



Faculty of Humanities
European Studies

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

Bachelor European Studies 2023-2024

Course Catalogue number: 111121312Y

Academic Year: 2023-2024, Semester 1, Block 2 & 3

Credit Points: 12 ECTS

Lecturers

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Tutors

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Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

1. Examiner, lecturer(s) and contact

a. Examiner

Dr. Gertjan Hoetjes

b. Lecturers

Dr. Robin de Bruin, Prof. Theresa Kuhn, Dr. Marta Morvillo, Dr. Stefan Salomon.

c. Contact

Dr. Gertjan Hoetjes, g.j.hoetjes@uva.nl

2. Study material

Cini, Michelle, and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borrágán. 2022. *European Union Politics*. Seventh Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Van Meurs, Wim, Robin de Bruin, Liesbeth van de Grift, Carla Hoetink, Karin van Leeuwen, and Carlos Reijnen. 2018. *The Unfinished History of European Integration*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

3. Content and educational objectives

a. Content

In this course, students acquire the tools necessary to critically reflect over one of the key controversies in European Union politics: Is there a democratic deficit in the EU, and if so, what are promising ways to alleviate it? To this aim, students will learn about the history of European integration (1945-present), acquire a basic understanding of the institutions of the European Union, and will critically reflect on the scholarly debate surrounding the state of democracy in the EU.

Together with the course entitled ‘Coming together, coming apart: Theories and Processes of European Integration and Enlargement’ the course represents the institutional part of the first year of our European Studies program. Both courses complement each other. The importance of the internal market and law for the European Union are discussed in the course ‘Coming together, coming apart: Theories and Processes of European Integration and Enlargement’. In ‘European Integration’, the focus will be more directly on the historical and political dimensions of the European Union.

The course starts with an in-depth analysis of the historical developments from 1945 onwards. This will be followed by a module on EU institutions and EU decision making. The third module focuses on academic skills actively writing an essay. For this essay students draw on the previous modules of the course and the tutorials that highlight different aspects of academic writing skills, producing a longer paper which draws on the previous modules of the course.

b. Educational objectives

- Have in-depth knowledge about the historical trajectory of the EU and the similarities and differences between the architecture of EU democracy and the democratic system in the member states;



Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

- Understand the historical mechanisms that influence European integration processes;
- Know the basic theoretical approaches to understand the relative importance of various driving forces in the construction process of the EU;
- Have in-depth knowledge of the fundamental legal rules governing EU institutions and their decision-making processes;
- Have in-depth knowledge of the historical development, core policies and institutions that govern market and monetary integration in the EU;

Additionally, students will learn:

- academic study skills;
- to read critically (particularly in relation to media articles);
- to apply European integration theories to understand and explain the different processes of European integration in specific policy areas;
- academic writing skills.

c. Evaluation

This is a new course, although there is some similarity with the course European Integration that was taught last year. In comparison with the former European Integration course we have included new sessions on essay writing as several students were struggling with this assignment. In addition, we have replaced the module assignments with a multiple choice exam to reduce the workload for students and tutors.

4. Assessment

a. Test formats

1. Weekly news analysis during seminar (in groups – short presentation – pass/fail)

A large amount of the current news coverage deals with European integration and the diverse topics that we touch upon during our lecture series. By following the news, you will learn a lot about the complexity of European integration and the functioning of EU policy.

For each seminar a different group of students is asked to critically analyse a news item. **This news item needs to link up with the topics discussed in the lectures of that week.**

At the beginning of the seminar the group is asked to introduce the article. The article has to be directly related to the lectures/literature by using **a direct quote** from them. The goal of the presentation is to critically reflect on the perspective taken in the article. This presentation will last for **a maximum of 10 minutes. A PowerPoint is allowed but keep it short: max. 3 slides!**

You will be able to find these news items on the websites of newspapers but also at [Nexis Uni](#) or on websites such as:

- <http://www.euractiv.com/>;
- <http://esharp.eu/>;
- <https://www.euronews.com/news/europe>
- <http://ideasoneuropa.eu/>;
- <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/>;
- <https://www.politico.com/news/european-union>



Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

- <https://www.reuters.com/news/archive/europeanUnion>
- <https://www.economist.com/topics/european-union>

2. Written presentation of the angle taken in your essay (250-300 words, pass/ fail)

In week five you are asked to submit a written presentation of at **least 250-300 words**. In this written presentation you indicate which specific elements you focus on in your essay when examining the democratic deficit of the EU. What is your position on the debate about the democratic deficit? Which institutions do you focus on? How do you make sure that your essay is topical and original? You will present your essay angle to your peers during the tutorial in week five.

