

**POL309 Politics in the European Union
Summer Session II, 2006**

Time: Monday-Wednesday 1:30 – 4:55 PM

Room: Earth &Space Sciences 079

Professor: M. Eser Sekercioglu

Office: N 741 Social and Behavioral Sciences Building (SBS)

Phone: (631) 632 4109

E-mail: msekerci@ic.sunysb.edu

Office Hours: M 10:00 –12:00 W 10:00-12:00 or after the class or by appointment

Pol 309 Politics in The European Union is a gentle introduction to the study of the European Union. Course surveys the evolution of the EU, the institutions, the European Public Opinion, common policies and economic issues EU has faced and the much debated enlargement process. This course is not designed to introduce you to the European Union, familiarize you with the major areas of interest and problems that are worth learning more about. By the final exam you will, hopefully, know a lot more about the European Union and its politics but will not become an expert (unless you go and read the recommended books listed below) on any specific topic.

Textbook

The readings are selected chapters of ;

Understanding the European Union: A concise Introduction (Third Edition) by John McCormick published by Palgrave MacMillan.

We will read almost this entire book except for a few chapters. The textbook is ordered through the university bookstore, which is located in the library. You may also find the book at Stony Books, a bookstore located across the railroad station.

From time to time I will post additional interesting pieces of reading on the website of this course which will be located on the blackboard site. If you have not used Blackboard before here is information provided by the Blackboard concerning access to the site.

Recommended reading and web sources:

This is a short list of books and web sites you would like to have a look if you are really interested in the politics and history of the EU. Starred resources are highly recommended and can help you get a better grade also.

*HIX, Simon. *The political system of the European Union*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.

KEOHANE, Robert and Stanley HOFFMAN (eds.). *The new European Community: decision-making and institutional change*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1991.

McCORMICK, John. *The European Union: politics and policies*. 2nd edition, Boulder: Westview, 1999.

TIERSKY, R. *Europe today: national politics, European integration and European security*, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999

*www.europa.eu EU official website.

http://www.mun.ca/ceuep/general_textbooks.html A great bibliography.

<http://www.mun.ca/ceuep/EU-bib.html>

*<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes/EUC/euc.html> University of Pittsburgh, European Union Center

You can access class information on-line at: <http://blackboard.sunysb.edu> If you have used Stony Brook's Blackboard system previously, your login information (Username and Password) has not changed. If you have never used Stony Brook's Blackboard system, your initial password is your SOLAR ID# and your username is the same as your Stony Brook (sparky) username, which is generally your first initial and the first 7 letters of your last name.

For help or more information see:

<http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/helpdesk/docs/blackboard/bbstudent.php> For problems logging in, go to the helpdesk in the Main Library SINC Site or the Union SINC Site , you can also call: 631-632-9602 or e-mail: helpme@ic.sunysb.edu

How does it work?

Every class period is divided into three interlinked parts. There will be an hour-long lecture followed by a short video (25-30 minutes) and finally, a discussion which is intended to fuse the lecture with the video.

Lectures: I will make my lecture notes available on the Blackboard Website at least one day before class. You are responsible for reading these lecture notes as well as the assigned reading. Lectures are going to be only partially overlapping with the textbook (i.e. in the exams you are responsible for whatever is covered during the class – readings, lectures and videos), so it is important for you to be present at the class not only physically but mentally as well. Another great reason for paying attention to the lectures is the participation (more about that later) points which will be worth 20 percent of your total grade.

Videos: There will be a total of 9 video sessions (each class that is not occupied by an exam). We will watch short videos about the European Union, its history, institutions and people. These videos are intended to provoke your minds to link the lectures with the real world, to combine information from two different sources and put together a synthesis. Synthesizing is going to be extremely important because you will write two 3-page reports that combine (summarize, criticize and paraphrase...) the lectures, videos and, the class discussion altogether (More about that later also).

Class Discussion: When I say discussion, I mean *discussion!* As you will discover shortly, the reading load of this course is light. The real work will be done by the class collectively. You should feel free to jump in and voice your opinion whenever you feel like. Especially after video sessions I will expect a lively and non-trivial discussion of the subject. Participating in this collective effort of giving a good exercise to our minds will be appreciated greatly and rewarded accordingly. 20 % of your final grade will come from participation.

What about grading?

