

Europe in Crisis? European Politics and Policies

Dr. Jan-Henrik Meyer

Email Address:	fubest@fu-berlin.de
Live Sessions:	Thursday, 9 – 11 a.m. CET (Berlin time)
Duration:	Feb. 17 – May 19, 2022
Language of Instruction:	English
Contact Hours:	30
ECTS Credits:	6

Course Description

European Politics and the history and politics of European Integration more specifically are characterized by crises, as many contemporary and current observers have highlighted over and over again. In the past two decades, Europe has been shaken by a series of crises – from the failed constitution and the financial crisis to the Migration, Brexit and COVID crises, the rise of populism and the disintegration of democracy in some of the newer member states. Why is European integration apparently so crisis-ridden? And: to what extent has European integration actually been propelled by crises?

This course will introduce students to the history and politics of the European Union (EU), its peculiar institutions and a number of its key policies. The course will address and explain the – often crisis-ridden – processes of widening and deepening of this unique political entity, drawing on some relevant theorizing. Students will learn how institutions changed and how policies are made, as well as the role of the different supranational and intergovernmental institutions. Next to the formal institutions, interest representation, lobbying, and the media have shaped processes of policy making and polity building, and crisis responses. Special emphasis will be placed on Europe's current crises – the Euro crisis, the migration crisis, Brexit – and the lingering challenges of the environmental and climate change.

The sessions consist of lectures, literature-based discussions, a close reading of sources, in smaller and larger groups. Students will be expected to actively participate, collaborate in groups and prepare oral presentations. A special highlight of the course is a hands-on semester-long group project of developing a lobbying strategy directed at the European institutions. The course also includes a presentation and an opportunity to discuss with a guest speaker from the Commission's Team Europe.

Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is threefold:

1. To familiarize students with the history and politics and the institutional structures of the European Union, and its policies
2. To discuss, understand and explain these developments and decisions as the outcome of structures and agency, characteristic conflicts, contradictions and dilemmas, drawing on concepts and (elements of) theories from the field of interdisciplinary EU Studies
3. To assess and evaluate, and to reflect on European integration, in the light of different perspectives and underlying assumptions

At a practical level, the course trains reading skills with a view to academic literature and different genres thereof (such as journal articles), academic writing and presentation skills. Moreover, students will apply their knowledge of the institutions and policy-making in devising the lobbying strategy.

Student Prerequisites

Students should have completed at least three semesters of higher education when the course starts and need to possess English language abilities in speaking and writing on the Upper Intermediate Level (at least B2, preferably above).

General Requirements

Attendance of the weekly live sessions is mandatory (for the specific time slot, see above). These live sessions will be combined with recorded video lessons and intensive work through the online course platform, both individually and in groups. Altogether, this course awards credits for 30 contact hours and 90 hours of additional workload as well as completion of the [Portfolio Intercultural Awareness \(PIA\)](#). Please see course requirements for the various formats and weight of the course assignments as well as forms of assessment.

This course features a certain amount of independent coursework and thus expects you to be able to set up a self-disciplined study routine. We recommend that you make sure to have a quiet and appropriate working space. To ensure a comfortable learning environment for all, please adhere to our [Code of Online Conduct](#).

Technical Requirements

Stable internet connection.

Fully functional device, such as computer, laptop or tablet (use of smart phones is not recommended) with camera and microphone, headset recommended.

Recommended operating systems: Windows 7 or higher or MacOS 10.13 or higher. Avoid using a VPN.

Software: Webex Meetings.

Course Requirements

Term Paper: 300 Points (30 %)

Group Presentation: 250 Points (25%)

Lobbying strategy: 250 Points (25%)

Live Online Attendance (min. 75% required) & Participation: 200 Points (20%)

Grading

FU Grade	Points of 1,000
1.0	980-1,000
1.3	950-979
1.7	900-949
2.0	850-899
2.3	800-849
2.7	750-799
3.0	700-749
3.3	650-699
3.7	600-649
4.0	500-599
5.0	< 500

Literature

Provided online.

