

The European Union

BA/MA Lecture

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Weekly sessions online (podcasts available on Tuesdays)

Interactive webinar sessions on Mondays, 10.15–11.45

ILIAS: [Link to lecture material on ILIAS](#)

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1 Course Outline

The European Union (EU) is in many ways a unique political system that has changed the lives of its citizens and has fascinated political scientists with all its accomplishments and crises. The EU is based on a shared set of values, has established one of the largest markets in the world, created with the Euro a powerful international currency, enlarged its territory with multiple accessions, and has become a major actor on the international stage. Since its foundation with the Treaty of Rome in 1957, crises have challenged European integration and milestones have further deepened and enlarged the EU. This lecture serves as a foundational introduction of the EU. We will examine the history of European integration, analyze the institutions and decision making processes of the EU and discuss current challenges.

2 Course Organization in time of COVID-19

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this lecture will be organized as an online class. Although we have to shift the lecture format to online, we will keep up with the weekly schedule of the fall term. In other words, you are expected to follow the class in the weekly sequence, and you will also receive all course materials accordingly. The specific sessions are either pre-recorded podcasts or interactive Q&A sessions (the interactive session will be held during the time slot of the seminar on Mondays, 10.15–11.45, using the platform Zoom).

All sessions will be recorded as podcasts (audio with slides) and will be available on Ilias on the Tuesdays of the weekly sessions. For every session, the syllabus specifies whether you should read the weekly reading before you listen to the podcast (as preparation) – or after listening to the podcast as further extension of the topic. The lecture is organized in three topical blocks. After each of these three blocks, we will have an interactive Q&A session to discuss all remaining questions of the specific topical block. These three sessions will be held as Zoom-Webinars during the lecture time (on Mondays from 10.15–11.45). Please send questions or remarks on the weekly sessions by e-mail to fabio.wasserfallen@ipw.unibe.ch in advance of these interactive session. I will collect and address all questions, discussing them with you in the respective Q&A session.

3 Course Literature

All mandatory and most voluntary readings listed in this syllabus are available on ILIAS. In addition, a Permanentapparat in the vonRoll library offers a collection of useful books to further deepen the covered topics (see section below). All the literature marked in this syllabus with a star (*) is voluntary further reading. All other references are mandatory and as such part of the content that is covered in the final exam. A note indicates whether you are supposed to read the literature before listening to the session's podcast or after listening to the podcast to further engage with the material that has been covered in the lecture.

If you want to purchase a textbook, the following is recommended:

- Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (2019). *European Union Politics*. 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Further standard textbooks that cover most of the material of this lecture are:

- Hodson, Dermot and John Peterson (2017). *The Institutions of the European Union*. 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wallace, Helen, Mark A. Pollak and Alasdair Young (2015). *Policy Making in the European Union*. 7th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lelieveldt, Herman and Sebastian Princen (2015). *The Politics of the European Union*. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hix, Simon and Bjorn Hoyland (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. 3rd edition. Palgrave MacMillan.

4 Schedule and Readings

4.1 Introduction (February 22)

4.2 Integration History and Milestones I (March 1)

- (*) Phinnemore, David (2019) “The European Union: Establishment and Development”, Chapter 2, in Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (eds) *European Union Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 11–30.

4.3 Integration History and Milestones II (March 8)

- Lelieveldt, Herman and Sebastiaan Princen (2015) “The Historical Development of the EU”, Chapter 1, in *The Politics of the European Union*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3–26. → *Read after listening to the podcast.*
- (*) Church, Clive and David Phinnemore (2019) “From the Constitutional Treaty to the Treaty of Lisbon and Beyond”, Chapter 3, in Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (eds) *European Union Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 31–51.
- (*) Schimmelfennig, Frank (2001) “The Community Trap: Liberal Norms, Rhetorical Action, and the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union”, *International Organization* 55(1): 47–80.

4.4 The Transformation of the EU Legal System (March 15)

- Weiler, Joseph H.H. (1991) “The Transformation of Europe”, *Yale Law Journal* 100(8): 2403–2483. → *Read p. 2405–2415 and 2423–2431 after listening to the podcast. The rest is voluntary reading.*
- (*) Scharpf, Fritz W. (1999) “Negative and Positive Integration”, Chapter 2, in *Governing in Europe: Effective and Democratic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 43–83.
- (*) Judgement of the European Court of Justice, Case 120/78, Cassis de Dijon, EUR-Lex: 650–665.

