 40%

If you are taking the class for 3-credits

- Attendance & Participation – 10%
- E(U) Need to Know Blog Post – 15%
- Position paper – 20%
- Strategy Memo – 15%

- Country perspective presentation – 10%
- Model EU Simulation – 30%

Grading Scale (*UF standard*)

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Score	93.4-100	90-93.3	86.7-89.9	83.4-86.6	80-83.3	76.7-79.9	73.4-76.6	70-73.3	66.7-69.9	63.4-66.6	60-63.3	0-59.9

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> , ph. 392-1575. For emergencies contact the University Police Department: ph. 392-1111 or 9-1-1.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (August 30) – **Course Introduction**

PART I: THE EUROPEAN UNION

Week 2 (September 6) – **What is the European Union, and why does it matter?**

Readings:

- Olsen, Jonathan. 2021. "Chapter 1: What is the European Union." in *The European Union: Politics and Policies*, 7th edition (New York: Routledge): 11-26.
- Charlemagne. 2022. "Europe is Squabbling – but Remains United Where it Really Matters." *The Economist*, June 2.
- Balfour, Rosa. 2020. "Why Europe Still Matters." Carnegie Europe. <https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/81793>.

Week 3 (September 13) – **Historical Survey of the EU**

Readings:

- Van Oudenaren, John. 2022. "The EU in an Age of Crisis." in *Crisis and Renewal: An Introduction to the European Union* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield): 1-27.

Week 4 (September 20) – **EU Governance Structure**

Readings:

- Fabbrini, Sergio. 2020. "Institutions and Decision-Making in the EU." in *Governance and Politics in the Post-Crisis European Union*, eds. R. Coman, A. Crespy, and V. Schmidt (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): 54-73.
- Kreppel, Amie. 2011. "Looking 'Up', 'Down' and 'Sideways': Understanding EU Institutions in Context." *West European Politics* 34,1: 167-179.

Week 5 (September 27) – **Role of the European Council**

Readings:

- Consilium. 2022. "How the European Council Works." <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/how-the-european-council-works/>.
- Van Middelaar, Luuk and Uwe Puetter. 2022. "The European Council: the Union's Supreme Decision-Maker." in *The Institutions of the European Union*, 5th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 51-77.
- Kroll, Daniela. 2017. "Manifest and Latent Control on the Council by the European Council" in *The Principal Agent Model and the European Union*. (Palgrave Macmillan): 157-180.

Suggested Viewing:

- Bonacquisti, Giulia. 2022. "The European Council: A History of the EU's Agenda Setter." TEPSA. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b2ODvn2cOs>.

Week 6 (October 4) – **Conference on the Future of Europe**

Readings:

- Fabbrini, Federico. 2021. "The Conference on the Future of Europe: Process and Prospects." *European Law Journal* 26(5-6): 401-414.
- Wolff, Guntram, John Erik Fossum, Sergio Fabbrini, Magdalena Gora. 2021. "The Conference on the Future of Europe: Vehicle for Reform Versus Forum for Reflection?" Bruegel Blog. 15 June. <https://www.bruegel.org/blog-post/conference-future-europe-vehicle-reform-versus-forum-reflection>

- de la Baume, Maia. 2022. “The EU is Delaying an Inevitable Debate: Will it Rewrite its Biggest Rules.” Politico Europe. 24 June.
<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-brussels-emmanuel-macron-mario-draghi-olaf-scholz-leaders-put-treaty-change-in-the-back-seat/>

Suggested Listening:

- EU Confidential. 2022 “Future of Europe.” Politico. 12 May.
<https://www.politico.eu/podcast/future-of-europe-macron-in-berlin-voices-from-ukraine/>

Week 7 (October 11) – **Guest Speaker on the EU**

Readings:

- TBD

PART II: MODEL EU: WHAT TO EXPECT AND HOW TO PREPARE

Week 8 (October 18) – **Rules and Procedures**

Readings:

- UF Model EU Rules of Procedure

Week 9 (October 25) – **EU Research Resources**

Guest Speaker – H el ene Huet, *European Studies Librarian, Smathers Library*

Readings:

- None

Week 10 (November 1) – **Strategies for Writing Position Papers**

Readings:

- UF Model EU Position Paper Guide
- Wyszynski, Claire. 2018. “How to Write a Winning Position Paper.” Best Delegate. <https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-winning-position-paper/>

Week 11 (November 8) – **Public Speaking**

Readings:

- TBD

Week 12 (November 15) – **The Art of Deliberation**

Week 13 (November 22) – No Class: Enjoy Thanksgiving

Week 14 (November 29) – **Presentation of Country Positions/Perspectives**

Readings:

- None

Week 15 (December 6) – **Conclusions and Wrap-up**

Readings:

- None