BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Instructor: Dr. Andreas Staab

Course Outline
The course provides a comprehensive examination of the processes of European integration, and offers a critical analysis of EU policies in their broader historical, political and economic contexts. This analysis is undertaken in light of the peculiar and often problematic relationship between Britain and European integration, which culminated in the country’s decision in June 2016 to leave the EU altogether. Given this momentous referendum result, which will shape the UK for decades to come, the course aims to analyze in explicit terms the costs and benefits of ‘Brexit’ whether from an institutional or a policy perspective.

The course is divided into four parts: Part I gives an insight into the main historical currents and key institutional mechanisms. Part II analyses the main policies, which continue to shape the integration processes of the EU including the Single Market (SEM), Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), Cohesion, as well as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In Part III the course focuses on the EU’s external policies which have an effect on non-EU countries, as well as future member states, ranging from External Trade to enlargement and the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The final session intends to summarize the effects of EU integration on the UK with the aim of reaching conclusions whether and to what extent the referendum result will be beneficial or detrimental to the country’s future.

Learning Outcomes
The course does not require any previous knowledge of European affairs or British Politics, or indeed a background in economics, politics, history or any other social science. By taking this course, students will gain a thorough understanding not only of the EU and its key actors and activities, but also of the extent to which its policies shape the UK as well as other member states.

Methods of Study
The course places a high emphasis on pro-active teaching methods (such as court-room and summit simulations, SWOT analyses, or group discussions) with the pedagogic aim of processing recently acquired information (such as lectures or the studying of books and articles) in a conducive, pro-active manner. As such, student presentations (see Method of Evaluation below) often form the basis of intense group discussions and analyses. In addition to standard lectures, the course also integrates a number of TV documentaries.
COURSE POLICIES

Contact and Office Hours
Andreas Staab will be at the ACCENT Study Center on Tuesdays and is happy to meet with students before class from 1:00 PM. To contact him outside of class times, please email staab@wustl.edu

Course Etiquette
Electronic devices such as mobile phones or laptops are not permitted, and usage of which will result in the student being asked to leave proceedings.

Attendance Policy
The attendance policy is written in full in your academic handbook. In short, attendance at ALL sessions and excursions is obligatory, failure of which will result in an automatic grade deduction.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Outline
1. Presentations, Class Participation, LSE Write ups: 30%
2. Take-Home Exam: 30%
3. Final Exam: 40%

Assessment Deadlines
Take-Home Exam: 3rd October
LSE Write Up 1: 10th October
LSE Write Up 2: 21st November

Study Visits
Outside the class room the course aims to integrate a number of study visits. We will rely to some extent on the nearby London School of Economics; one of the world's top universities for social sciences, which regularly invites public speakers of extremely high caliber, while also organizing topical debates and panel discussions on matters that are closely related to this course. Students are expected to attend at least two public lectures of their choice which also forms part of their overall grade (see Method of Evaluation below). Please visit www.lse.ac.uk/publicevents.

1. Presentations, Class Participation
Over the course of the semester, students are required to give two presentations. These should be no longer than 25 minutes and should provide the seminar group with a discussion base. Hence, presentations ought to cover key factual points, but should also give some ‘food for thought’. In addition, the presentations should also highlight internet sources of your choice and should offer fellow students advice on the suitability of this source (informative, accurate, good/bad points, etc.). Students are also asked to attend two public lectures of their choice at the nearby London School of Economics (directions to the venue will be given in class). Public lectures usually take place in the evening (from around 6.30 to 8.00) and cover a broad range of issues. For a calendar of events, please consult www.lse.ac.uk/publicevents. Students have to produce write ups of the lectures of at least
500 words each, which should integrate a summary of the main arguments, but also (and more importantly) a personal reflection.

2. Take Home Exam

This first essay will be handed out after the completion of Part I. Proper referencing, footnotes and a bibliography (at least five sources per essay should be consulted) are expected. There is a strict space limit of 1000 words per essay.

3. Final Exam

On our final day, we will be writing our in-class exam which covers topics addressed in Part II, III and IV. Students are allowed to use their course notes. However, books, articles, and laptops/computers are not permitted.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sessions take place on Tuesdays between 2.00 and 5.00 pm

• Part I: Understanding the European Union
  Parameters of European Integration, Part 1
  Parameters of European Integration, Part 2
  Institutional Mechanisms in the EU: Commission and the Councils
  Institutional Mechanisms in the EU: Parliament and Courts
  Please note: Take Home Exam will be handed out

• Part II. Common Policies
  The Single Market, Competition and State Aid
  Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
  Please note: Take Home Exam due
  Please note: First LSE report due
  no class: compensation for two LSE study visits
  no class: mid-term break
  Cohesion
  Working Mechanisms of EMU
  EMU and the Sovereign Debt Crises, Part 1

• Part III. External Policies
  Enlargement
  External Trade
  Common Foreign and Security Policy
  Please note: Second LSE report due

• Part IV. Seminar Conclusion
  Brexit: Is it worth it
  Final Exam
READING MATERIALS

Course Readings:
• Updates on this book can be accessed at www.epicseminars.com. Click on ‘The European Union Explained’.

This book does not represent an in-depth analysis of the EU, but is instead designed as an accessible introduction for those readers who do not possess any knowledge of European affairs. As such, students are strongly advised to regard the book as elaborate lecture notes, which necessitate the use of additional, academic sources, including the ones listed below. The contents of this book correspond to the outline of this course.

Other Reference Texts:
For a more detailed analysis, students are strongly advised to consult additional sources (such as the ones listed below). Practically all academic books are organised along the same structural lines. There may be a section on history, some chapters on institutions, and some on policies. It is therefore very easy to read up and research the individual sessions of our course.