3. Essay proposal (400 words, excluding list of references)

You are required to submit an essay proposal at the end of week 6 of the course. This proposal should be at least 400 words, excluding your list of references. In this proposal you give an outline of your final paper. It contains:

- A short introduction of your subject
- Outline of the relevance of your topic
- Short section in which you explain which methods/sources you're going to use to answer the essay question
- Structure of the paper outlining the paragraphs and content of the essay
- List of references of literature (sources you plan to consult and use for which parts of your essay). These academic references need to be presented in line with the Chicago Manual Style, failing to do so will result in an automatic fail.

You will present the essay proposal orally in week 7.

4. Multiple-Choice Exam

At the end of the second block, a multiple-choice exam is scheduled at location. You will have to answer 60 multiple-choice questions. We will practice with these questions during the lectures.

The exam covers the knowledge presented in the first two modules:

- Module 1: History of European integration
- Module 2: EU institutions and decision making

The exam must be the result of original and individual work by the student. Presumption of fraud results in grading with a 0.

5. Final essay

In week 12 you will submit your final essay. In answering the essay question you are expected to use information presented in **all modules**. In other words, **the essay must touch upon European integration history and EU institutions, EU politics and decision making**.

Title
 Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

The final essay is **min. 2000 – max. 3000** words and should contain the following:

1. **Introduction:**
 - a. Introducing the topic;
 - b. Methods
 - c. Literature review democratic deficit (250-300 words)
 - d. Structure of the text (and hint to conclusion);
2. **Main part**
 - a. Answering the research question by expanding on:
 - i. History of European integration
 - ii. European institutions and decision making (consider a logical order)
 - iii. Discussion of proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe to improve the democratic level of the EU
3. **Conclusion:** summary of main insights of essay (including and answer to the essay question) (ca. 300 words).

The following assessment criteria will be used for the grading of this essay:

- **Introduction** - an introduction setting out the topic and clearly articulating a question and argument, and representing a sound idea about the empirical investigation needed to answer the question;
- **Analysis** - clear answer to main question – building on course material and other relevant sources
- **Structure** – the organization of the paper is effective, with a balance between introduction, background, analysis, and conclusion;
- **Style and bibliography** – Clear and paragraph structure, full sentences, generally error-free writing and the bibliography reflects up to date and relevant scholarship from sound academic sources and is properly formatted. A substantive bibliography of academic sources relevant for the subject at hand, with clear and consistent citation throughout the text and in the bibliography;

b. Exam material

- Cini, Michelle, and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragnán. 2022. *European Union Politics*. Seventh Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Van Meurs, Wim, Robin de Bruin, Liesbeth van de Grift, Carla Hoetink, Karin van Leeuwen, and Carlos Reijnen. 2018. *The Unfinished History of European Integration*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- Articles and book chapters on Canvas
- All information provided and discussed in the lectures and seminars.

c. Exam dates/deadlines

Assignment	Deadline
News Analysis	During seminar starting from week 4
Essay Angle	Week 5, in advance of your seminar
Essay Proposal	8 December 2023, 5PM
Multiple Choice Exam	18 December 2023, 1PM – 2:30 PM (location IWO 4.04B (Geel), IWO 4.04C (Blauw))
Final Essay	2 February 2024, 5 pm



Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

d. Assessment and weighting

In this course, students are assessed on the following assignments:

1. **Weekly news analysis (groupwork – pass/fail)** short presentation during seminar starting from week 4.
2. **Multiple choice exam (40%)**: at the end of the second block, a multiple choice exam is scheduled at location.
3. **Essay angle (pass/fail)**: you will submit and present your essay angle in week 5 of the course.
4. **Essay proposal (pass/fail)**: you will submit your essay proposal at the end of week 6 of the course. It will be presented in week 7 of the course.
5. **Final essay (60%)**: you will write an essay of minimal 2000, maximal 3000 words in which you analyse the democratic deficit in the EU, drawing on the previous modules.

