Advanced Topics class

European integration and its crises
DSPS, Fall Term, AY 2018/2019
(Advanced Topics class for CP, PE, PP and IR track students)

Thursdays, 11.00-12.40 hrs
Room: N13/223

(no class on Thursday, 27 Sep and 1 Nov – observe place and time for replacement class)
Course description

European Union (EU) integration has been identified as a process of fundamental political, economic and societal change. It is a process which is associated with Europe’s geographical, economic, political and military divisions of the Cold War period as much as with the post-1989 transitions and the eventual major expansion of the European Union. Yet, more recently the EU and with it the wider project of integration has been dubbed to be in existential crisis. The euro crisis, the migration crisis, Brexit as well as rule of law and democracy crises all have become attributes of contemporary European integration.

Though these recent episodes have hardly been the only crises the EU was associated with, they sparked a new wave of research which re-engages classic approaches in European integration theory. Scholars have started to contemplate the demise of the EU, developed new theories of disintegration as much as of further integration in response to recent crises episodes. They also have sought to conceptualise the changing politics of European integration in relation to the EU-level and the domestic spheres alike. This advanced topics course revisits the notion of crisis and engages with major theoretical approaches such as postfunctionalism, new integovernmentalism, discursive institutionalism and theories of disintegration. It helps students of European and domestic politics and policy to address contemporary phenomena in the light of a broader theories of European (dis)integration.

Course objectives

This class aims at helping students in advanced-level postgraduate research and in preparing themselves for a future academic or policy-making career in the field of European integration. As an Advanced Topics course the class deepens knowledge of core debates in European integration in relation to a specific sub-field of inquiry and debate. The course pays particular attention to the challenges of combining different theoretical frameworks and methodological tools. The class aims at helping students to identify key issues and policy problems and to advance their own conceptual and empirical research frameworks as well as to situate themselves and their respective research projects in the wider disciplines of European integration studies. The class provides a learning environment for students who are advanced in their academic education and seek to apply existing knowledge and skills in relation to a particular issue in contemporary European Union studies.

Learning outcomes

At the outcome of this course students will have the ability to critically apply core theories and research perspectives in European integration theory and are able to develop strategies for empirical research in a particular subfield of inquiry. They will have developed an understanding of core conceptual, methodological as well as empirical challenges with regard to researching a range of different issues in contemporary research concerning EU integration. Moreover, students will be able to apply a number of core academic practices and will have developed oral and written presentation skills which are required for communicating the results of complex and advanced-level studies to different audiences (academic, professional expert
This course will contribute to the development of a new generation of researchers with a strong analytical potential, thus helping innovation in the field of European integration.

Requirements and assessment

Class participation is mandatory for this class. Students missing more than two sessions per class might not receive a passing grade for this course. The successful completion of the course requires active participation in the class sessions. As this is a research class the emphasis is on interactive class discussions, the review of research approaches, the preparation of larger texts and regularly scheduled student presentations.

Students need to sign up for 1-2 presentation(s). In case that students are required to be involved in more than one presentation, the workload will be adjusted. Presentations are linked with one of the session readings and are intended to lead the discussion on one of the readings and review implications for empirical research and the conceptual framing of a particular issue. The allocation of presentation topics is discussed during the first course session.

The final grade is composed as follows:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>general participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>presentation(s)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>final essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Students will need to complete either a research essay (3,000 word maximum including references and footnotes) at the end of this class. The research essay should demonstrate the ability to critically engage with relevant research literature. It does not require own empirical research. Essays can be related to the topic of one of the own in-class presentations but do not have to.

Please agree your final paper topic and format with the course directors by November 8, 2018.

The final paper needs to be submitted by e-mail to the course director by January 10, 2019 (by the end of the day CET).

Please note that paper deadlines are final and failure to submit in time will automatically result in a reduced or failing grade.
Reading list

Session 1

The EU’s crises and new debate about integration theory


For further contributions to the JEPP debate on disintegration and EU studies visit the journal homepages at [https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjpp20/25/3?nav=tocList][full access via CEU network or VPN dial-in only]

Session 2

Neofunctionalism

- chapter 8: The permissive consensus, pp. 249-278
- chapter 9: Equilibrium and beyond, pp. 279-310


Session 3

Liberal intergovernmentalism


Session 4

Postfunctionalism – the constraining dissensus


Session 5

**New intergovernmentalism – Europe’s disequilibrium**


Hodson, D. and Puetter, U. (2018), 'The European Union in disequilibrium', paper presented at the SGEU ECPR conference, Paris, July 2018. [conference paper, work in progress not for circulation beyond the class; will be distributed directly to class participants]

Session 6

**The euro crisis viewed by neofunctionalists**


Session 7

**The euro crisis viewed by liberal intergovernmentalism**


Moravcsik, A. (2012), 'Europe after the crisis. How to sustain a common currency', *Foreign Affairs*, 91 (3), 54-68.

Session 8

**The rule of law crisis – a crisis of EU law**


Session 9

EU crises as crises of representation


Session 10

Distinguishing crises and their impact on policy and politics


Session 11

The EU’s crises and European integration theory

In this concluding session course participants will synthesise findings and work towards a set of broader conclusions on how the concept of ‘crisis’ features in integration theory. Students are invited to produce maps or timelines in order to illustrate how different theoretical perspectives relate to each other and can be applied to explaining particular crises in contemporary European integration. It is debated whether the notion of crisis has a destructive or productive connotation in EU studies.