

European Public Policy in Times of Crisis
Course Syllabus

30 October – 29 January 2014

Thursday 11.00-14.00 (Room: [REC-JK K.23](#))

Course Catalogue number: 7323B039LY

12 ECTS

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1. Contents of the course

It is impossible to get a full understanding of policy making in Europe without one of the key pieces of the puzzle: the European Union (EU). The EU is not only relevant for core European policy domains, such as the single market or the single currency. A large percentage of national regulations on almost every topic (including the environment, public health, working conditions, etc.) are currently affected by European Law. In spite of the great significance of the EU, its impact on national policy making is usually underestimated and EU news is systematically under-reported by national media. The EU only became more visible in the wake of the economic crisis. Despite much attention, the actual role and relevance of the EU are still widely misunderstood.

This seminar will focus first on the **increasing significance of the EU over the years with a special focus on the Euro-crisis**. To this end, the evolution of the EU institutional architecture and theories of European integration will be discussed. Attention will be drawn to the functioning of the European institutions, decision-making procedures and specific European policies. Descriptive knowledge of European institutions, policies and procedures will be combined with an analytical approach, aiming at providing a clear picture of how the EU actually works.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the concepts of democracy and legitimacy have come to the forefront of EU debates. The “permissive consensus” that supported the European integration process for many years no longer exists. During the economic crisis, ineffective and disappointing supranational management, coupled with the imposition of severe budget cuts in many member states, have tainted the image of the EU, amplifying the legitimacy gap. The final part of this seminar will discuss the so-called ‘democratic deficit’ of the EU (in times of crisis).

Objectives

1. Providing students with key knowledge of EU policy-making with a special focus on the Euro-crisis. By the end of the course, all students will be familiar with theoretical debates on European integration, decision-making procedures, European institutions and European policies.
2. Understanding how the European Union (EU) and the euro-crisis affect national policy making. Learning how the EU works will enrich and complete knowledge on national policy-making.
3. Providing students with practical knowledge on the European Union, using the euro-crisis as an example. This course is also aimed at developing “practical skills” (e.g. help you finding useful information in the EU websites and deciphering EU jargon and documents).
4. Fostering the development of reasoning, discursive and analytical skills. You are also expected to develop skills in effective argumentation, with particular emphasis on getting the attention of the audience. A simulation game will be organized for this purpose.

2. Reading Material

Background readings

This course does not start from zero. Students with have no prior knowledge of European politics should therefore do some additional background reading.. The following books are strongly recommended:

- McCormick, J. (2011), *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. 5th Edition. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Dinan, D. (2010), *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration*. 4th Edition. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Other textbooks that are helpful:

- Buonanno, L. and Nugent, Neil (2013), *Policies and Policy Processes of the European Union*. Houndmills: Palgrave.
- Cini, M. and Perez-Solozarno Borragan, S. (2010), *European Union Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wallace, H. et al. (2010), *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Required/Obligatory readings

In the preparation for the class meetings, students will be required to read academic articles/bookchapters on European integration and European policy-making.

Students can download the required academic articles from any UvA computer. You can use UvA VPN to access the UvA system from location outside the UvA buildings. More information on the VPN system:

<http://student.uva.nl/en/az/a-z/a-z/content/folder/uvavpn/uvavpn.html>

3. Course Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Literature (required/obligatory)
1	30 Oct.	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cini, M. (2010) <i>European Union Politics</i>. PART 2: Theories & Conceptual Approaches. pp. 59-125 Jones, E. (2012) 'The JCMS Annual Review Lecture. European Crisis, European Solidarity', <i>JCMS</i>, 50: 53-67. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-5965.2012.02272.x
	4 Nov.		Deadline take home questions I – 12.00
2	6 Nov.	EU integration theory & economic crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall, P.A. (2014) 'Varieties of capitalism and the Euro crisis', <i>West European Politics</i>. 37(6): 1223-1243, DOI: 10.1080/01402382.2014.929352 Puetter, U. (2012) 'Europe's deliberative intergovernmentalism: the role of the Council and European Council in EU economic governance', <i>JEPP</i>, 19(2): 161-178. DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2011.609743 Fabbrini, S. (2013) 'Intergovernmentalism and its limits: assessing the European Union's answer to the Euro crisis', <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, XX(X): 1-27. DOI: 10.1177/0010414013489502 <p>Policy document Treaty on Stability, coordination and governance. http://www.european-council.europa.eu/media/639235/st00tscg26_en12.pdf</p>
	11 nov.		Deadline take home questions II – 12.00
3	13 Nov.	<p>Governance approaches & Who decides?</p> <p>Exercise: perception of Member states / Political Parties of the economic crisis</p>	<p>Europeanization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radaelli, C.M. (2003) The Europeanization of Public Policy. In: K. Featherstone and C.M. Radaelli (ed.), <i>The Politics of Europeanization</i>. DOI:10.1093/0199252092.003.0002 <p>MLG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hooghe, L. & G. Marks (2008) 'A postfunctionalist theory of European integration: from permissive consensus to constraining dissensus', <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, 39: 1-23. DOI:10.1017/S0007123408000409 <p>2 out of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dinan, D. (2012) 'Governance and institutions: impact of the escalating crisis', <i>JCMS</i>, 50: 85-98. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-5965.2012.02268.x Tallberg, J. (2008) 'Bargaining power in the European Council', <i>JCMS</i>, 46(3): 685-708. Wonka, A. (2008) 'Decision-making dynamics in the European Commission: partisan, national or sectoral?',

