

PO8043: The European Union in Crisis?

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Office Hours: Friday 11am-1pm

Hilary Term 2018 • Tuesday 12-2pm • PX201 – Weeks 29-33

Course description

The European Union has come a long way since its modest origins as a common market for coal and steel for a handful of European nations. In a relatively short space of time we have seen a deepening as well as widening of the union. However, while this rising integration has been marked by periods of contestation, it is now more than ever that the European Union seems under threat. This course represents an introduction to many of the challenges facing the EU today: a perceived crisis of legitimacy, Euroscepticism, Brexit, authoritarianism, and national populism. It also explores how two recent events, the Eurozone crisis and the migrant crisis, have solidified opposition to the EU and/or its policies.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Identify the challenges currently faced by the European Union as an entity
2. Critically review these challenges and the extent to which they threaten the existence of the EU in its current form
3. Examine the extent to which these challenges are unique to the EU or are part of trends around the world

Assessment

Participation (20%)

Student participation and discussion is a central aspect of the seminar. Students are expected to come to the seminar having done the readings and prepared to discuss the topics. Assessment of students' participation will be based on the quality of input into seminar discussion.

Students should come prepared to discuss the following:

- The arguments made in the assigned readings (are they convincing? Is one more convincing than the others?)
- The method being used (what is it? Is it appropriate? Would another one be more appropriate?)
- The quality of the evidence for the authors' arguments
- Possible future research/extensions to the assigned papers

Points for discussion (20%)

Students must submit discussion points in weeks 2-5 of the module. These discussion points relate to the required readings that have been assigned for the week. Having read the assigned papers, you should put forward **three** numbered points or questions that you think these papers raise. You are not required to do any detailed analysis or discussion but each point should be 1-2 paragraphs long (each paper should be no more than 500-600 words in total).

These discussion points will be graded on the basis of:

- Engagement with the assigned material
- Originality in terms of the insight presented
- Ability to critique the material in the readings (in terms of the theory or empirical evidence it presents, the conclusions it draws etc.)
- Ability to draw comparisons between the papers that have been assigned
- Ability to bring in insights from theories that you have previously engaged with (in prior weeks of the course, in other modules etc.)

When writing your discussion points you should ask these types of questions:

- How convincing is the argument that the author(s) is/are making?
- Is the empirical evidence that is being presented of sufficient quality to be able to support the claims being made?
- Do the conclusions that are being drawn follow logically from the evidence presented?
- Do the conclusions of one paper contradict or challenge those of another?
- Are there any issues that the authors have failed to properly engage with?
- What points are worth exploring further?

Papers are **due at 5pm on the day before the seminar.**

All discussion points should be submitted as a single document via Turnitin.

Research design paper (60%)

Each student will write a research design paper proposing a project related to the topic of the EU under threat. Students must clearly identify a research question that their proposed

project would answer. They must clearly identify the variation that they hope to explain, the key factors that they think will explain it (i.e. their theory), and then outline the way in which they would go about testing their theory (i.e. the methods they would use).

Students are not expected to do any of the analysis, but they should demonstrate an awareness of the issues associated with the conducting the research, including the following:

- Conceptualization of variables
- Measurement of variables
- Data availability/limitations
- Ethical issues
- Overall feasibility of the project

Research design papers should be submitted via Turnitin.

In order to submit papers via Turnitin, you must first enrol in the class using the following information:

Class ID: 20067269
Enrolment key: PO8043

Papers should be approximately 3,000 words, excluding the bibliography.

NB: Students must receive approval from the lecturer for their topics; no student may pass the module unless the research topic has been approved in advance. Students must submit a brief summary of a paragraph via email by **Thursday 4th April**.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

The university takes plagiarism very seriously. There are severe penalties associated with passing someone else's work off as one's own. Remember that careless note-taking can lead to this happening: remember to enclose direct quotations in quotation marks, and even when paraphrasing, ensure that a reference is provided.

The university's policy regarding plagiarism can be found at: <http://www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/general-regulations/plagiarism.php>.

Reading list

This course is not an introduction to how the EU works. Nevertheless, for the purposes of the discussion it is important to be able to understand the institutional structure of the EU, the way in which decisions are made, and various EU Directives and key pieces of legislation

that set out policy in certain areas. The following books can provide some background on these issues:

- Hix, S., & Høyland, B. (1999). *The political system of the European Union*. London: Macmillan.
- Chari, R. S., & Kritzinger, S. (2006). *Understanding EU policy making*. Pluto Press.
- Bomberg, E., Peterson, J., & Corbett, R. (Eds.). (2012). *The European Union: how does it work?*. Oxford University Press.
- Bulmer, S., & Burch, M. (2013). *The Europeanisation of Whitehall: UK central government and the European Union*. Oxford University Press.
- Moravcsik, A. (2013). *The choice for Europe: social purpose and state power from Messina to Maastricht*. Routledge.

