

The Politics of the European Union

Seminar MA 2018
Department of Political Science
University of Zurich

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OLAT: [click here](#)

Spring Term 2018
Fridays: 10.15–11.45
Class room: AFL-E-015

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1 Course Outline

This seminar provides an overview on the Politics of the EU. We will study EU integration theories, the most relevant EU institutions and actors (such as the Commission, Council, ECJ and EP), the interactions across European institutions, and selected policy fields (such as immigration and monetary policy). Moreover, we will discuss current challenges of European integration, and we will investigate the vertical interactions between European and domestic politics by paying particular attention to public opinion, politicization, and representation. In the last three sessions, we will discuss research in progress from the Horizon project “EMU Choices” on the politics of EMU reform. This will give participants a unique insight in the work of a large-scale research project. Students read for each session scholarly articles and are prepared to discuss the content and implications of the required reading in class. The sessions will be enriched by students’ presentations on further readings and small group assignments. The format of the course is interactive and highly dependent on students active participation. The course language is English.

2 Schedule and Required Readings

All articles marked with a * are voluntary readings. They will be presented by students (see the assignments students’ presentations below).

1. Introductory Session (February 23)

2. European Integration Theory (March 2)

- Leuffen, Dirk, Berthold Rittberger and Frank Schimmelfennig (2012) “Intergovernmentalism” and “Supranationalism”, in: Dirk Leuffen et al., *Differentiated Integration. Explaining Variation in the European Union*. Chapter 2 and 3. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 40–53 and 62–76.

- * Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2008. A Postfunctionalist Theory of European Integration: From Permissive Consensus to Constraining Dissensus. *British Journal of Political Science* 39, 1–23.

3. European Commission (March 9)

- Hooghe, Lisbet (2012) “Images of Europe: How Commission Officials Conceive Their Institutions Role”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 5(1): 87–11

- * Wonka, Arndt (2008) “Decision-making dynamics in the European Commission: partisan, national or sectoral?”, *Journal of European Public Policy* 15(8): 1145–1163.

4. European Council and Council (of the EU) (March 16)
 - Tallberg, J. (2008) “Bargaining Power in the European Council”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 46(3): 685–708.
 - * Finke, D. (2017) “Underneath the culture of consensus: Transparency, credible commitments and voting in the Council of Ministers”, *European Union Politics*.

5. Court of Justice of the EU (March 23)
 - Wasserfallen, Fabio (2010) “The Judiciary as Legislator? How the European Court of Justice Shapes Policy-making in the European Union”, *Journal of European Public Policy* 17(8): 1128-1146.
 - * Alter, K. J. (1998) “Who Are the ‘Masters of the Treaty’? European Governments and the European Court of Justice”, *International Organization* 52(1): 121–147.

6. European Parliament (April 13)
 - McElroy, G. and Benoit, K. (2011) “Policy positioning in the European Parliament”, *European Union Politics* 13(1): 150–167.
 - * Braun, D., Hutter, S. and Kersch, A. (2012) ‘What type of Europe? The salience of polity and policy issues in European Parliament elections’, *European Union Politics*.

7. The Politicization of European Integration (April 20)
 - Hoegliger, Dominic (2016) “The Politicization of European Integration in Domestic Election Campaigns”, *West European Politics* 39(1): 44–63.
 - * Kriesi, Hanspeter (2016) “The Politicization of European Integration”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 1–16.

8. Public Opinion and Brexit (April 27)
 - Kanthak, Leon and Dennis Spies (2017) “Public support for European Union economic policies”, *European Union Politics*.
 - * Curtice, John (2017) “Why Leave Won the UK’s EU Referendum”, *Journal of Common Market Studies*.

9. Decision Making During the Eurocrisis I (May 4)
 - 1) Wasserfallen, Fabio, Dirk Leuffen, Zdenek Kudrna, Hanno Degner. 2018. Analysing European Union Decision-Making during the Eurozone Crisis with New Data.
 - 3) Wasserfallen, Fabio and Thomas Lehner. 2018. Contestation in the Reform of the Eurozone.¹

¹Note that we discuss first article #3 and then article #2 in the session of May 11.

10. *Session canceled* (May 11)

11. Decision Making During the Eurocrisis II (May 18)
 - 2) Bailer, Stefanie, Hanno Degner, Lisa Dellmuth, Dirk Leuffen, Magnus Lundgren, Silvana Tarlea, Jonas Tallberg and Fabio Wasserfallen. 2018. Explaining Governmental Preferences on Economic and Monetary Union Reform.
 - 4) Lundgren, Magnus, Stefanie Bailer, Lisa Dellmuth, Jonas Tallberg and Silvana Tarlea. 2018. Bargaining Success in the Reform of the Eurozone.

12. Decision Making During the Eurocrisis III (May 25)
 - 5) Leuffen, Dirk and Hanno Degner. 2018. Franco-German Cooperation and the Rescuing of the Eurozone.
 - 6) Bailer, Stefanie and Daniel Finke. 2018. Crisis Bargaining in the European Union: Agenda, Veto or Economic Power?

13. Concluding Session (June 1)

3 Course Information

3.1 Learning Objectives

- Good knowledge of the theoretical and empirical literature on European integration.
- Expertise of the EU institutions and decision making in the EU.
- Critical and competent reading of academic literature.
- Clear and convincing presentation (written and oral) of complex problems.

3.2 Grading

The assignments (for details, see next section) are weighted as follows:

- Term paper (70%)
- Presentation (30%)

4 Guidelines for the Assignments

4.1 Presentation

Students (in groups of two or alone) will make a presentation on the topic of the respective sessions, discussing the voluntary weekly reading and 1–2 additional articles or (parts) of a book. Please contact in advance the instructor with suggestions on the selected articles for advice send a rough outline of the presentation’s content to the instructor three days before the session. The presentations are supposed to discuss the approach and main arguments of the selected literature. The major aim of this assignments is to provide an interesting perspective on the topic (including a short original evaluation of the presenters’ view), which should stimulate a further discussion in class. Group presentations should not exceed 12 minutes, and presentations of one single student should not exceed 10 minutes. More details on the evaluation scheme will be provided in the course.

4.2 Term Paper / Literature Review

The term paper (of about 3000 words) reviews the academic literature on a topic that is related to the seminar. The review of the literature discusses at least 7 articles or book chapters by presenting the approach and main arguments of the selected literature, including an original evaluation of the authors’ analysis on the topic and the main insights and shortcomings of the discussed literature. Please consult the **Annual Review of Political Science** for guiding examples of professional literature reviews. Submission date for the literature review is *July 1, 2018*. Please upload the paper as PDF on OLAT. The term paper may follow this structure (note that this table of content is illustrative and can be adapted):

- Title
- Abstract (max. 250 words)
- Introduction with motivation of topic (and formulation of research question)
- Structured review of the literature (theoretical arguments and empirical findings) on the question of interest
- Discussion of main insights and shortcomings of the literature
- Conclusion

Updated on April 24, 2018