PS306-150: Contemporary Issues
Institutions and Policies of European Integration
Summer European Academy (Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program)
Germany, France, Belgium and Poland
Summer I 2018
May 25 – June 25, 2018
Instructor: John D. Robertson
jrobertson@tamu.edu
http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/faculty/robertson/
Program Web Page: http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/sea/
Course Credit: 3 Hrs.

This is a beginning course introduction to the core institutions, political culture, policies and governance relationships and process within the European Union. It is designed with our colleagues at the University of Passau and the Centre International des formation European (CIFE) and is contoured to afford you the learning outcomes you will need for the cross-cultural learning modules included in the University of Passau segment of the Summer European Academy.

This syllabus offers you references to provide you the background and perspective on the core subjects we will explore during the 10-day seminar in Berlin, as well as topics relevant to our programs in Poznan, Vienna and Prague. It surveys the basics workings of the EU governance system in more detail than its partner 306 Contemporary Issues/ LBAR332: Studies in European Civilization and Culture II course and through various interactive modules.

Governance, as Jachtenfuchs and Kohler-Koch (2003, p.4 http://aei.pitt.edu/id/eprint/6506) define the term, is best understood as “the continual political process of setting explicit goals for society and intervening into the order to achieve these goals” The EU is a multi-level governance system, where horizontally connected institutions at local, regional, nation-state and EU level work together under a system of rules that support and encourage lateral networks of shared resources and responsibilities in the pursuit of common interests, and vertically aligned institutions of formal and semi-public institutions and actors along axes that can extend up to the European level and as low as a given local unit of administration. Government, public administration, private interest groups and NGOs and semi-public organizations all included within the definition of governance.

Specifically, this class explores the political, economic and security issues which have shaped the political evolution of Europe, from a destroyed continent dependent upon the US for its prosperity and security, to a unique trans-national power replete with its own reserve currency, a massive political-economic market, and a growing will to global power. Our goal is to understand how and why these changes matter not only to Europe, but to the US, as well, and to place into proper historical perspective the significance of Europe’s evolution as a major political-economic actor on the global scene. It provides the context and backgrounds within which to better understand and appreciate the politics and institutions of the European Union.

Learning Outcomes

After undertaking this study abroad experience, you will have acquired and refined a number of skills you may either already have acquired to some degree, or may not as yet have developed:

Outcome 1: Global Awareness: Knowledge of the interrelatedness of European national, regional, intercultural, and international political, economic, and cultural issues, trends, and systems with global political, economic, and cultural issues, trends, and systems.

Outcome 2: Comparative European Knowledge: Know and recognize unique aspects of different historical and contemporary issues, events and circumstances that uniquely inform and shape the narratives of interests of several European nation-states.
**Outcome 3: Comparative Trans-European Knowledge:** Know and recognize unique aspects of different historical and contemporary issues, events and circumstances whether national, regional, and intercultural in nature that uniquely inform and shape the narratives of interests of several European nation-states and know how and why and to what extent these unique aspects inform and inspire these several European nation-states to jointly coordinate and align their interests with other European nation-states.

**Outcome 4: Comparative Supra-European Knowledge:** Know and recognize unique aspects of different historical and contemporary issues, events and circumstances whether national, regional, and intercultural in nature that uniquely inform and shape the narratives of interests of several European nation-states and know how and why and to what extent these unique aspects inform and inspire these several European nation-states to jointly coordinate and align, as well as integrate and subordinate a set of interests with other European nation-states via a collective system of regional governance having public authority specified at the European level granted by nation-states with respect to defined domains of policy applications.

**Outcome 5: Critical Evaluation of European Governance Performance:** Knowledge of the interrelatedness of European national, regional, intercultural issues, trends, and systems of authority and an ability to assess how these issues may or may not be effectively dealt with by merely a nation-state and/or local governance system, and how recorded outcomes of the regional European governance system may differ from expected outcomes impacting national or local interests absent a European governance system.