Topics and assigned readings

These readings are subject to change. Additional material may be added.

Week 1: Is the EU undemocratic? (12th March)

Required readings:

- Lindgren, K. O., & Persson, T. (2010). Input and output legitimacy: synergy or trade-off? Empirical evidence from an EU survey. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 17(4), 449-467.
- Tosun, J., Wetzel, A., & Zapryanova, G. (2014). The EU in crisis: advancing the debate.
- Moravcsik, A. (2002). Reassessing legitimacy in the European Union. *JCMS: journal of common market studies*, 40(4), 603-624.

Week 2: The Eurozone crisis (19th March)

Required readings:

- J. Carmassi, D. Gros, S. Micossi (2009), 'The Global Financial Crisis: Causes and Cures', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 47, No. 5, pp. 977–996. (19pp) William Poole 'Causes and Consequences of the Financial Crisis of 2007-2009' *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Vol. 33, pp. 1-20. (20pp).
- Peter Hall (2012): The Economics and Politics of the Euro Crisis, *German Politics*, 21:4, 355-371.
- P. R. Lane, Philip (2011), 'The Irish Crisis', CEPR Discussion Paper No. DP8287, March (39pp)
- Alison Johnston & Aidan Regan (2014): European Integration and the Incompatibility of Different Varieties of Capitalism. MPIfG discussion paper

Week 3: The migrant crisis (26th March)

Required readings:

- Guiraudon, V. (2018). The 2015 refugee crisis was not a turning point: Explaining policy inertia in EU border control. *European Political Science*, 17(1), 151-160.
- Holmes, S. M., & Castañeda, H. (2016). Representing the “European refugee crisis” in Germany and beyond: Deservingness and difference, life and death. *American Ethnologist*, 43(1), 12-24.
- Huysmans, J. (2000). The European Union and the securitization of migration. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 38(5), 751-777.
- Greenhill, K. M. (2016). Open arms behind barred doors: fear, hypocrisy and policy schizophrenia in the European migration crisis. *European Law Journal*, 22(3), 317-332.
- De Haas, H. (2008). The myth of invasion: the inconvenient realities of African migration to Europe. *Third world quarterly*, 29(7), 1305-1322.

Week 4: Brexit and Euroscepticism (2nd April)

Required readings:

- Dhingra, S., Ottaviano, G. I., Sampson, T., & Reenen, J. V. (2016). "The consequences of Brexit for UK trade and living standards." LSE/Centre for Economic Performance.
- Becker, S. O., Fetzer, T., & Novy, D. (2017). Who voted for Brexit? A comprehensive district-level analysis. *Economic Policy*, 32(92), 601-650.
- Los, B., McCann, P., Springford, J., & Thissen, M. (2017). "The mismatch between local voting and the local economic consequences of Brexit." *Regional Studies*, 51(5), 786-799.
- Kaufmann, E. (2016). It's NOT the economy, stupid: Brexit as a story of personal values. British Politics and Policy at LSE.
- Goodwin, M., Hix, S., & Pickup, M. (2018). For and against Brexit: a survey experiment of the impact of campaign effects on public attitudes toward EU membership. *British Journal of Political Science*, 1-15.

Week 5: (9th April): Populism and Authoritarianism

Required readings:

- Guiraudon, V., Ruzza, C., & Trenz, H. J. (Eds.). (2016). *Europe's prolonged crisis: The making or the unmaking of a political union*. Springer. (Introduction & Ch12: The Populist Radical Right in Europe)
- Kelemen, R. D. (2017). Europe's Other Democratic Deficit: National Authoritarianism in Europe's Democratic Union. *Government and Opposition*, 52(2), 211-238.
- Goodwin, M. (2018, November 8). 'National populism is unstoppable – and the left still doesn't understand it,' *Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/08/national-populism-immigration-financial-crisis-globalisation>

Recommended readings:

- Eatwell, R. & Goodwin, M. (2018). *National Populism: the revolt against liberal democracy*. Ch1.

Assessment deadlines

Weekly discussion points should be submitted by 5pm on the day before the seminar. The final paper should be submitted **at midnight**.

We understand that sometimes it is necessary to ask for an extension on a paper. These will be granted if there are extenuating circumstances. However, no extensions will be granted unless students contact the lecturer **in advance of the deadline**.

A late penalty of 5 points per day or part thereof will apply if no extension has been granted.

The deadlines for the assessments are as follows:

- 18th March: response paper 1 (5%)
- 25th March: response paper 2 (5%)
- 1st April: response paper 3 (5%)
- 8th April: response paper 4 (5%)
- 24th April: research design paper (60%)