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.

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. 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 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).

2. Two 1500-word position papers (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-points) on the required readings, one of which (depending on the class size) is to be presented in class, in a 10-minute long presentation. 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. (40% of final grade – 2 papers + 1 or 2 presentation).

3. One 3500-4000-word long (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-points) research paper. Topics are to be discussed with the instructor (45% of final grade). While the paper is to relate to any of the topics covered in this course, I am flexible in working with you that your final paper is usable for your MA thesis.

All departmental requirements about academic dishonesty, etc. apply.

**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 Outline and Required Readings**

The course will start with a short engagement with the definitions of crisis. What is real and what is portrayed as such by politicians? What are crises good for?

**Seminar 1:** Introduction (Overview of course, assignment of seminar presentations)

**Seminar 2:** Definitions of Crisis – Is There a Crisis and What Is It Good For?

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

In Part 1, we examine the security rationale of regional integrations and that of Europe in particular, to reflect on whether and how the US, Russia, China, and the changing external environment can challenge that.

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 ‘Obsolete’


Seminar 7: Russia and the EU


http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_russia eu_and_eastern_partnership3029

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:

In Part 2, we engage with the internal, institutional crises of Europe and its decision making. We will briefly review what drives regional integrations (states, or sub-state actors), and who makes decisions (member states or supranational institutions) to examine the increasing tensions between the EU’s federal and quasi-federal policies and confederate 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


Giandomenico Majone, "Federation, Confederation, and Mixed Government: A EU-US


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

In Part 3, we will study the ideational drivers of regional integrations to be able to examine what risks Brexit, the rise of (anti-EU) nationalism, as well as the weakening of pro-EU forces may mean for Europe.

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:

In Part 4, we will discuss regional economic integration to examine some of the issues the Great Recession has highlighted: the North-South division of the Eurozone, the gap
between core and periphery countries, as well as the lack of regional social policies. (Students do not need prior background in political economy to succeed.)

**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**

In Part 5, we will link the above-discussed crises to the starting premise of the course; that crises can be tools to influence debate about where Europe is heading. We will examine possible scenarios and the missing elements of further integration. We will ask if it is becoming ‘Fortress Europe’ and if yes, what this may mean for the global order and globalisation.

**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