**Outcome 6: Inspire a global perspective to problem solving:** Acquire a demonstrated degree of competence with respect to the domain of contemporary governance affairs entailing a willingness, capacity and ability to:

1. Think with complexity (bringing knowledge of a variety of cultural and historical circumstances) by considering multiple perspectives (legal, political, economic, security),

2. To form an intercultural identity in a pluralistic society (to self-reflect on who you are and how and to what extent you share common interests, values and norms with others in different historical, cultural, political and economic circumstances and experiences), and

3. To interact with people from different backgrounds with flexibility (demonstrate responsiveness to differences and empathy for the other) and openness (tolerate differences held by others).

**Outcome 7: Inspire a European Perspective Regarding Governance Affairs:** Acquire a demonstrated degree of competence with respect to the domain of contemporary European governance affairs entailing a willingness, capacity and ability to:

1. Know something of what defines a European cultural, political and personal space within a global context (i.e., know and recognize the cultural, political, economic and historical symbols defining a “European” identity),

2. Think with complexity regarding a “European” identity (i.e., bringing knowledge of a variety of cultural and historical circumstances among and across several European national experiences) by considering multiple perspectives (e.g., legal, political, economic, security),

3. Form an intercultural identity within a pluralistic society of Europe (i.e., to self-reflect on who you are and how and to what extent you share common interests, values and norms with others in Europe who have different historical, cultural, political and economic circumstances and experiences, and reflect on the extent to which these European interests, values and norms may align with global or universal interests, values and norms), and

4. Interact with people from different backgrounds in Europe with flexibility (i.e., demonstrate responsiveness and empathy to differences of “Europeans” whose value, norms, and interests may have been shaped by different cultural, political, economic and historical circumstances) and openness (i.e., tolerate differences held by Europeans with you and your identity, as well as with other Europeans and their identities formed from different cultural, political, economic and historical circumstances).
The course (and field trip portion of the program) is organized into five parts (1) Germany/Passau-Bavaria with a program of two-weeks in collaboration with the University of Passau; (2) Poland/Warsaw and a brief program introducing the student to the perspective of a former Soviet satellite state and the challenges and opportunities the EU offers this unique class of nation-state in Europe; (3) Belgium/Brussels and a program with the core institutions of the European Union, (4) France/Nice and a program on the challenges associated with Europe’s strategic location to emerging Mediterranean political-economic and cultural region of the EU, and (5) France/Paris and the influential and strategically powerful French perspective on the EU and European affairs.

Course Organization

The course is organized into five academic subjects of learning and cross-cultural experience through our guest lectures, visits and field trips (History of the EU, Political organization and authority, economic governance of the EU, The EU as a global player, and challenges facing the EU).

The primary reading material exposing you to the content of current political affairs in Europe for you are actually – the Financial Times and the New York Times. An on-line subscription to each newspaper has been purchased for each of you as part of this program. The TAMU library does not offer us free access to the FT on-line version, nor the NYT. Thus, these have been included with your program. As indicated in several emails, you must register for the FT and gain access; for the NYT, we have provided them your TAMU email address from which you may register and offer your password when setting up your account.

If you have a laptop or smart phone, it is very important you follow these and watch for my emails updating you on articles of which I will frequently inform you of prior to or following various meetings scheduled for our program.

Core Readings (reference throughout program, universal applicability):

Seton-Watson, Hugh. "What is Europe, where is Europe? From mystique to politique." 


Commission of EU, *EU Basics* (PDF PowerPoints produced by EU Commission)


Additional Readings can be found on the Google TAMU drive (be aware of for reference as needed for various topics covered on program)

**Other Core References**

In addition to these two basic courses of information to update you and provide indispensable context for the venues we offer on the program, each of the class has assigned reference material for the student to access on-line to provide context, background, and explanation for each part of the program.

**Additional Internet References**

In addition to cited material, each student is encouraged to explore some of the following links on the web for further background and insight into current events:

**Essential for Context and Current Events:**


**Other Very Useful:**

*BBC Country Profiles* [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/) brief but use background on countries of the world, with excellent maps and useful data and updated information on governments, officials, and political and market developments.

*Der Spiegel On-Line (English)*: [http://www.spiegel.de/international/](http://www.spiegel.de/international/) highly regarded English web page for the German prestigious weekly, *Der Spiegel* [The Mirror]. Outstanding coverage and analysis of political, economic, cultural and social news of Germany, Europe and world.