Course Schedule

Calendar	Topics, Reading, etc.
<p>Week 1 17/02/2022</p>	<p>European integration and crisis – Introduction</p> <p>This session introduces the structure, requirements, and activities of this course, and we will discuss the guiding concept of “crisis”. In order to prepare students to deal more effectively with the assigned texts, we will explore the structures and organization of academic journal articles together, and develop strategies for reading them.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christiansen, Thomas. 2020. "The EU's New Normal: Consolidating European Integration in an Era of Populism and Geo-Economics*." <i>JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 58 (S1): 13-27. Fontaine, Pascal. 2017. <i>The European Union explained: Europe in 12 lessons</i>. <p>Groupwork: How to read an academic journal article</p>
<p>Week 2 24/02/2022</p>	<p>History I: Why integrate? A response to Europe’s perennial crises?</p> <p>This session explores the early history of European integration from the late 1940s onwards and continues the overview until the crisis-ridden 1970s. We will read a contemporary source by one of the key promoters of European integration to get first-hand insights of their reasoning and problem perceptions in the postwar period.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usherwood, Simon and Pinder, John. 2018. <i>The European Union. A very short Introduction</i>. 4th ed., pp. 1-33. [What the EU is for; How the EU was made] <i>Historical Source</i>: Spaak, Paul-Henri. 1950. The Integration of Europe: Dreams and Realities. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 29 (1): 94-100.
<p>Week 3 03/03/2022</p>	<p>History II: Why relaunch European integration? A response to Europe’s economic crises?</p> <p>This session continues the historical overview, starting out with the so-called “relaunch” of European integration in the 1980s with the Single Market and the founding of European Union – and European Monetary Union – with the Maastricht Treaty of 1991/93. We will zoom in on the role of non-state actors in promoting the market project, drawing on a historical source.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Cowles, Maria. 1995. “Setting the Agenda for a New Europe: The ERT and EC 1992,” <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 33 (4): 501-526. <i>Source</i>: European Roundtable of Industrialists: <i>Foundation for the Future of European Industry</i>, 1983 <i>Video</i>: The Brussels Business: https://youtu.be/xMuUEd6w54E

<p>Week 4 10/03/2022</p>	<p>Theory: How can we explain European integration?</p> <p>The lecture provides an overview of theories of European integration, which have been used to explain the process of European integration. Traditionally two schools of thought have been juxtaposed: neofunctionalists, stressing the role of European institutions and the dynamics of the process, while intergovernmentalists have conceptualised European integration as the product of negotiations between member states. The reading will illustrate how these theories can be applied to understand current European politics. A recorded lecture will explain some of the more recent theorizing.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2019. “Grand theories of European integration in the twenty-first century,” <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 26: (8): 1113-1133. <p>Recorded lecture: Newer theories of European Integration</p>
<p>Week 5 17/03/2022</p>	<p>Supranational or Intergovernmental: The European Institutions – Guest Lecture from Guest speaker from Team Europe / European Commission</p> <p>The guest lecture from the European Commission’s Team Europe will introduce you to the structure of the European Union and the European Institutions. You will be able ask questions after the lecture.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, John. 2017. <i>Understanding the European Union. A Concise Introduction</i>. 7th ed., pp. 73-95 [The European Institutions]
<p>Week 6 24/03/2022</p>	<p>European institutions: What do they do? Institutions and Policy Making</p> <p>In this session, we will take a look at the institutions again, and examine how they co-operate, compete and interact in the practice of policy- and law-making. We discuss the different stages of the policy process and the relevance of the different institutions therein.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenealy, Daniel, Peterson, John, Corbett, Richard. 2018. <i>The European Union. How does it work?</i> 5th ed., pp. 123-145 [How policies are made]. <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Familiarize yourself with the five European institutions (Council, European Council, Commission, Parliament, Court of Justice) for a group work assignment.</p>

Week 7

07/04/2022

Interest representation and Lobbying

This session provides an overview of the structures, role and practices of lobbying in the European Union, drawing on the examples of consumer and environmental policies. We will thus lay the basis for the student group work of developing a lobbying strategy. The lobbying assignment will be explained, relevant sources will be distributed.

Readings

- Delreux, Tom and Sander Happaerts. 2016. Environmental Policy and Politics in the European Union. London: Palgrave, "Chapter 5 Lobbying and Interest Representation", 123-140.

Groupwork texts:

- Kraus, Franz. 2019. "The Food Sector: Mondelēz International in Brussels." In: Lobbying in the European Union: Strategies, Dynamics and Trends, edited by Doris Dialer and Margarethe Richter, 207-213. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Kleis, Johannes. 2019. "The European Consumer Organisation: Pioneer in Advocacy and Lobbying." In: Lobbying in the European Union: Strategies, Dynamics and Trends, 239-250.
- Reuter, Conny. 2019. "SOLIDAR: NGO Advocacy for Social Justice in Europe." In: Lobbying in the European Union: Strategies, Dynamics and Trends, 229-237.

Assignment:

Familiarize yourself with the lobbying of one of the three lobbying groups from the readings: Mondelez, Consumer Organization, Solidar.

Week 8

14/04/2022

European Monetary Union and the Euro Crisis

European Monetary Union (EMU) had been on the agenda of the European Communities, the EU's predecessor, from the late 1960s onwards. EMU has been controversial from the start, and even though the Euro has been in Europeans' wallets for almost two decades now, the Euro crisis has exposed some of the major difficulties of operating a currency beyond the nation state. We will discuss the reasons for the crisis and the measures undertaken to solve it, and in particular the role of Germany as a so-called hegemonic actor in intergovernmental politics.

