

ECON/PSCI327

Europe Today: Winter is Coming

Fall Semester, Academic Year 2021-2022

Instructor: Dr. Ritsa Panagiotou

► Course Description

The goals of this course are threefold:

- to acquire knowledge of the policies, actions and accomplishments that have made the European Union a unique zone of economic prosperity, political stability, and social progress.
- to evaluate the domestic and external challenges that the Union is currently facing.
- to explore the changing role of Europe in the world and evaluate the new geopolitical complexities.

The course is structured into three thematic units.

The first part of the course will be devoted to analysing the accomplishments and distinctiveness of the European Union as an institution, focusing on achievements such as the single market (that allows citizens to live, study, work and retire in any state of the Union), the development of a “social Europe” (with universal healthcare, public higher education and strong welfare states), and the commitment to the promotion of democracy, human rights and gender equality. The focus will be on appreciating how the European Union has been the driver of an unprecedented “peace project” that has made allies out of former enemies and has helped avert war on the continent for 70 years, after centuries of wars and bloodshed. When the contributions of the European Union are evaluated, the Peace dividend is often taken for granted.

The second part will focus on new and ongoing challenges facing Europe, including the deep repercussions of the departure of the United Kingdom from the Union, the impact of the refugee/ migration crisis, the growth of Euroscepticism and authoritarianism, the rise of radical Islam and the perceived “clash of civilisations”. The ongoing Covid 19 crisis, which has had a profoundly detrimental impact on the economic, political, and social systems of all EU countries and has tested European solidarity, will also be examined.

The third part will address the European Union’s changing place in the world by examining new and evolving geopolitical linkages, traditional alliances and rivalries, and evolving bilateral relationships with the United States, Russia, China et al. Special attention will be given to the growing challenges in the immediate neighborhood, i.e. the Middle East, the Mediterranean basin, Turkey, and the Western Balkans. The analysis will be framed within the context of the debate on the future of the EU and its role in global and regional affairs.

Finally, at the end of the semester the students will participate in a simulation game where they will apply the knowledge they have gained about the policies and international relations of the European Union. The students will be assigned roles representing EU institutions, EU Member States, third-party stakeholders or press corps and will negotiate a collective European response to an international crisis affecting the European Union.

► Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate the policies, actions and accomplishments that have made the European Union a unique zone of economic prosperity and social progress.
- Compare and contrast the principal differences between the United States and the European Union in terms of political culture, social priorities and economic vision.
- Analyse and evaluate the complex new realities that are challenging the European Union's accomplishments.
- Critically assess Europe's changing role in the world and the shifting global geo-dynamics.
- Simulate the complex process through which the European Union might respond to an international crisis affecting the stability and security within its jurisdiction or in its broader neighborhood.

The material will be explored through a combination of lectures, critical analysis in class discussions, students' written work/ independent research, class debates, and student group presentations. The readings will include academic articles, reports from international organisations, case studies, and videos. Due to the rapidly-changing nature of the topics covered in the course, readings and class material will be constantly updated according to the current events.

► **Course Requirements/Assessment**

Students must come to class prepared on the basis of the assigned readings per lecture, and **class participation is considered essential**. There will also be required **group presentations**, a **mid-term** and a **final exam**.

The **breakdown of the final grade** is as follows:

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| • Class participation: | 20% |
| • Mid-term exam: | 30% |
| • Group presentations: | 20% |
| • Final Exam: | 30% |

Use of Laptops: In-class use of laptops is permitted if that facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up information and references, etc. **Laptop privileges will be suspended if they are not used for class-related work**. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the Academic Regulations of College Year in Athens

► **Books, Course Materials, Moodle**

Core Readings:

Cini, Michelle (ed.) *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press, 6th edition, 2019.

Tsoukalis, Loukas. *In Defense of Europe: Can the European Project be Saved?* Oxford University Press, 2016.

Class handouts, including a broad compilation of current articles, surveys and reports concerning the crisis. All class handouts will be **uploaded and available on Moodle**.

Periodicals and Websites

Since the course will be closely following current events (literally day-to-day), reading daily/weekly online newspapers and magazines is **HIGHLY** recommended. Sources such as the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk>), the Economist (<http://www.economist.com>), the Financial Times (<http://www.ft.com>), and the International Herald Tribune (<http://www.ihf.com>) are particularly helpful.

A wide range of material on the EU is available on-line, and students are encouraged to consult the official EU website (Gateway to the EU: <http://europa.eu>) as part of their weekly preparation. Other websites with relevant material are <http://euobserver.com> and <http://www.euractiv.com/en>

► Class Schedule

This is a preliminary schedule of lectures. Part of the order may change and some topics may be replaced by others, depending on current developments in Greece or in the EU during the course.