Deadlines for assignments: The deadlines for the written assignments are set to allow students to make steady progress through the course. All assignments have to be submitted on time. In case of any unforeseen circumstances (which should be announced and proven) the student should contact the study advisers.

Final grade: To pass the course, an average mark of **5.5 or above** is required. In order to be awarded a final grade and to pass the course, students must submit **all** the formative and summative assignments by the time of the deadline. The final grade is calculated on the basis of the respective weight of all assignments and examinations. All grades between 5.4 and 5.5 will be rounded to a 5.4, all other grades will be rounded to the nearest decimal point.

Grades on assignments may not be carried over: After the repeat examination all grades awarded for assignments and/or exams expire. That means that you cannot carry them over when repeating the course in the following academic year. Hence all your awarded grades expire if you have not achieved a final mark of 5.5 or higher after the repeat examination.

e. Results

The results will be posted on Canvas no more than 15 working days after the exam.

f. Feedback and inspection

Twenty working days after the examination, exams will be available for inspection. Tutors will provide the students with feedback on their essays.

g. Resit

If the weighted grade of all assignments is below 5.5, a re-sit is required. A resit for the multiple choice exam is organised at the World Fashion Center West (Hal) on **Monday 29 January from 15:00 until 16:30**. If you have made a serious first attempt for the essay you are eligible for a re-sit. The deadline for this resit is **Thursday 28 March 17:00**.

Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

h. Fraud and plagiarism rules

The University of Amsterdam Fraud and Plagiarism regulations apply to the assessment of this course. These regulations can be consulted at the [Plagiarism and Fraud](#) page on the student website. Also take a look at the [Academic integrity guide: fraud and plagiarism \(pdf\)](#).

Plagiarism and fraud: Warning

The Examinations Board will be notified of all attempts at fraud or plagiarism. When fraud or plagiarism has been established, the Examination Board may impose serious sanctions.

The UvA defines the following as examples of fraud and plagiarism: copying someone else's answers during examinations (cheating), allowing someone else to assume one's identity during examination, reproducing another person's text and presenting it as if it were your own work or using someone else's text without proper acknowledgement of the source, as well as failing to indicate in the text through quotation marks that you directly copied sentences from another work. Plagiarism thus entails:

- the use of quotations that are not clearly marked, for example by quotations marks and/or the source of which is not referenced;
- the creative use of cutting and pasting or rearranging the work of another person (a text or the part of a text, whole sentences or parts thereof, or rewritten parts of sentences), or translations of such works, from printed or internet sources.
- This is also true for copying or accepting the work of fellow students, or offering one's own work to fellow students. In other words: you are never allowed to take another person's ideas and pass them off as your own.

Self-test: Ask yourself whether all of your submission was written by yourself, and if not so, have you clearly indicated from where you have taken quotes or ideas from. If you have used someone else's words directly, please make sure that you have indicated this through the use of quotation marks, paraphrasing does not suffice here. More information about plagiarism and fraud, definitions and sanctions could be found here:

[Plagiarism and Fraud](#)

5. Social safety

Creating a Positive and Safe Classroom

Teachers have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which opinions are expressed. A similar responsibility applies to students. This means that diversity of opinion is

Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

always welcomed, but any discriminatory, racist or sexist comments, or anything that may be perceived as such are unacceptable and may lead to expulsion from the class.

This applies to both the physical classroom setting but also to the online environment. In all your interactions on Canvas, with your teachers and with your fellow students, please be respectful and professional: remember that all your comments and posts are formal course submissions so please treat them as such. Your online engagement in the course should be considered in exactly the same terms as your behaviour in a formal classroom setting, and should be bound by the same rules of respect and appropriate professionalism. Your contributions should thus always be written in proper academic style, not like social media posts or text messages.

If you experience an unsafe situation or undesirable behaviour in this course or study programme, you can turn to the [UvA Social Safety Support Guide for students](#).