8. S. Hix, What’s wrong with the European Union and how to fix it’. Polity Press, 2009

Essential Reference Sources:
• Official Web Site of the EU: http://europa.eu.int
• The Financial Times: www.ft.com
• The Economist: www.economist.co.uk
• The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk One of the biggest dailies with a comprehensive archive
• www.euractiv.com an internet portal sponsored by the Commission on a large range of topics.

GUIDELINES TO TOPICS:
Below please find a list of the key questions and challenges surrounding each individual topic. Where appropriate, the presentation topics are also mentioned

• Parameters of European Integration:
Reading Guidelines:
1. What is Europe?
2. Is there anything that divides/unites Europeans?
3. How different is the EU from the U.S. and from the U.N.?
4. What are the key issues facing the EU in the next ten years?

- **EU Institutional Mechanisms:**
  Reading Guidelines:
  1. To what extent does the EU undermine national sovereignty?
  2. How similar/different is the EU to/from other political systems?
  3. What are the powers of the Commission, the Council (of Ministers), the European Council and the European Parliament?
  4. To what extent can the ECJ influence the direction of European integration?
  5. How has growing Euroscepticism affected the EU's institutional and policy landscape?

- **The Single Market and Competition**
  Reading Guidelines
  1. How is market regulation different to redistribution?
  2. Has the Single Market resulted in the erosion of national differences and idiosyncrasies? Has Europe lost its cultural variety?
  3. Which economic actors benefit from the Single Market (and which ones don't)?
  4. How does the EU control big business and excesses of capitalism?
  Presentation 1: The EU should concentrate foremost on completing the Single Market and refrain from political integration.
  Presentation 2: The free movement of people undermines national sovereignty and should be curbed.

- **The Common Agricultural Policy**
  Reading Guidelines:
  1. What explains the establishment of the CAP and why it is so difficult to reform?
  2. Who benefits from CAP (and who loses out)?
  3. What implications did the 2004 enlargement have for the CAP?
  4. What is the effect of CAP on global trade?
  Presentation: The CAP should be abolished

- **Cohesion**
  Reading Guidelines:
  1. Is EU cohesion policy simply a 'side-payment' to buy support for European integration?
  2. Has EU cohesion reduced economic disparities in the EU?
  3. How important are regions and sub-national interests in shaping EU cohesion policies?
  4. To what extent does the cohesion policy undermine national sovereignty?
  Presentation: The EU's financial support through the cohesion policy is merely a drop in the ocean and cannot make a substantial contribution to a region's economic development.

- **Economic and Monetary Union:**
  Reading Guidelines:
  1. What are the economic and political costs and benefits of EMU?
2. What explains the adoption of the EMU project?
3. How can ‘asymmetric shocks’ be dealt with in EMU?

**Presentation: Has EMU been a step too far for European Integration?**

- The Sovereign Debt Crisis in the Eurozone
  **Reading Guidelines:**
  1. Which countries struggle with unsustainable public debt, and why?
  2. What has the EU done to help these countries and was the help sufficient?
  3. What were the structural flaws in the Maastricht Treaty’s Stability Pact that allowed this crisis to happen?

**Presentation: Will the Euro break up?**

- Enlargement
  **Reading Guidelines:**
  1. What impact has the 2004/07 enlargement had on the working agenda of the EU?
  2. What explains the agenda and speed of EU enlargement?
  3. What are the costs and benefits of eastern enlargement for the EU?

**Presentation 1: Upon completing the 35 chapters, should Turkey be invited to join the EU?**
**Presentation 2: Further enlargement will result in institutional deadlock and policy breakdown**

- External Trade
  **Reading Guidelines:**
  1. What explains the making of EU trade policy?
  2. What impact does the EU have in the international trading system?
  3. Which EU countries benefit from a common commercial policy (and which ones don’t)?
  4. Is the EU better off competing or collaborating with the US in economic matters?

**Presentation 1: The TTIP is a marriage made in heaven**
**Presentation 2: As the banana and steel wars have shown, the US and the EU are not partners but eternal rivals that ultimately undermine global trade?**

- Common Foreign Policy
  **Reading Guidelines:**
  1. Who represents the EU abroad?
  2. In global politics, does the EU pursue more than an economic agenda?
  3. Is the CFSP effective?

**Presentation 1: The EU is an economic giant without any political teeth?**
**Presentation 2: Is the EU equipped to avoid a human disaster in Europe along the lines of the violent breakup of Yugoslavia?**

- Brexit
  **Reading Guidelines:**
  1. Will the EU be better off without the UK? Is the EU doomed?
  2. Which of the UK’s economic and financial sectors will be most impacted by Brexit?
  3. What economic opportunities lie in wait for the UK?

**Reading:** http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/30/brexit-disaster-decades-in-the-making
Instructor's Biography

Andreas Staab is the founder and Managing Director of EPIC – the European Policy Information Centre; a London based consultancy and training agency on the EU (www.epicseminars.com). As part of his work for EPIC, he has worked extensively with governmental officials, NGOs, judges, journalists, trade unions and the business community in EU candidate and accession countries, including Cyprus (north and south), Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Turkey, Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia. He is also a regular consultant for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Government of Croatia. Outside of his work in central and eastern Europe, Dr Staab is an adjunct professor for the Executive Masters programme in International Logistics at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He also continues to teach at the London programmes of several US colleges and universities including St. Lawrence, and Washington University in St. Louis. He is the author of several books and articles on the European Union, most notably a text book entitled ‘The European Union Explained: Institutions, Actors, Global Impact’.