POLI 451: The European Union

POLI 451  Prof. Maria Popova
Fall 2018  3438 McTavish, Rm 301
Maass 217  Office Hrs: Th 13:30-14:30 or
WF 16:05-17:25  by appt

This is a course on the politics of the European Union. It will start with a brief history of
European integration ideas and then examine in some detail EU’s institutions and their effects
on domestic politics in EU’s current and would-be member states. The theoretical and
conceptual focus will be on the process of Europeanization of domestic European politics,
rather than on the intergovernmentalism, i.e. relations between states, that motivated earlier
studies of European integration. In other words, this is more of a comparative politics course,
than an international relations course.

Required Readings

This course requires a moderate amount of reading, but many of the articles are challenging
either conceptually or methodologically. Plan accordingly. Do NOT fall behind, because you
will not be able to skim the readings to catch up. Readings include:

Oxford University Press, 2018
You can buy the textbook from Paragraphe Bookstore.

Articles and book chapters: Most assigned articles and book chapters are available online
through McGill library resources. A few readings will be posted on the course website.

Course Obligations

Students will be evaluated based on four measures:
1) Conference participation (10%)
2) Midterm (30%)
3) Infographic (20%)
4) Final (40%)

Conferences: 10%
You should register for a conference time on Minerva as soon as possible. Conferences will
be led by the TA. Conferences will begin during the third week of classes (the week of Sep
17th). Half of your conference grade will be based on attendance. You are expected to attend
all conferences. The other half of your conference grade will be based on the quality of your
participation in group discussions and activities.

In-class Midterm: 30%
The midterm will be given in class on October 24th. The midterm will consist of term
identifications and multiple-choice questions. The material will be drawn both from lecture
and from the readings. Practice by studying the multiple-choice questions available with each
chapter at the textbook’s online space:
http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/politics/eu/cini5e/student.mcqs/

Infographic: 20%
The class will break up into small groups (up to 5 people). Each group will research a topic related to the EU and will present the findings in the form of an infographic. Infographics tell a story with numbers and pictures; they present data in an easily digestible and visually appealing manner to simplify complicated issues for a broader audience. Possible topics include: (1) The enlargement of the European Union; (2) The EMU and the Monetary Crisis; (3) The EU and Migration; (4) Treaty Reform; (5) Elections to the European Parliament. You will form groups and pick a topic after the midterm on October 24th. Each group will submit a brief plain text draft (250 words) on November 9th; your final infographic assignment is due on November 30th (all deadlines: 11:59 PM on MyCourses).

Final exam: 40%
A cumulative final exam will test your ability to integrate a theoretical understanding of the EU with practical knowledge of the day-to-day workings of the EU. For the final, you will be writing a number of short essays. The date for the final exam will be set by the university.

On Academic Integrity and Submitting Written Work in French

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

In accordance with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Other issues

If you have a disability and you would like to discuss the issue with me, please contact me to arrange a time to meet. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.

End-of-term course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the students’ learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students’ Rights (The Handbook on Students’ Rights and Responsibilities is available at :
Lecture and Reading Schedule

Introduction (Sep 5)

The “Crises” and Challenges Facing the EU right now (Sep 7)

- C&P, Introduction

Complete the quizzes on the textbook’s online space: http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/politics/eu/cini5e/

Historical context (Sep 12, Sep 14)

- C&P, Part 1, pp. 9-51
- Watch the short documentary “Europe Through the Generations”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isVdxUBAp78

Neo-Functionalism and Intergovernmentalism (Sep 19)

- C&P, Chpts 4 and 5, pp. 51-79

No lecture on Sep 21

Governance (Sep 26)

- C&P, Ch 7, pp. 97-109

Europeanization (Sep 28)

- C&P, Ch 8
The European Commission (Oct 3)
- C&P, Chpt 9, pp. 123-138

The Migration Crisis in Europe: Visit by Dusseldor Mayor Thomas Geisel (Oct 5)
- C&P, Ch 20

The European Council and the Council of the European Union (Oct 10)
- C&P, Chpt 10, pp. 138-155

The European Parliament (Oct 12)
- C&P, Chpt 11, pp. 155-167

The Court of Justice of the European Union (Oct 17)
- C&P, Chpt 12, pp. 167-179
- Karen Alter, "Who are the “masters of the treaty”?: European governments and the European Court of Justice." *International organization* 52, no. 1 (1998): 121-147, available online [here](http://aei.pitt.edu/1120/1/east_enlarg_wp_COM_95_163.pdf)

Policy-making in the EU (Oct 19)
- C&P, Chpt 14, pp. 197-214

INCLASS MIDTERM (Oct 24)

PART II: Integration and Disintegration

Enlargement, conditionality, and democratization (Oct 26, Oct 31)
- Cini et al, Chpt 16, pp. 227-241
- 1995 European Commission White Paper ‘Preparation of the Associated Countries of Central And Eastern Europe for Integration into the Internal Market of the Union’, COM(95) 163 available from the Archive of European Integration at the University of Pittsburgh at: [http://aei.pitt.edu/1120/1/east_enlarg_wp_COM_95_163.pdf](http://aei.pitt.edu/1120/1/east_enlarg_wp_COM_95_163.pdf)

Backsliding and rule of law threats (Nov 2, Nov 7)

Economic and Monetary Union (Nov 9)
• C&P, Chpts 18, 21
• 1985 European Commission White Paper ‘Completing the Internal Market’, COM(85) 310 available from the Archive of European Integration at the University of Pittsburgh at: http://aei.pitt.edu/1113/1/internal_market_wp_COM_85_310.pdf

Euro crisis (Nov 14, Nov 16)
• C&P, Chpt 26, pp. 365-379

Democracy and Legitimacy (Nov 21, Nov 23)
• C&P, Ch 24, 25, pp. 340-364

European Identity (Nov 28, Nov 30)
• C&P, Ch 27 and Brexit booklet