*The European Intelligence Unit: Available free from TAMU Library electronic services* [http://library.tamu.edu/](http://library.tamu.edu/), type European Intelligence Unit at DATABASE option at TAMU Libraries search home page). The EIU offers country reports and market/economic/demographic data sources on all countries of the world. The political and economic analyses of countries, updated frequently in country reports, are highly regarded as a leading reference for professionals in academia, government, business and security consulting. Students may also obtain free issues of the Economist magazine at this site, as well as archived Economist articles.
The European Voice: http://www.europeanvoice.com/ Available free from TAMU Library electronic services (http://library.tamu.edu/, type European Voice at DATABASE option at TAMU Libraries search home page). The EV covers politics, policies and developments within the EU.

STRATFOR Global Intelligence: Available free from TAMU Library electronic services (http://library.tamu.edu/, type STRATFOR at DATABASE option at TAMU Libraries search home page). While a primarily devoted to global security issue, STRATFOR organizes its analyses into regions of globe, and within European section, politics and economics are afforded careful and insightful examination, as they relate to the broader security concerns of Europe.

Worldcrunch: http://www.worldcrunch.com/ (French news, politics, society, and culture)

Think Tank Internet Resources:

The following lists some of the major EU and European policy and governance think tanks and their links.

Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA): http://www.riia.org/


Foundation Robert Schuman: http://www.robert-schuman.eu/


Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP): http://www.iep-berlin.de/home.html?&L=1

Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung an der Universität Bonn (ZEI): http://www.zei.uni-bonn.de/front-page?set_language=en


The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS): http://www.ceps.be/home

BRUEGEL: http://www.bruegel.org/index.php?pid=1

Centre for European Reform (CER): http://www.cer.org.uk/

Federal Trust for Education and Research: http://www.fedtrust.co.uk/

Carnegie Europe (Brussels) http://www.carnegieeurope.eu/

Centre for European Reform, CER (London) http://www.cer.org.uk/

Centre for European Policy Studies, CEPS (Brussels) http://www.ceps.be/

Centre for the New Europe (Brussels) http://www.cne.org/

European Centre for International Political Economy, ECIPE (Brussels) http://www.ecipe.org/

European Council on Foreign Relations, ECFR http://www.onevoiceforeurope.eu/

European Institute at the London School of Economics, LSE (London)
EUROPP (European Politics and Public Policy) http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europblog/
European Institute of Public Administration, EIPA (Maastricht) http://www.eipa.nl/
European Policy Centre, EPC (Brussels) http://www.epc.eu/
European Policy Forum, EPF (London) http://www.epfltd.org/
German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik), DGAP (Berlin) http://www.dgap.org/
Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' (The Hague) http://www.clingendael.nl/
Foreign Policy Centre, FPC (London) http://fpc.org.uk/
Forum Carolus (Straßburg) http://www.forum-carolus.org/
Friends of Europe (Brussels) http://www.friendsofeurope.org/
German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP (Berlin) http://www.swp-berlin.org/
Group of Policy Advisers (Brussels) http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/policy_advisers/index_en.htm
The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, HCSS (The Hague) http://www.hcss.nl/
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, ELIAMEP (Athens) http://www.eliamep.gr/
Institute for Security and Development Policy (Stockholm) http://www.isdp.eu/
International Peace Institute, IPI (Vienna) http://www.ipinst.org/
Istanbul Policy Center, IPC (Istanbul) http://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/
International Crisis Group (Brussels (HQ) http://www.crisisgroup.org/
International Security Information Service Europe, ISIS Europe (Brussels) http://www.isis-europe.org/
Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung, MZES (Mannheim) http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de/
Observatoire Social Européen http://www.ose.be/
The Oxford Council on Good Governance, OCGG (Oxford) http://www.oxfordgovernance.org/
The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (San Domenico di Fiesole) http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/
Course Requirements:

- Discussion Participation (40%), Pop Quizzes on materials (20%), final essay due August 3 (40%).
- All work to be completed on site and before end of program (August 6).
- Grade Scale: A (100 - 90%), B (80%), C (70%), D (60%), F (< 60%)

**Participation means attending all required activities as specified in the program which is given each student at the beginning of the program. Attending means being at the session and being awake and attentive in the judgment of the faculty member – it does not mean asking lots of questions or engaging the speakers and faculty in debates. Full participation credit is based on attentive attendance.** Failure to attend a scheduled session without a reason comporting with university guidelines outlined in Student Rule 7 - [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07) will count against the student. A missed session not in compliance with Rule 7 will not be tolerated: each missed session will detract 10% from the participation score.