6. Course overview by week

	LECTURES	SEMINARS
Week 2 6-10 Nov	MODULE 1: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION HISTORY Introduction and History: the creation of the ECSC (Theresa Kuhn & Robin de Bruin) - Van Meurs et al., <i>The Unfinished History</i> , pp. 21-43	INTRODUCTION - Explanation assignments - Introduction to methodology - Van Meurs et al., <i>The Unfinished History</i> , pp. 21-50, 67-99
	Empty Chair crisis (Robin de Bruin) - Van Meurs et al., <i>The Unfinished History</i> , pp. 67-92	
Week 3 13-17 Nov	Creation European Council (Robin de Bruin) - Van Meurs et al., <i>The Unfinished History</i> , pp. 113-139	LIBRARY INTRODUCTION Session 1: Thursday 16 November 13:00-15:00 (D1.08) Session 2: Friday 17 November 15:00-17:00 (D1.08)
	Creation Single European Act + EU (Robin de Bruin) - Van Meurs et al., <i>The Unfinished History</i> , pp. 163-187	
Week 4 20-24 Nov	From the custom union to the single market (ECON) (Theresa Kuhn) - Van Meurs et al., <i>The Unfinished History</i> , chapter pp. 209-238, 263-279. - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, <i>European Union Politics</i> , pp. 293-307.	PART 1: EU INSTITUTIONS AND THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PART 2: STRUCTURING YOUR ESSAY



Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

	<p>MODULE 2: EU POLICY MAKING & POLITICS</p> <p>The European Commission & Council system (inc. EEAS and HRFA) (Theresa Kuhn) - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán <i>European Union Politics</i>, pp. 140-174, pp. 279-292</p>	
<p>Week 5 27 Nov– 1 Dec</p>	<p>European Parliament (Theresa Kuhn) - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán <i>European Union Politics</i>, pp.175-187 and pp. 202-218</p>	<p>PART 1: THE EU POLICYMAKING PROCESS PART 2: ESSAY ANGLE PRESENTATIONS</p>
	<p>The Policymaking process (Claske Vos) - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, <i>European Union Politics</i>, pp. 234-250</p>	
<p>Week 5 30 nov - 1 dec</p>	<p>Hand in a written presentation on the angle taken in your essay before seminar</p>	
<p>Week 6 4 – 8 Dec.</p>	<p>EU competences and legislative procedures (Marta Morvillo) - Barnard and Peers, <i>European Union Law</i>, pp.100-128.</p>	<p>PART 1: THE LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE EU PART 2: ARGUMENTATION</p> <p>- Follesdal & Hix, “Why There Is a Democratic Deficit in the EU,” 533-562. - Moravscik, “In Defence of the ‘Democratic Deficit,’” 603–624.</p>
	<p>European Court of Justice (Stefan Salomon) - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, <i>European Union Politics</i>, pp.188-201.</p>	
<p>Week 6 8 Dec</p>	<p>Hand in Essay Proposal at Friday 8 December 5 PM</p>	
<p>Week 7 11-15 Dec.</p>	<p>European Central Bank and the EURO (Theresa Kuhn) - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, <i>European Union Politics</i>, pp. 324-338.</p>	<p>PART 1: THE POLITICISATION OF THE EU PART 2: ORAL PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL</p>
	<p>Democratic deficit and legitimacy (Theresa Kuhn) - Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, <i>European Union Politics</i>, pp. 124-138, 219-231. - Listen to this podcast in which Sara Hobolt discusses the Brexit referendum and provides an excellent summary on the main literature on euroscepticism</p>	



Title

Course Manual European Integration and Democracy

Week 8 18 Dec. 13:00-14:30	Multiple Choice Exam Module 1 & 2 Location: IWO 4.04B (Geel), IWO 4.04C (Blauw) Meibergdreef 29, 1105 AZ Amsterdam
W8 18-23 Dec.	MODULE 3 ESSAY Feedback essay proposals
JANUARY	
W9 8-12 Jan.	No class – writing week
W10 15-19 Jan.	Feedback sessions based on appointment (optional), these sessions can also take place online
W11 23-27 Jan.	No class – writing week
W12 2 Feb.	Hand in essay on Canvas at 5 pm