

Course Title	Politics and Society in the European Union (EU)	Instructor	Dr Cherry Amor YAP
		E-mail	
Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	To be determined Or by appointment (please send an email to request an appointment)
Track		Mode of Instruction	Solo
Credits		Allocated Year	Fall 3rd - 4th Year
Active Learning	Category 1: 3, 5, 6 Category 2: 3, 6 Category 3: 1, 2, 3, 5 Category 4: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 Category 5: 1, 2	Compulsory or Elective	
Course Overview	<p>This course examines politics and society of the European Union (EU). Students will learn how Europe's history shaped its political systems - why certain parties became popular, and continue to do so, while others lost support. The class will also ask the question "who are the Europeans?" - questions on national identity, belonging, and what it means to be part of a supranational community. Finally, the course looks into major social issues that are actively discussed across EU countries.</p> <p>The course is divided into three modules: Module 1 (Classes 1-6) covers the historical foundations of European integration and identity. Module 2 (Classes 7-11) touches on the major political forces shaping the Europe of today - party systems, populism and value change. Module 3 (Classes 12-15) visits the influences of current social debates: immigration, welfare, gender, and current EU crises.</p>		
Course Objectives	<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain how Europe's history shaped the EU' institutions and political systems; ● Analyse key political forces in the EU — cleavage structures, value change, and populism — and compare these patterns with examples from Japan and Asia; ● Evaluate key social debates in the EU - this includes immigration, the welfare state, and gender equality - using evidence and selected examples from different countries; ● Assess how major events — such as Brexit, the Eurozone crisis, and the war in Ukraine — and their effects on European society and politics; ● Communicate ideas clearly in English through active learning tasks including discussion, group work, presentations, and short written responses. 		
Prerequisite	<p>The course is open to any student who has taken a class in political science or an equivalent subject. Those students who do not have the required background knowledge of sociology and are interested in attending the classes are invited to get in touch with the course instructor.</p>		
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Syllabus Overview and Introductions This introductory meeting explains the course structure, the work expected from each student, and the grading system. The class concludes with a preliminary session on "what is Europe"?	Readings for the next class.
	2	Europe After World War II	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
	3	Who Are the Europeans?	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
	4	Eastern Europe Under Communism and the Road to 1989	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to

		explore further in class.
5	EU Enlargement — The 'Big Bang' of 2004	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
6	How the EU Works	Studying for the Midterm Exam.
7	MIDTERM EXAM— Module 1	
8	How Did European Parties Begin?	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
9	Changing Values in Europe	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
10	What Is Populism?	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
11	Euroscepticism and Brexit	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
12	Immigration and Identity in Europe	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
13	The Welfare State and Social Europe	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
14	Gender and Politics in Europe	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
15	The EU at a Crossroads	Studying for the Final Exam.
	FINAL EXAM — Modules 2 and 3	
Grading	<p>Class Participation 30% Assessed on the quality of intellectual contribution to discussions, group tasks, and in-class writing. Students are evaluated on engagement with ideas and use of course concepts — not on the fluency of English expression. Students who prefer not to speak publicly may arrange an alternative format with the instructor.</p> <p>Weekly Activities (In Class/Homework) 20% Short tasks either done in class or as additional assignments.</p> <p>Midterm Exam 25% Covers Module 1 where the first part is designed as multiple choice and true/false questions. The second part is a short essay writing for analytical and critical reasoning assessment.</p> <p>Final Exam 25% Covers Modules 2 and 3 where the first part is designed as multiple choice and true/false questions. The second part includes longer and multiple essay writing exercises for analytical and critical reasoning assessment.</p>	
Textbooks	Information on primary textbooks will be provided by the instructor on Moodle.	
References	<p>A detailed list of references will be provided on Moodle.</p> <p>Online References Free Online Courses 4EU+ / Coursera — European Citizenship</p>	

	<p>Alison — Introduction to Political Science</p> <p>News and Media DW News / DW Europe Euronews English BBC News Europe El País English</p> <p>Data and Official Sources European Union Official Portal European Parliament Fact Sheets EUROSTAT ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map</p>
NOTES	<p>The use of AI tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Claude is not entirely prohibited. Students, however, must remember that these are primarily “tools”, as with any kind of tools, they are to be used carefully and in a relevant manner. For instance, it can help you understand new terminologies or concepts, sort out your notes, or check if you interpreted an idea correctly. But, AI can also give out the wrong information. Reading and studying verified references can help solve this. If you must use AI, please discuss it with the course instructor.</p> <p>Students with special needs (including stress and anxiety problems) should talk with the course instructor to discuss arrangements to let them attend the course properly. Confidentiality will be granted to all students.</p>