

## **POP88044: Government & Politics of the EU**

**Federica Fazio**  
**Adjunct Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
**Term 2, 2023-24, Weeks 22-26**

### ***Full outline (January 2024)***

#### **Aims and objectives:**

The overall aim of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding and comprehensive knowledge of the institutions and actors of the European Union (EU). Particular attention will be devoted to the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank. We will examine several literatures, including those on EU governance and EU integration. At the end of this course, it is expected that students will have a good understanding of how EU institutions work as well as the main issues that dominate the EU public debate.

#### **Structure:**

This module is of 5 weeks duration and is worth 5 ECTS credits. It starts in week 22 of the Hilary term and will be run as a seminar. We will meet for a one two-hour seminar every Tuesday at 9am. Everyone is expected to attend every class having completed the readings. Students are expected to participate and carry the discussion forward. The course instructor will chair and, when necessary, focus the debate and pose questions.

#### **Assessment:**

This course will be assessed as follows:

- Participation – 20%
- Presentation – 30%
- Essay – 50%

Please see the last page of the document for details of essay topics/due date/etc.

#### **Readings:**

Beyond the readings noted in the full course outline, students should read a good European newspaper on a daily basis. **Students should also consult relevant electronic resources found in the TCD library.** Please, note that for all areas discussed in class, you may want to supplement your reading of books and articles with current overviews on the EU's website: <https://europa.eu/> and news services that focus on EU affairs, such as <http://www.euractiv.com/en/HomePage>.

**Please, note: as many of the readings (below) are journal articles or book chapters, they can be found online or through TCD's library. Where this is not possible, I will post the readings on Blackboard in the folder 'readings not available online'.**

## **Week 1: Meet & Greet, Introduction and Theorizing the EU**

- Chari R. and S. Kritzinger. 2006. *Understanding EU Policy Making*. Chapter 3 (pp.37-44 - Theories of interest intermediation excluded)
- Wallace H., M.A. Pollack, C. Roederer-Rynning, and A.R. Young 2022. *Policy-Making in the European Union*. Chapter 2 (Available at Ussher Stacks-TCD library)
- Moravcsik, A. 1993. 'Preferences and Power in the European Community', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 31, 473-524.
- Moravcsik, A. 2018. 'Preferences, Power and Institutions in 21st-century Europe', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 56/7, 1648-1674.
- Stone Sweet, A. and W. Sandholtz 1997 'European integration and supranational governance', *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 4/3, 297-317.
- Garrett, G. and G. Tsebelis, 2001. 'The Institutional Foundations of Intergovernmentalism and Supranationalism in the EU.' *International Organization*, 55/2, 357-390.
- Bickerton, C.J., D. Hodson, D. and U. Puetter, 2015. The New Intergovernmentalism: European Integration in the Post-Maastricht Era, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 53/4, 703-722.
- Schmidt, V., 2016. The New EU Governance: New Intergovernmentalism, New Supranationalism, and New Parliamentarism. *Istituto Affari Internazionali*.

## **Weeks 2&3: EC, EUCO, Council, and EP**

- Hix and Hoyland, *The Political System of the EU*, Chs. 2,3 & 4.
- Chari and Kritzinger, *Understanding EU Policy Making*, Chapter 2.
- Note: For an overview of the EU institutions from the Europa website, see: [https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies/search-all-eu-institutions-and-bodies\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies/search-all-eu-institutions-and-bodies_en).

### Commission:

- Hodson, D., U. Puetter, S. Saurugger and J. Peterson. 2022. *The Institutions of the European Union*, Chapter 5.
- Schmidt, V. 2016. 'Reinterpreting the rules 'by stealth' in times of crisis: a discursive institutionalist analysis of the European Central Bank and the European Commission, *West European Politics*, 39, 1032-52.

### Council and European Council:

- Hodson, D., U. Puetter, S. Saurugger and J. Peterson. 2022. *The Institutions of the European Union*, Chs. 3&4.
- Hagemann, S., S. B. Hobolt & C. Wratil. 2017. 'Government responsiveness in the European Union: Evidence from Council voting'. *Comparative Political Studies*, 50/6, 850-876.
- Hayes-Renshaw, F. 2006. 'When and Why the EU Council of Ministers Votes Explicitly'. *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 44/1, 161-94.