			<p><i>JEPP</i>, 15(8): 1145-1163, DOI: 10.1080/13501760802407656</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hix, S. (2005) 'Power to the parties: cohesion and competition in the European Parliament, 1979-2001', <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, 35(2): 209-234. <p>Bring along position "paper" of your political party on economic crisis (1 p.)</p>
	18 Nov.		DEADLINE PAPER PROPOSAL – 12.00
4	20 Nov.	Discussing Paper Proposals Exercise: Finding Policy Documents	

	25 Nov.		Deadline take home questions III – 12.00
5	27 Nov.	EU & foreign policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sjursen, H. (2012) 'Not so intergovernmental after all? On democracy and integration in European Foreign and Security Policy', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 18(8): 1078-1095 Bickerton, C.J. (2012) 'Functionality in EU Foreign Policy: Towards a New Research Agenda?', <i>Journal of European Integration</i>, 32(2): 213-227, DOI: 10.1080/07036330903486045 Whitman, R.G. & A.E. Juncos (2012) 'The Arab Spring, the Eurozone crisis and the neighbourhood: a region in flux', <i>JCMS</i>, 50: 147-161. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-5965.2012.02278.x <p>1 out of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thym, D. (2006) 'Beyond Parliament's reach? The role of the European Parliament in CFSP', <i>EFAR</i>, 11: 109-127. Dijkstra, H. (2009) 'Commission versus Council Secretariat: an analysis of bureaucratic rivalry in European Foreign Policy', <i>EFAR</i>, 14: 431-450.
	2 Dec.		Deadline take home questions IV – 12.00
6	4 Dec.	Solidarity in Europe? Social and cohesion policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scharpf, F.W. (2002) 'The European Social Model: coping with challenges of diversity', <i>JCMS</i>, 40(4): 645-670. Ferrera, M. (2009) 'The JCMS Annual lecture: national welfare states and European integration: in search of a virtuous nesting', <i>JCMS</i>, 47(2): 219-233. Bailey, D.J. (2009) 'Explaining the underdevelopment of social Europe; a critical realization', <i>Journal of European Social Policy</i>, 18(3): 232-245. <p>Policy document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Europe2020 - http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100303_1_en.pdf

	9 Dec.		Deadline take home questions V – 12.00
7	11 Dec.	Democratic deficit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crum, B. (2013) 'Saving the euro at the cost of democracy', <i>JCMS</i>, 51(4): 614-630. • Moravcsik, A. (2002) 'In defence of the democratic deficit: reassessing legitimacy in the European Union', <i>JCMS</i>, 40(4): 603-624. • Follesdal, A. and S. Hix (2006) 'Why there is a democratic deficit in the EU: a response to Majone and Moravcsik', <i>JCMS</i>, 44(3): 533-562.
	18 Dec.	NO CLASS	
	25 Dec.	NO CLASS	
	1 Jan.	NO CLASS	
8	8 January	Oral Paper Presentations	
	15 January	NO CLASS	DEADLINE FINAL PAPER – 16.00
9	22 January	Simulation game – ECOFIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dur, A. and G. Mateo (2010) 'Bargaining power and negotiation tactics: the negotiations on the EU's financial perspective, 2007-13', <i>JCMS</i>, 48(3): 557-578. <p>Bring along position "paper" of your country (1 p.), incl. note on main friends/allies</p>
10	29 January	Simulation game – FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council	Bring along position "paper" of your country (1 p.), incl. note on main friends/allies

4. Assignment & Assessment

FINAL PAPER – 50%

The final paper will focus on a specific policy field. There are two options:

- Theoretical paper/Literature review
- Practical paper/Policy analysis

Final Paper

- Word limit: 5.000-6.000 words (c. 15 typed double-spaced pages)
- Submission by Ephorus assignment
- Evaluation criteria of the final paper: see annexes 1 & 2

The final paper consists of several **sub-assignments**:

Paper proposal – 18 November – specifying the topic and demonstrating your ability to find the appropriate information to complete the final paper. It should include the following elements:

Literature review/theoretical paper	Policy Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of academic articles & books • Press articles & policy papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of relevant EU laws, directives or decisions on the topic • List of relevant EU policy papers (communications, evaluations)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of Commission committees, expert groups & consultations on the topic • List of cases before the Court of Justice of the EU relevant for the topic • List of main stake holders • Press articles
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Oral Presentation of 5 minutes – 8 January – which includes:

- A brief introduction (topic)
- Identification of 1-3 obstacles, difficulties and challenges
 - Discussion of how to overcome the difficulties
- Bringing a one-page plan of the presentation to facilitate the discussion

This oral presentation gives students the opportunity to improve their presentation skills. Moreover, they will get useful feedback to improve their final paper.

