Course Description

For the first time in its history, the European Union finds itself facing Russia, China, and the United States; none of them are particularly friendly. The chilling of the external environment comes at a conjuncture of internal crises: Brexit, anti-EU, nationalist movements in member states, the declining faith of pro-EU elites in the idea of an ‘ever closer union’, and the conflict of creditor and debtor countries in the Eurozone and between the core and periphery. The President of the European Council called these: unprecedented geopolitical and existential threats to the very survival of the EU. The course engages with these ‘four crises’ of Europe: external, internal, ideational, and economic, and with the scholarly controversies about how to interpret them. In the final part, the course will look at whether “Europe will be forged in crises”, as one of the ‘founding fathers’, Jean Monnet predicted, and will consider recent proposals about how to reshape the EU, and what these possible responses may mean for the global order. The course is designed as a mix of interactive lectures and seminar discussion based on the required readings; it will engage with a wide-variety of IR, IPE, and regionalism concepts and will also make use of contemporary sources (articles, speeches, etc.) to link scholarly approaches to interpreting current affairs.

Learning Outcomes

Through engagement with current issues and related scholarly debates students will gain a better understanding of the diverse approaches to the study of the European Union, as well as the complexity of processes shaping Europe today. By the end of the course students will be able to:

1) develop a critical understanding of the crises that challenge the EU and post-war structures in Europe
2) identify and critically assess different approaches to the study of European integration
3) to situate European political and economic developments in a global context as well as draw lessons for the future

Course Requirements

There are no pre-set, right-or-wrong answers to the issues raised in this course; we will search for them together during seminar-style discussions by drawing on relevant texts, concepts, and theories, following in-class student presentation(s). Students do not need to have done prior studies in the workings of the EU to take this course. (The course complements the course ‘Economic Integration(s) in the Age of Trade Wars’ by focusing
on foreign policy, security, ideational, and institutional aspects of Europe and the EU; it is not a prerequisite to have taken that to succeed in this course.)

All students can successfully complete this course by fulfilling the formal requirements as well as demonstrating intellectual engagement, effort, and preparation: willingness to go beyond simple summaries and easy answers during class discussions and in the required papers.

To succeed in this course, students are required to prepare for and actively participate in in-class discussions. They are to thoroughly read the required texts for each class, bring a hard-copy of the texts with them, which will be necessary during class discussions. (No electronic devices may be used in class.) Students are required to critically engage with the texts when preparing for each class. This means, on the most basic level, identifying (taking notes, highlighting) the main arguments, their strength and weaknesses, and the theoretical concepts (when relevant) applied by the author(s). Please do not hesitate to ask for help and/or consultations.

1. Attendance and active participation in class discussions based on the readings (15% of final grade). Attendance rules of the department apply. (No electronic devices may be used in class.)

2. One 1500-word (excluding footnotes and bibliography) position paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-points), based on the required readings. (20% of final grade). (In case two presentations are required because of class size, the position paper’s topic can be the same as one of the presentations.) Going beyond a simple summary, students are required to compare two or more views found in the readings, raise a puzzling question, or elaborate and critically comment on an interesting aspect. (Further details are to be discussed in class) Submission deadline: 10 February. Submit via moodle. Late submission will result in downgrading. Consulting with the Academic Writing Unit is strongly advised.

3. Depending on the class size, one or two, 15-minute long, in-class presentation(s) (20% of final grade) based on the readings for the day. The presentation(s) should follow a similar structure to the position paper: going beyond a simple summary, students are required to compare two or more views found in the readings, and other academic literature, raise a puzzling question, or elaborate and critically comment on an interesting aspect. Sign up on the sign-up sheet after the first class.

4. One 3500-4000-word long (excluding footnotes and bibliography, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-points) research paper (45% of final grade). Topics are to be discussed with the instructor but in general, should relate to any of the topics covered in this course. Submission deadline: 14 April. Submit via moodle. Late submission will result in downgrading. Consulting with the Academic Writing Unit is strongly advised.

All departmental requirements about academic dishonesty, etc. apply. Late submission of assignments without prior approval will result in downgrading.

Course Outline and Readings

Seminar 1: Introduction (Overview of course, assignment of seminar presentations)
Seminar 2: Definitions of Crisis

Donald Tusk, “United we stand, divided we fall: A letter to the 27 heads of state or government on the future of the EU”, 2017, 1-2.


PART I: The (External) Crisis of the EU’s Security Underpinnings

Seminar 3: Integration as Countering Threat: Classical Realist v. Neorealist Take


Seminar 4: Regional Security


Seminar 5: Stability in Europe: the Post-WW2 Deal


Seminar 6: The Weakening of the Transatlantic Alliance: From ‘Pivot’ to ‘Obsoleto’


Seminar 7: Russia and the EU

Carl Bildt, Russia, the European Union, and the Eastern Partnership, ECFR Riga Series,
Hiski Haukkala, "From Cooperative to Contested Europe? The Conflict in Ukraine as a Culmination of a Long-Term Crisis in EU-Russia Relations", *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, (Vol. 23, No. 1, 2015), 25-40.

**Seminars 8: China and the EU**


**PART II: The (Internal) Crisis of Decision Making:**

**Seminar 9: Integration Dynamics: Regionalism and Regionalisation**


**Seminar 10: What Drives Integration**


**Seminar 11: Who Makes the Decisions?**


**Seminar 12: Federal Policies by Confederal Structures**


PART III: The (Ideational) Crisis of Integrative Processes:

Seminar 13: Regional Integration: ‘An Idea that Reverberates’


Seminar 14: Brexit

Tim Oliver, “European and International Views on Brexit”, Journal of European Public Policy, (Vol. 23, No. 9, 2016), 1321-1328.


Seminar 15: Anti-EU Nationalism

Federico Ottavio Reho, "A New Europeanism Before It is Too Late", European View, (Vol. 16, No 1, June 2017), 85-91.


Seminar 16: Losing Faith in the ‘Ever Closer Union’


PART IV: The Crisis of Economic Integration:

Seminar 17: Regional Market Integration


**Seminar 18**: The Eurozone: Creditors and Debtors


**Seminar 19**: Core and Periphery


**Seminar 20**: Where Art Thou Social Europe?

Laszlo Andor, “Europe’s Social Crisis: Is There a Way Out?”, Speech Given to the Max Planck Institute, Munich, Germany, SPEECH/13/309, 12 April 2013, 1-17.

**PART V: The Future of Europe**

**Seminar 21**: Integration Outcomes


**Seminar 22**: European Demos


**Seminar 23**: Scenarios for the Future

Andrew Moravcsik: “Europe is Still a Superpower”, *Foreign Policy*, (13 April 2017).


**Seminar 24**: Conclusions