- Tallberg, J. 2008. Bargaining Power in the European Council, *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 46/3, 685-708.

European Parliament:

- Hodson, D., U. Puetter, S. Saurugger and J. Peterson. 2022. *The Institutions of the European Union*, Chapter 6.
- Sorace, M. 2018. 'The European Union democratic deficit: Substantive representation in the European Parliament at the input stage'. *European Union Politics*, 19/1, 3-24.
- Shackleton, M. 2017. 'Transforming representative democracy in the EU? The role of the European Parliament'. *Journal of European Integration*, 39/2, 191-205.

#### **Week 4: ECJ and ECB**

European Court of Justice:

- Hodson, D., U. Puetter, S. Saurugger and J. Peterson. 2022. *The Institutions of the European Union*, Chapter 7.
- Phelan, W. 2018. 'European Legal Integration: Towards a More Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach' *Journal of Common Market Studies*.
- Blauberger, M. and S.K. Schmidt. 2017. 'The European Court of Justice and its political impact'. *West European politics*, 40/4, 907-918.

European Central Bank:

- P. De Grauwe, 2022. *Economics of Monetary Union*, Fourteenth Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 9.
- Schimmelfennig, F. 2015. 'Liberal intergovernmentalism and the euro area crisis,' *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol 22/2, 177-95.
- Quaglia, L. and & Verdun, A. 2023. 'The European Central Bank, the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the COVID-19 related economic crisis: a neofunctionalist analysis', *Journal of European Integration*, 45/1, 139-156.
- Fabbrini, F. 2022. *EU Fiscal Capacity: Legal Integration After Covid-19 and the War in Ukraine*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 3.

#### **Week 5: The Future of the EU**

- Fabbrini F. 2020. *Brexit and the Future of the European Union: The Case for Constitutional Reforms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 2.
- Fabbrini, F. 2022. *EU Fiscal Capacity: Legal Integration After Covid-19 and the War in Ukraine*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6.
- Fabbrini, F. 2024. 'European Defence Union ASAP: The Act in Support of Ammunition Production and the development of EU defence capabilities in response to the war in Ukraine', *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 29/1, 1-18.
- Fiott, D. 2023. 'In every crisis an opportunity? European Union integration in defence and the War on Ukraine', *Journal of European Integration*, 45/3, 447-462.

**Presentation (30%):**

Students will make one **short** presentation in weeks 2-5. These presentations will be 10 minutes each, and you are encouraged to use slides.

Strong presentations will do at least one of the following:

- Describe any key conceptual issues that must be addressed by work on the question;
- Describe the central arguments/debates in the literature on the question;
- Offer criticism and/or suggest pathways for future research.

**Essay (50%):**

The final essay should be approximately 1,500 words in length (not including bibliography and any footnotes). Basic essay conventions apply. The essay must: 1) be formatted in PDF, 2) use Times New Roman, 12 point font and 1.5 line spacing, 3) have complete citations, 4) be page numbered, 5) be proofread, 6) have your full name, student number and essay title on the first page, 6) have a full bibliography, 7) be submitted via turnitin.com on the course's Blackboard page, and 8) state the final word count.

Note that plagiarism will lead to automatic failure and will be reported with the probability of severe penalties likely to ensue. If you are unsure of how to properly reference or of what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the libraries support guides: <https://libguides.tcd.ie/plagiarism/what-is-plagiarism>. Please note that all late work, unless excused in advance by the course lecturer, and justified by a medical certificate, will be penalized as a rate of 5 marks per day (up to a maximum of 30 marks). Where any essay is submitted after the deadline to turnitin.com for any reason, the student must also email me to inform me it has been submitted. Under no circumstances will work be accepted after the set work has been marked and handed back to other students.

**The topics of to choose from for the final essay are the following:**

'Which theoretical approach is most appropriate for analyses of the EU integration process?'

**OR**

'The EP has limited power compared to the Commission and the Council.' Evaluate this statement and explain why or why not this is the case.

*Essay Due Date: Friday, April 19, 5pm.*