Important Deadlines Final Paper:

- **Paper Proposal – 13 November 2014**
- **Oral Presentation – 8 January 2015**
- **Final Paper – 15 January 2015**

EXAM-QUESTIONS- 30%

The instructor will prepare a short exam question for each meeting, and you will have to submit a one-page answer (600-800 words).

You must submit a total of four one-page answers. They are to be sent directly to the instructor by email every Tuesday preceding the class in which the topic is discussed, before 12.00. You are allowed to submit a fifth one – the best four will be counted.

If you fail to submit the one-page papers before the meeting, this will be considered as a re-take and the grade will be reduced by 10%.

PARTICIPATION - 20%

Just being present at the seminar is not enough; the active involvement of students is a central element of the course. The participation grade consists of several elements:

- Participation in simulation game
- Participation during open class discussions that shows:
 - Communication & argumentation skills
 - Close reading of the obligatory (and recommended) literature
- Participation during paper presentations that shows:
 - Ability to give constructive feedback on the work in progress of other students

ATTENDANCE & GRADING

Attendance is required.

- If you are unable to attend a meeting, you will be required to do some additional work: one extra exam-question for the meeting missed.
- Following UvA rules, students cannot miss more than 2 classes of this seminar even if they are excused.

Late submissions count as a resit. For resits, the grade will be reduced by 10%.

FEEDBACK

- You will get written feedback on the take home exam question and (upon request) on your final paper.
- You will receive oral feedback on the simulation game and oral presentation.
- The final grades will be published on Blackboard no later than ******.

FRAUD

Never copy any article/website/document/text literally.

For your final paper you will be required to use the Harvard Method of citation and include a bibliography including all the sources you refer to in your text. For a detailed explanation of the Harvard method:

http://gsss.socsci.uva.nl/english/downloads/Guide_Plagiarism.pdf

The final paper will be checked by an anti-plagiarism software programme. Students are strongly advised to read carefully the UvA regulations: <http://www.student.uva.nl/preventfraud-plagiarism>

ANNEX 1 – GUIDELINE FINAL PAPER

POLICY ANALYSIS

A systematic analysis of a particular policy field in which the following question is addressed:

- To what extent and how has the economic crisis affected ** Policy X **?

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical context (e.g. when did this policy emerge? How did it evolve over time?) • Short introduction to the economic crisis • Relevance (e.g. why is this policy important? Why would you expect it to be affected by the crisis?)
Content	<p>Comparison pre-& post-crisis period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify (changes in) institutional arrangements (e.g. decision-making procedures, implementation etc.) • Key actors and (changes in) their relative position • (Changes in) Content of the public policy (activities, programmes, funding, instruments, implementation) • (Changes in) Main issues at stake (e.g. which topics are discussed/contentious?)
Conclusions	<p>Evaluation of the policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical reflection on goals & outcomes and impact of the economic crisis • Reflect on prospects for the future (e.g. how stable are the changes you observed?)

LITERATURE REVIEW

A critical analysis (not just a description) of the publications of accredited scholars and researchers on a particular topic touching upon what was discussed in class.

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the topic of concern • Justification & scope • Criteria used to find & analyze the literature • Organization of the review
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify overall trends in the literature & areas of controversy • Identify conflicts in theory, methodology, evidence and conclusions • Identify gaps, limitations and obstacles
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the major contributions of the articles in the field • Evaluation of the current “state of the art” • Formulate questions that need further research

ANNEX 2 – EVALUATION CRITERIA

	What to do:	What NOT to do:
Pertinence (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytic & synthetic approach Originality & critical approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juxtaposition of information without analysis – it remains descriptive
Clarity (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...in presentation ...in definitions adequate use of concepts coherence logical and consistent argumentation (content) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ambiguity, inaccuracy and absence of definitions confusion, misjudgment and overestimations subjectivity
Organization (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear structure logical sequence of arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of structure repetitions juxtaposition of disconnected information
Sources (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> appropriate use of class readings & concepts diversity of sources & coherence with selected policy area good quality sources (academic articles, primary documents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no/limited reference of material & concepts discussed in class limited number of sources
Format/spelling (10%)	Up to one point (10%) will be deducted for important omissions (inaccurate/incomplete bibliography/referencing), sloppy writing, recurrent spelling mistakes	