

## ECON/POL 321Ec European Union

### **Jonathan Pass**

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**Office Hours:** Thursday 09:30-10:30

### **Course Information**

Spring 2017

Tuesday & Thursday

16:00 till 17:20

### **Course objectives**

The aim of this course is that on its completion students will have a much better understanding of the 'identity' and functioning of, not to mention challenges faced by, the EU both as a geographical regional polity and as a highly complex on-going – though not uncontested – process of economic, political and social integration.

### **Methodology**

Given the course objectives stated above, and the highly complex nature of the subject matter, the course adopts *multidisciplinary* approach: historical, geographical and cultural aspects considered necessary accompaniments to the main politico-economic framework adopted

### **Course description:**

After initially situating the students within the context of the present EU of 28 members, the course begins by offering the students an historical overview of the motives and often conflictual forces lying behind the creation and subsequent development of the EU, best reflected in the main treaties signed: Paris, Rome, SEA, Maastricht, etc.

Policy-making is notoriously complex in the EU. Getting to grips with it demands a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of its principal institutions – the European Council, Council, European Commission, European Parliament, and Court of Justice – and how they interact with each other (and national governments), to produce hybrid 'supranational' laws/policy initiatives; a complex policy process, which of course, is not without its many detractors.

At the heart of the EU is the Single Market and its connected Competition Policy. As regional/global social forces pushed the *four freedoms* and deepened the process of economic integration pressure for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) increased. How and why the member states chose to abandon their currencies in favor of an untested common currency needs to be examined, as do the structural challenges facing the on-going management of the *eurozone* (especially pertinent during the present debt crisis), and the *euro's* effects both on the region and the international monetary system at large.

Yet the EU is more than just an 'economic club'; the process of economic integration "spilling-over" into a wide range of connected nominally "political" policy areas, which, the EU claims, have improved the quality of life of EU citizens. But not all citizens are convinced of the virtues of this deepening integration. The "freedom of movement of people", especially, has been vilified by the Far Right (which in turn has seen its popularity increase), and has constituted the dominant rallying point for the Brexit referendum. The course seeks to shed some light on these issues as well as evaluating the likely relationship between London and Brussels following the victory of the "leave" advocates.

The EU's place in globalized post-Cold War world is then addressed, comprising of a review of the region's: a) the external trade relations, with special attention paid to transatlantic commerce; and b) foreign and security policy, which necessarily involves an assessment of the obstacles preventing the EU member states from adopting a truly coherent common global position.

Finally, the course seeks to shed light on the dynamics of EU enlargement: the costs and benefits, as well as the institutional process established. To illustrate the above, the course focuses on recent eastward expansions (from 2004 onwards), analysing the numerous socio-economic, politico-judicial and logistical challenges posed for 'old' and 'young' members alike, and the accompanying debates with regards efficiency, democracy, equality and identity. These debates are intensified still further with regards the possible future incorporation of Turkey. The course concludes by evaluating the latter's credentials for joining the EU?

### **Class schedule (The syllabus may be subject to change)**

#### **1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

##### ***26<sup>th</sup> January – Presentation of course; the idea of the EU***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.24-46

##### ***31<sup>st</sup> January – Post-War European & US; the Cold War***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.47-50

##### ***2<sup>nd</sup> February – First tentative steps to integration (1948-1952)***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.50-53

#### **2. EVOLUTION OF THE EU: KEY TREATIES**

##### ***7<sup>th</sup> February – Treaty of Rome, Britain & EFTA***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.54-57

##### ***9<sup>th</sup> February – Single European Act & the Treaty of Maastricht***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.57-61

##### ***14<sup>th</sup> February – Developments Post-Maastricht***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.61-71

#### **3. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

##### ***16<sup>th</sup> February – QUIZ + Debate***

##### ***21<sup>st</sup> February – Functioning of key EU institutions I***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.72-95

##### ***23<sup>rd</sup> February – Functioning of key EU institutions II***

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.72-95

##### ***28<sup>th</sup> February – NO CLASS (Día de Andalucía)***

**2<sup>nd</sup> March – Law-making in the EU**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.72-95

**4. EU POLICY-MAKING PROCESS**

**7<sup>th</sup> March – Principles, policy environment & policy cycle**

McCormick pp.120-138

**9<sup>th</sup> March – Features of the policy process**

McCormick pp.120-138

**14<sup>th</sup> March – MIDTERM EXAM**

**5. ECONOMIC & MONETARY UNION (EMU)**

**16<sup>th</sup> March – Interest in Economic & Monetary Union (EMU)**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.159-168

**21<sup>st</sup> March – Maastricht, stages, criteria & launch of EMU**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.159-168