4.5 European Integration Theory (March 22)

- Leuffen, Dirk, Berthold Rittberger, and Frank Schimmelfennig (2013) “Intergovernmentalism” and “Supranationalism”, Chapter 2 and 3, in *Differentiated Integration. Explaining Variation in the European Union*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 40–53 and 62–76. → *Read after listening to the podcast.*

- (*) Wiener, Antje, Tanja A. Börzel and Thomas Risse (2019) “European Integration Theory”, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. → *Not available on Ilias, but in the Permanentapparar.*
- (*) Hooghe, Lisbeth and Gary Marks (2008) “A Postfunctionalist Theory of European Integration: From Permissive Consensus to Constraining Dissensus”, *British Journal of Political Science* 39: 1–23.

4.6 Interactive Q&A: Live Webinar on Zoom (March 29)

Interactive discussion of questions on the first block of the lecture covering integration history, legal integration and theory (students send questions on the first block by email until March 25)

4.7 The European Council and Council of the EU (April 12)

- Lewis, Jeffrey (2019) “The European Council and Council of the European Union”, Chapter 11, in Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borrágán (eds) *European Union Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 157–175. → *Read before listening to the podcast.*
- (*) Tallberg, Jonas (2008) “Bargaining Power in the European Council”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 46(3): 685–708.

4.8 The European Commission (April 19)

- Egeberg, Morten (2019) “The European Commission”, Chapter 10, in Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borrágán (eds) *European Union Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 143–156. → *Read before listening to the podcast.*
- (*) Hooghe, Lisbet (2012) “Images of Europe: How Commission Officials Conceive Their Institutionns Role”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 5(1): 87–111.

4.9 The European Parliament (April 26)

- Shackleton, Michael (2017) “The European Parliament: The Power of Democratic Ideas”, Chapter 6, in Dermot Hodson and John Peterson (eds) *The Institutions of the European Union*, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 138–162. → *Read before listening to the podcast.*
- (*) Angelucci, Davide, Luca Carrieri, and Mark N. Franklin (2019) “Much ado about nothing? The EP elections in comparative perspective”, Chapter 1, in Lorenzo De Sio, Mark N. Franklin and Luana Russo (eds) *The European Parliament Elections of 2019*. Rom: LUISS University Press, 15–27.
- (*) Rittberger, Berthold (2012) “Institutionalizing Representative Democracy in the European Union: The Case of the European Parliament” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 50: 18–37.

4.10 The Court of Justice of the EU (May 3)

- Alter, Karen J. (1998) “Who Are the ‘Masters of the Treaty’? European Governments and the European Court of Justice”, *International Organization* 52(1): 121–147. → *Read after listening to the podcast.*
- (*) Wasserfallen, Fabio (2010) “The Judiciary as Legislator? How the European Court of Justice Shapes Policy-making in the European Union”, *Journal of European Public Policy* 17(8): 1128–1146.
- (*) Judgement of the European Court of Justice, Case 8/74, Dassonville, EUR-Lex: 838–854.
- (*) Judgement of the European Court of Justice, Case 120/78, Cassis de Dijon, EUR-Lex: 650–665.
- (*) Kapsis, Ilias (2019) “The Court of Justice of the European Union”, Chapter 13, in Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (eds) *European Union Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 189–200.

4.11 Interactive Q&A: Live Webinar on Zoom (May 10)

Interactive discussion of questions on the second block of the lecture covering the institutions of the EU (students send questions on this second block by email until May 6)

4.12 Decision Making in the EU, Policy Fields, Current Challenges and Priorities (May 17)

- Pollack, Mark A. (2015) “Theorizing EU Policy-Making”, Chapter 2, in Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack, and Alasdair R. Young (eds) *Policy Making in the European Union*, 7th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 12–45. → *Read before listening to the podcast, provides a good summary of what we discussed in the lecture.*
- Young, Alasdair R. (2015) “The European Policy Process in Comparative Perspective”, Chapter 3, in Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack, and Alasdair R. Young (eds) *Policy Making in the European Union*, 7th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 46–71. → *Read after listening to the podcast.*
- Caporaso, James A. (2018) “Europe’s Triple Crisis and the Uneven Role of Institutions: the Euro, Refugees and Brexit”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 56(6): 1345–1361. → *Read after listening to the podcast.*

4.13 Interactive Q&A: Live Webinar on Zoom (May 31)

Interactive discussion of questions on the final block of the lecture including additional information on the exam (students send questions for this final Q&A session until May 27)

5 Learning Objectives

Students of this lecture will

- (a) study the milestones of European integration,
- (b) become familiar with the political system of the EU and policy-making procedures, and
- (c) explore some of the major policy fields of the EU,

which will help them developing a better analytical understanding of the current challenges of European integration.