Midterm Exam	25 %
Final Exam	35%
Reports (10% each)	20%
Participation	20%
Total:	100%

Midterm Exam: Scheduled to take place on 2 August 2006. There will be 7 -10 short essay questions. These questions will ask you specific questions, so you will be expected to answer them in a precise fashion. Brushing the surface with a few sentences and expecting to get away with it will not work. Midterm will be worth 25% of your total grade.

Final Exam: Scheduled to take place on 21 August 2006. The format will be the same as the midterm (7-10 short essay questions). However, the final will be comprehensive, i.e. will cover the whole course. There will be more questions on post-midterm topics but pre-midterm topics will be covered as well. Because of comprehensiveness, final exam is worth 35% of your grade.

Reports: You will write 2 summary reports during the semester. At the end of each class I will give a theme for the reports. If you choose to write a report for that specific day you will address the theme I give you using the reading for that day's lecture, lecture notes, and the video. Your report should reflect **your thoughts** of the theme and link the lecture and the video together. For example if I give you a theme like "Discuss the impact of security concerns and the growing Soviet threat in facilitating European Integration" you will produce a 3-page (12 points, Times New Roman, double spaced) answer combining all three sources of the class (lecture, readings, video) and any other source you want. However, note that I am not expecting you to write a research paper. I am more interested

what you think and how you combine different sources of information. Extra sources are welcome but neither required nor necessarily helpful. So do not run to the library or the web as soon as you hear the theme, first think for a few moments and structure a response. There will be nine themes (lectures) to choose. You will choose 2 lectures to write your reports. (You can choose more, if you like. The best two reports will get graded). Reports are due next class, i.e. if you choose Monday's lecture to write your report you will hand it on Wednesday, if you choose Wednesday you will hand in the report on the following Monday.

Participation: Participation is extremely important. It is worth 20 % of your total grade. This 20 percent can be a free lunch or prove very expensive depending on your own behavior. If you contribute to class participation regularly you can easily get the full 20 %. However, if you do not say anything in class, you can get up to 10 % only (depending on your reports and exams). For example, if you never speak in the class, never answer a question, never contribute to the discussion and if your exams and reports are perfect, you can only get 10% of the participation points. However if you regularly contribute to the discussion you can get the full 20% even if your reports and exams are not perfect.

Extra credit: Students in this course are encouraged to participate in research conducted by the Department of Political Science. Time and place of each research study will be announced promptly. A research study will typically take no more than an hour. You can participate up to 2 experiments. If you choose to participate in a research study you will receive 2.5 percentage points. For example if your final grade is 75 out of 100 and you participated in one research experiment you will be given an additional 2.5 points and complete the course with 77.5 out of 100. In order to get the credit for an experiment you must participate in the experiment before the last class of the experiment. Make sure you indicate you are in Pol 309.01 to the experimenter and sign the participation sheet legibly in order to get the credit.

Finally, I do not hold you responsible for attending the course however every student is strongly encouraged to attend the course. For most of the course we will follow the textbook but lectures and the text will not overlap perfectly. I will expect you to show your knowledge not only about what is in the text but what is in the lecture as well. The exams will cover both the textbook and my lectures. You will get the maximum benefit from the course if you are familiar with the material to be covered in the lectures. Try to read the relevant chapters before we discuss it in class. At the end of each lecture I will let the class where we left and remind you of the reading assignment for next class. It is important that you come to class prepared. Finally, if you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your coursework, please contact Disability Support Services, 128 ECC Building 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students requiring emergency evacuation assistance are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and with DSS. For procedures and information see <http://www.sunysb.edu/facilities/ehs/fire/disabilities.shtml>.

Readings

12 July 2006- Introductions
No readings

17 July 2006- Theories of Integration- Functionalism-Neo-Functionalism-Federalism-Confederalism

-McCormick Chapter: 1

19 July 2006- Geography and Historical Foundations
-McCormick Chapter: 2

24 July 2006- Evolution from a Community to a Union
-McCormick Chapter: 3

26 July 2006 – Institutions of the EU
-McCormick Chapter: 4

31 July 2006- People of the EU McCormick Chapter:
-McCormick Chapter: 6

2 August 2006- Midterm Exam

7 August 2006- Economics of the EU- Single Currency-Euro Zone-ECB
-McCormick Chapter: 7

9 August 2006- Policies of the EU- CAP-Social Policy- Fund Transfers
-McCormick Chapter: 8

14 August 2006- Deepening versus Widening- European Union Constitution- Turkey and EU
-TBA

16 August 2006- Towards a United States of Europe? Speculations and Conclusions
-McCormick Chapter: 9

21 August 2006- Final Exam