**23<sup>rd</sup> March – Functioning & management of eurozone**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.159-168

**28<sup>th</sup> March – The Euro: past, present & future challenges**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.159-168

**6. INTERNAL POLICIES**

**30<sup>th</sup> March – Competition Policy & the Single Market**

McCormick pp.145-158

**4<sup>th</sup> April – Immigration Policy**

McCormick pp.183-186

**6<sup>th</sup> April – The EU & Public Opinion/Brexit**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.96-119

**11<sup>th</sup> April – NO CLASS (Semana Santa)**

**13<sup>th</sup> April – NO CLASS (Semana Santa)**

**18<sup>th</sup> April – Common Agricultural Policy**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp.179-183

**7. EXTERNAL POLICIES**

**20<sup>th</sup> April – External Trade I**

McCormick pp.194-195; 204-208; 214-216

**25<sup>th</sup> April – External Trade Policy II**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp. 194-195; 204-210

**27<sup>th</sup> April – Foreign & Security Policy**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp. 194-204

**2<sup>nd</sup> May – NO CLASS (Feria de Abril)**

**4<sup>th</sup> May – NO CLASS (Feria de Abril)**

**8. ENLARGEMENT**

**9<sup>th</sup> May – Enlargement I: Process; pros/cons of enlargements**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp. 31-38; 210-214

**11<sup>th</sup> May – Enlargement II: Turkey**

Class hand-outs  
McCormick pp. 31-38; 210-214

**15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May – FINALS**

**Readings**

**Required text book** (available from *Vértice Bookshop*)

McCormick, John, *Understanding the European Union: a Concise Introduction*, 6th Edition (Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

**Class hand outs**

Throughout the course various worksheets and articles will be handed out to students taken from official EU sources, academic journals or the press.

**Some useful webs**

[www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int) - EU web-page - history, policies, legislation, statistics, decisions,

[www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm](http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm) - The EU: a Guide for Americans

[www.consilium.europa.eu/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/) - Council web-page

[www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) - Analytical articles on world economic/political affairs

[www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) - EU & World news, economy, country profiles, corporate activities, shares

[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) – *UK daily, broad range of national/international news articles*

[www.jeanmonnetprogram.org](http://www.jeanmonnetprogram.org) - Selection of EU law & politics articles

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) - World news, critical editorials

[www.realinstitutoelcano.org/default\\_eng.asp](http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/default_eng.asp) - Real Instituto Elcano - Spain, IR, politics

[www.uaces.org/JCMS.htm](http://www.uaces.org/JCMS.htm) - Essays/articles on wide-covering EU issues

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Assessment for the course consists of one short quiz and two exams (all written) and an oral presentation (in pairs/small groups) on an assigned relevant topic. With regards the oral presentation, *on the day of their presentation* each student has to hand in the following *printed* documents for their section: an outline, a bibliography and a half page summary (TMR 12, single space). Students will be graded individually.

Finally, students will be required to complete assigned readings/summarize articles etc. outside class and to actively participate in class discussions, which will be reflected in their 'participation' grade. (N.B.: 'being there' does not = 'participation').

The distribution of the final grade is the following:

Quiz	15%	Midterm Exam	25%
Presentation	15%	Final Exam (TBA)	25%
Participation	20%		

The dates for the quiz, exams and presentation will not be changed under any circumstances.

Spanish grades run: 10-9.0 (A), 8.9-7.0 (B), 6.9-5.0 (C), 4.9-0 (F)

### **Attendance, Punctuality and General Course Policies**

Attendance is mandatory. If there is justifiable excuse for missing class, some form of documentation (e.g. doctor's note) must be provided to the proper authorities. Any student missing class must catch up on the lost notes from fellow students.

More than 3 unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the grade. Students with more than 2 such absences may not challenge the final grade received.

Punctuality is required. If a student arrives more 15 minutes late it will constitute a 0.5 absence. However no student will be permitted entrance more than 25 minutes after the beginning of the class and hence will be marked absent.

Please keep your cell phones turned off during class.

Strictly no food to be consumed in class.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly (using footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography).

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please speak to your professor within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is the student's responsibility to provide the International Center with documentation confirming the disability and the accommodations required (if you have provided this to your study abroad organization, they have most likely informed the International Center already but please confirm).

### **Behavior Policy**

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

### **Calendar**

Quiz: February 16<sup>th</sup>

Midterm Exam: March 14<sup>th</sup>

Presentation: TBA

Final Exam: between May 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

### **Holidays**

February 28<sup>th</sup> (Día de Andalucía)

April 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> (Semana Santa)

May 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> (Feria de April)