Class Day	Day/Date	Topic / Readings
1	Tues Sept 7	Introduction to the topic, introduction to course objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loukas Tsoukalis, <i>In Defense of Europe</i>, Ch. 1 (“High Stakes”). • These are the Real Differences between Americans and Europeans (World Economic Forum)
I. What makes the European Union so unique, and how has it changed the lives of Europeans?		
2	Thurs Sept 9	Brief Historical Background: Stimulus for European integration / major landmarks of the process
3	Tues Sept 14	The European Union as a “Peace Project” : making friends of enemies, keeping the peace on the continent for an unprecedented 70 years. One Europe: The right to live, work, study, travel freely within the Union
4	Tues Sept 21	Social Europe : Health care/ Education/ Social Security / welfare state; Democracy Promotion : Protection of Human Rights / Gender Equality/ LBGT rights
5	Thurs Sept 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment: the EU in the forefront of international climate policies / ‘European Green Deal’ • European Union and Third World Developmental Assistance

6	Tues Sept 28	<p>Solidarity: Surviving the eurozone crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsoukalis, <i>In Defense of Europe</i>, Ch. 3 (“Reality Strikes Back”), and Ch. 4 (“Whose Rules and whose Adjustment?”) • Cini, <i>European Union Politics</i>, Ch. 26 (“The Euro Crisis and European Integration”) • The eurozone crisis by numbers (DW)
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7	Thurs Sept 30	<p>Class Discussion: The concept of Europe: the American way vs the European way (Case studies including attitudes to government, gun culture, capital punishment, welfare state).</p>
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II. New Challenges to Europe and European Cohesion

8	Fri Oct 1	<p>Brexit, or the European Union without the UK; Background to the Referendum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, <i>European Union Politics</i>, Ch. 27 (“Brexit”) • The roots of Euroscepticism (The Economist) • Economic implications of Brexit (Brookings Institution) • A Background Guide to Brexit (The Economist)
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9	Tues Oct 5	<p>Brexit: Current issues, scenarios and implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brexit: Implications for Britain and the EU (E. Guzel) • 4 Brexit Scenarios (Carnegie Europe) • Brexit and British youth (The Guardian) • Europe after a no-deal Brexit (Carnegie Europe) • Brexit: The Consequences for the EU’s Political System (UCL Briefing Paper) • What is the Brexit backstop (The Guardian) • Boris Johnson could be UK’s last Prime Minister (The Guardian) • <u>Optional Reading:</u> After Brexit: Alternate Forms of Brexit and their Implications for the United Kingdom, the EU and the United States (RAND Report)
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10	Thurs Oct 7	<p><u>Class activity</u> Debate: Brexit Negotiations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brexit and Irish border (The Conversation) • Brexit Negotiations (European Commission) • All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU (BBC) • How Brexiters are destabilizing Ireland’s Fragile Peace (Carnegie Europe)
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11	Tues Oct 12	<p>► The Refugee Crisis and its impact on Europe and EU Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desperate journeys (UNHCR) • Re-energising Europe; pp. 13-15 (New Pact for Europe Report 2017) • Why is EU struggling with migrants (BBC)? • 2015: The Year of Europe’s Refugee Crisis (UNHCR) • A crisis within a crisis (aljazeera)
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- Is Greece about to be martyred again? (P. Eleftheriadis)
- Greece left alone in the Refugee Crisis (DW)
- Greece managed refugee crisis with dignity (ekathimerini)
- How is the Migrant Crisis dividing EU countries? (BBC report)
- Divided Europe seeks long term answer to refugee crisis (The Guardian)
- EU-Turkey statement (Council of the EU, 18 March 2016)
- The EU and the Migration Crisis (Europa publications)
- From Sweden to Brexit, Immigration is the Issue dividing Europe (The Guardian)
- Migration and Security: Snapshots across a Divided Europe (euractiv)

12	Thurs Oct 14	<p>► The spectre of Terrorism in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-energising Europe; pp. 16-18 (New Pact for Europe Report 2017) • The new normal (The Economist) • These 5 facts explain why Europe is ground zero for terrorism (The Economist) • Terrorist atrocities in Western Europe (Economist) • Islamic terror could drive Europe into the arms of the far right • Why Belgium is front line in war on terror (CNN)
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13	Tues Oct 19	Mid-term exam
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14	Thurs Oct 21	<p><u>Class activity: Rise of far-right / authoritarianism and Democratic Backsliding in Europe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populism is a symptom of real policy failure (Chatham house) • Towards a New EU Democracy strategy (Carnegie Europe) • Rising fear of terrorism pushes Europeans to rethink approach to right wing parties • The Rise of the Far Right (Harvard Political Review) • Europe's far right is surging (The Guardian) • The Rise of Europe's antipopulists (Carnegie Europe) • Countering a regressive and Illiberal Europe (EPC) • Democracy in Europe has declined (euronews)
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15	Tues Oct 26	Euroscepticism: falling out of love with Europe?
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16	Tues Nov 9	Europe and the Covid 19 challenge
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III. Europe and the World:

Alliances, Rivalries and New Geopolitical Linkages

17	Thurs Nov 11	USA / Russia
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18	Tues Nov 16	<p>China / Turkey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cini, <i>European Union Politics</i>, Ch. 28 ("The Future of the EU")
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- Tsoukalis, *In Defense of Europe*, Ch. 6 (“Still holding together, but...”) and Ch. 7 (“Difficult choices”)
- The EU in stormy seas (Carnegie Europe)
- Turkey’s ruthless President (BBC)
- The rise and fall of free speech under Turkey’s Islamists
- Europe's policy options on Turkey (Carnegie Europe)
- Turkey seeking better EU ties as journalists await prison (EUobserver)
- EU unity beyond Brexit (Carnegie Europe)
- What are the big challenges facing Europe? (BBC report)
- The EU is not out of the danger zone (Carnegie Europe)

19	Thurs Nov 18	Western Balkans / Near Abroad
20	Tues Nov 30	Guest Speaker
21	Thurs Dec 2	Simulation: how the European Union reaches consensus for international crisis management
22	Fri Dec 3	Student Final Group presentations
23	Tues Dec 7	Student Final Group presentations
24	Thurs Dec 9	Student Final Group presentations
25	Tues Dec 14	Final exam