**Students are expected to attend all required activities on the program schedule.** Of course, students may be ill or emergencies may present themselves. Generally, the rules of attendance and university excused absences of Texas A&M apply. These attendance and make-up guidelines which inform the program can be found at Student Rule 7 - [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07).

And, grading policy of the university which will also inform grades on the program may be found at, Student Rule 10 - [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10).

The Texas A&M Honor Code is in effect and will be enforced on all assignments and exams.

[http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/)

You may certainly collaborate in all aspects of this class with your fellow-program members. However, all work must be yours, and not taken from or written by someone else under your name.

Note: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit [http://disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu).

The Department of Political Science supports the Texas A&M University commitment to diversity, and welcomes individuals from any racial, ethnic, religious, age, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, and nationality. (See [http://diversity.tamu.edu/](http://diversity.tamu.edu/)). In the spirit of this vital commitment, in this course each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to all discussions. Everyone is expected to respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by fellow students and the instructor, and will engage in reasoned discussion that refrains from derogatory comments about other people, cultures, groups, or viewpoints.

**Late Work**

Please review in detail the University Regulations regarding University Excused Absences. These will be strictly enforced, and without exception. All excused absences from exams/presentations must be verified in writing, and
students are required to notify me PRIOR to an exam of absence--unless an EXTREME circumstance or emergency prevents this. See http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07 and http://student-rules.tamu.edu/ on web for details.

Course Schedule

Below are the course schedule and the relevant reference materials for each part of the program. Each of these materials may be obtained in the www.Team Google.tamu.edu drive with which you are shared for the Summer European Academy 2018 list, in folder POLS306-150, with subfolders per section as noted below. Please note those there is a hierarchy: readings marked REQUIRED are core and should be read; those marked RECOMMENDED are supplemental in nature.

I. History of EU (May 26 – June 10)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EU HISTORY.


II. EU: General Overview and Context (May 26 – June 10)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder GENERAL OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT.


Additional Internet Sources:

European Union: http://europa.eu/index_en.htm (important official portal with links to EU web pages)
EU Civitas: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/index.php (important non-EU portal with links to EU web pages)
EU Institutions: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/europe/04/eu_institutions/html/how_they_work.stm
EU Institutions: http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm
Treaties of EU: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/treaties.html
Time Line History EU: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3583801.stm
Member States and Enlargement: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/ms.html
Co-Decision: http://ec.europa.eu/codecision/procedure/index_en.htm
Foreign Policy EU: http://europa.eu/pol/cfsp/index_en.htm

III. An EU Political Culture and Imagined Communities? (May 26 – June 22)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EU POLITICAL CULTURE AND IMAGINED COMMUNITIES.


Additional Internet Sources:

EMU and SEA: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/ecofin.html
Regional Funds: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/FSSOC/SF2.htm
EU Sustainable Development: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/
Europe 20/20: http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/index_en.htm
EU Budget: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/OS/SF1.htm
SEA Facts: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/FSTREAT/TR2.htm
EMU and SEA: http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/ecofin.html

IV. EU Institutions (May 26 – June 22)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EU INSTITUTIONS.

V. The EU Policy Process (May 26 – June 22)


Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EU POLICY PROCESS.

VI. European Elections (May 26 – June 22)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EUROPEAN ELECTIONS.

VII. The Euro Crisis and Economic Governance (May 26 – June 22)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EURO CRISIS AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE.

VIII. EU Enlargement Issues (May 26 – June 22)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EU ENLARGEMENT

IX. EU Common Foreign Policy and Security Issues (May 26 – June 22)

Readings can be found in the TAMU Team Google Drive POLS306 in folder EU COMMON FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY ISSUES