Readings / Student Group Presentation 1

- Bulmer, Simon and Paterson, William E. 2018. Monetary Policy and the Eurozone Crisis. The Emergence of German Hegemony. In: Germany and the European Union. Europe's Reluctant Hegemon, 167-200.

<p>Week 9 21/04/2022</p>	<p>Migration policy and the Migration Crisis</p> <p>European Union member states have cooperated in overcoming borders with the Schengen agreements, and started to work together in regulating migration jointly in the 1990s. The migration crisis of 2015 and the aftermath has exposed the problems of borders, given their close relation with sovereignty. The migration crisis has contributed to the rise of right-wing populist parties that often pursue openly Eurosceptic agendas.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bauböck, Rainer. 2018. "Refugee Protection and Burden-Sharing in the European Union." <i>JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 56 (1): 141-156. Video: Does Europe really have a migration crisis? State of Europe (1/3) https://youtu.be/ldyrZLhp98s <p>Student Group Presentation 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geddes, Andrew. 2018. The Politics of European Union Migration Governance. <i>JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 56: 120-130.
<p>Week 10 28/04/2022</p>	<p>Climate and the Environment</p> <p>Environmental policy had not been part of the original Treaties, but has – since its inception in the 1970s – become a “flagship” policy of the European Union – used to demonstrate “European added value”, namely the benefits of European policy for citizens’ quality of life. Since the early 1990s, the EU has been involved in the fight against climate change, also at the international level. This session will offer insights into the policy development and its concrete functioning, will take a critical look at the role of the Commission, and discuss in a pro-con confrontation the prospects for EU climate change policy after the COVID crisis.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dupont, Claire, Sebastian Oberthür and Ingmar von Homeyer. 2020. “The Covid-19 crisis: a critical juncture for EU climate policy development?”, <i>Journal of European Integration</i> 42 (8): 1095-1110. <p>Group Presentation 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knill, Christoph, Yves Steinebach and Xavier Fernández-i-Marín. 2020. “Hypocrisy as a crisis response? Assessing changes in talk, decisions, and actions of the European Commission in EU environmental policy,” <i>Public Administration</i> 98 (2): 363-377. <p>Assignment: Pro-Con Discussion</p> <p>Prepare your arguments (for/against) the claim: <i>The COVID Crisis will accelerate the EU’s efforts to tackle climate change.</i></p> <p>Recorded Lecture: History of EU Environmental Policy</p>

<p>Week 11 05/05/2022</p>	<p>Brexit</p> <p>The United Kingdom had long been an “awkward partner” within the European Union, after having joined only in 1973. Nevertheless, Brexit was not a foregone conclusion. The session looks into the role of the UK within the EU before Brexit, and explores how Brexit came about, the long-drawn Brexit negotiation, their domestic impact, and the longer-term implications. Brexit may be “done”, but its after-effects will remain with us for considerable time. Two presentations will look at the negotiations and the strategies of the two parties more specifically.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulmer, Simon and Lucia Quaglia. 2018. “The politics and economics of Brexit.” <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 25 (8): 1089-1098. • Brexit: The Clock is ticking: https://youtu.be/DT1FSmISCGw <p>Group Presentation 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martill, Benjamin, and Uta Staiger. 2020. "Negotiating Brexit: The Cultural Sources of British Hard Bargaining." <i>JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies</i> advance online doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13059.
<p>Week 12 12/05/2022</p>	<p>Lobbying game</p> <p>In this session, student groups will present their lobbying strategies on the Tobacco Legislations, form alliances and develop joint strategies. This exercise will be evaluated in terms of the creativity but also the credibility of the strategies, including, notably, the mobilization of relevant knowledge and familiarity with European institutions and policy-making procedures.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guéguen, Daniel. 2019. "Reshaping European Lobbying: How to Be One Step Ahead." In: <i>Lobbying in the European Union: Strategies, Dynamics and Trends</i>, edited by Doris Dialer and Margarethe Richter, 93-102.
<p>Week 13 19/05/2022</p> <p>Term Paper Due</p>	<p>Final discussion: European integration in crisis</p> <p>The final discussion seeks to pull together our various analyses of the different crises the European Union has been facing in recent years. We will compare the different kinds of crisis and have a debate on whether (and if so, to what extent) the European Union is indeed in a state of crisis.</p> <p>The term paper is due today.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson, Jeffrey J. 2021. "A Series of Unfortunate Events: Crisis Response and the European Union After 2008." In: <i>The Palgrave Handbook of EU Crises</i>, edited by Marianne Riddervold, Jarle Trondal and Akasemi Newsome, 765-789.