

European Union Politics A | POU33071

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	20 hours of lectures, 5 hours of tutorials
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Raj Chari
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Module Outline

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Discriminate between the differing role of EU institutions when policy is made in Europe.
- Highlight the importance of interest groups, examining how they are regulated in Brussels as they seek to influence different EU institutions.
- Evaluate the important of different theoretical concepts when understanding EU integration.
- Summarise the range of research tools that you would use if you were to engage in further research on EU government and integration at a future date.

Module Learning Aims:

The main aims of this course are to provide students with a critical understanding and comprehensive knowledge of the institutions of the EU and the different theories of European integration in Europe. As such, the course has two main parts: one focusing on institutions, the other on theories. Particular attention will first be paid to the main institutions at Europe's domestic level of governance. Then, an overview of the main institutions at the supranational level will be made, looking at the European Commission, the Council, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, and the European Central Bank. Lectures will also consider the importance of extra-institutional actors who seek to influence the EU's institutions, focusing on interest groups. Given the EU's desire to add transparency to lobbying, lectures will also examine the concept of lobbying regulation. From a theoretical perspective, the course will then examine two main theories of integration, particularly the intergovernmentalist and the supranational governance approaches. We will also consider other theoretical perspectives that highlight the importance of interest groups and the different 'varieties of capitalism' found in Europe.

Module Content:

The underlying theme of this course is to examine the extent to which the EU's institutional framework and policy environment provide evidence of deepening integration, where

national borders are increasingly irrelevant. This course also examines different theoretical perspectives which help explain EU integration.

Assessment

Mid-term essay (30%)

90 minute in-person end-of-semester examination (70%)

Recommended Reading List

Chari, R. & Kritzinger, S. (2006) *Understanding E.U Policy Making*, Pluto Press

Hix, S. & Hoyland, B. (2011) *The Political System of the European Union*, Palgrave

Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borraran, N. (eds.) *European Union Politics*, 5th Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Several journal articles will also be noted in the reading list