6 Literature in the Permanentapparat

The vonRoll library provides a Permanentapparat on the right hand side of the library – for more detailed directions ask at the information desk in the library. In the Permanentapparat “The European Union”, you find basic literature on the European Union which can be read in the library. The following books are available in the Permanentapparat:

- Bulmer, Simon, Parker, Owen, Bache, Ian, George, Stephen and Charlotte Burns (2020) *Politics in the European Union*, 5th edition. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Cini, Michelle and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (2019) *European Union Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dinan, Desmond (2014) *Europe Recast: a history of European Union*, 2nd edition. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.
- Dinan, Desmond, Neill Nugent and William E. Paterson (2017) *The European Union in Crisis*. London: Palgrave.
- Hix, Simon and Bior Hoyland (2011) *The Political System of the European Union*. 3rd edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Hodson, Dermot and John Peterson (2017) *The Institutions of the European Union*, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lelieveldt, Herman and Sebastiaan Princen (2015) *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Leuffen, Dirk, Berthold Rittberger and Frank Schimmelfennig (2013) *Differentiated Integration*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Pollack, Johannes and Peter Slominski (2012) *Das politische System der EU*, 2nd edition. Wien: Facultas.
- Reichstein, Ruth (2016) *Die Europäische Union: Die 101 wichtigsten Fragen*, 4th edition. München: C.H. Beck.

- Wallace, Helen, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young (2015) *Policy Making in the European Union*, 7th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wiener, Antje, Tanja A. Brzel and Thomas Risse (2019) *European Integration Theory*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

From the following books the full text is available from the library as digital version:

- Alesina, Alberto, Favero, Carlo and Francesco Giavazzi (2019) *Austerity: When it works and when it doesnt*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. [Link](#)
- Boix, Carles (2019) *Democratic capitalism at the crossroads: Technological change and the future of politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Link](#)
- Bradford, Anu (2020) *The Brussels effect: How the European Union rules the world*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- De Vries, Catherine E. (2018) *Euroscepticism and the Future of European Integration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- De Vries, Catherine and Sara B. Hobolt (2020) *Political entrepreneurs: the rise of challenger parties in Europe*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Link](#)
- Inman, Robert and Daniel L. Rubinfeld (2020) *Democratic Federalism: The Economics, Politics, and Law of Federal Governance*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Link](#)
- Jones, Erik, Anand Menon and Stephen Weatherill (2012) *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- Matsusaka, John G. (2020) *Let the People Rule: How Direct Democracy Can Meet the Populist Challenge*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. [Link](#)
- Mller, Henriette (2019) *Political Leadership and the European Commission Presidency*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- Rommerskirchen, Charlotte (2019) *EU Fiscal Policy Coordination in Hard Times: Free Riders on the Storm*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- Scharpf, Fritz W. (1999) *Governing in Europe: Effective and Democratic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- Schimmelfennig, Frank and Thomas Winzen (2020) *Ever Looser Union? Differentiated European Integration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- Schmidt, Vivien A. (2020) *Europes Crisis of Legitimacy: Governing by Rules and Ruling by Numbers in the Eurozone*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)
- Schoeller, Magnus G. (2019) *Leadership in the Eurozone: The Role of Germany and EU Institutions*. Cham: Springer International Publishing. [Link](#)
- Thomson, Robert (2011) *Resolving Controversy in the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Link](#)
- Walter, Stefanie, Ray, Ari and Nils Redenker (2020) *The Politics of Bad Options: Why the Eurozone's Problems Have Been so Hard to Resolve*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#)

7 Exam (June 14, 15.30–17.00)

The exam will cover the content of the lectures and all required reading listed above in this syllabus. Depending on the Covid-19 situation at the end of the spring term, the exam will be either structured in single and multiple choice questions and conducted in presence or consist of two open questions conducted online using Ilias. The decision on the format will be communicated in the session of May 10. Students will write the exam on June 12, 15.30–17.00. This lecture is supposed to provide basic knowledge on integration history and theory, the political system of the EU, institutions, major policy fields and current challenges. This basic knowledge will be tested in the final exam. More information on the approach and structure of the exam will be provided during the Q&A sessions, including the discussion of example questions.

Updated on February 18, 2021