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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies

IRLS344

European Politics

Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Prerequisite: NONE

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

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Course Description (Catalog)

IRLS 344 (3 hours)

This course focuses on comparative evaluation of Europe paying particular attention to challenges facing the continent such as migration, ethno-nationalism, and terrorism. It will also focus on opportunities for European countries to work together, including NATO, OSCE, and the EU.

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Course Scope

The scope of European Politics encompasses current economic, political, social, and cultural issues that dominate the political discourse of member states and the European Union. After the enlargement of the European Union in 2004 from 15 member states to 25, a variety of issues coalesced within the context of increasing globalization. The course primarily focuses upon specific challenges that have occurred since 2004 including the European debt crisis, social welfare reform in transitioning democracies, and a growing skepticism among the European population that the European Union holds the answer for future problems.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO1: Assess Europe's evolution towards regional political integration.

CO2: Examine the process and institutions of European integration, including public sentiment about the EU.

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CO3: Evaluate the role of the European Monetary system in the EU debt crisis.

CO4: Compare and contrast the EU enlargement issues from the perspective of established and transitioning democracies.

CO5: Apply the results of the integration and expansion to current political issues of EU member states.

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Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

Course readings consist of selected ebook chapters and journal articles found in the Lessons area of the classroom. See the Required Readings list below for the readings for the course.

Required Readings:

Anglo, Gavin Rae. 2008. In *Poland's Return to Capitalism: From the Socialist Bloc*

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to the European Union. London: I. B. Tauris.

Cato, Molly Scott. 2006. "How the Euro Threatens the Well-Being of the Planet and Its People." In Baimbridge, Mark, Brian Burkitt, and Philip Whyman, *Implications of the Euro : A Critical Perspective From the Left*. London: Routledge. 157-211

Harmsen, Robert. 2005. "A Dual Exceptionalism? British and French Patterns of Euroscepticism in Wider Comparative Perspective." In Centre for Study of Democratic Government, European Research Group Workshop: National Identity and Euroscepticism: A Comparison Between France and the United Kingdom. Oxford: University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations

O'Dwyer, Conor. 2004. Runaway State Building: How Political Parties Shape States in Postcommunist Europe. *World's Politics* 56: 520-53

Warleigh, Alex. (2009). *European Union: the Basics*. London: Routledge.

Wai, Ting. 2011. EU-China Relations in the Age of Globalization and Regionalization. *EurAmerica* 41, No. 1 (March 2011): 181-220

- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

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Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 25 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm

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ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Progress assignment - 25 percent

A preliminary research plan with sources is due Week Three. Its length is no more than two double-spaced pages in 12 pt. font. Specific instructions are located in the Assignments section of the classroom.

Midterm assignment - 25 percent

The compare and contrast essay assignment is an analytical essay due at the end of Week Five. The assignment will be no fewer than or no more than four pages, double-spaced, in 12 pt. font. The assignment assesses student learning for Weeks One - Four. Students are to rely on the course readings in composing the essay. Specific instructions are located in the "Assignments" section of the classroom.

Final assignment – 25 percent

The final assignment or research project is due at the end of Week Seven. It will consist of a political risk assessment of two states (one an established democracy and the other a transitioning democracy in Europe as defined in the first week of the course). The final assignment will be no fewer than and no more than six pages.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	25
Progress Assignment	25
Midterm Assignment	25
Final Assignment	25
Total	100

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8 – Week Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	Politics in European States: Established Democracies	<p>CO-1</p> <p>Assess Europe's evolution towards regional political integration.</p>	<p>Author, Title</p> <p>Van Biezen, Ingrid, Peter Mair and Thomas Poguntke. 2012. Going, Going...Gone? The Decline of Party Membership in Contemporary Europe. 24-56</p> <p>Warleigh, Alex. (2009). "The Evolutions of European Integration." 1-25</p> <p>Additional Reading: Where do they Stand: Guide to Party Elections politics</p> <p>Video: Week One Video</p> <p>Study:</p>	Week One Forum Discussion

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			Week One in Lessons	
2	Politics in European States: Transitional Democracies	<p>CO-1</p> <p>Assess Europe's evolution towards regional political integration.</p>	<p>Anglo, Gavin Rae. 2008. "From Stalinism to Social Democracy. 112-141</p> <p>ledvec, Stephen. The European Union and Expansion to the East: Aspects of Accession, Problems, and Prospects for the Future.</p> <p>O'Dwyer, Conor. 2004. Runaway State Building: How Political Parties Shape States in Postcommunist Europe. <i>World's Politics</i> 56: 520-53</p> <p>Tavis, Margit. 2012. Postcommunist Europe. <i>Journal of</i></p>	Week Two Forum Discussion

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			<p><i>Politics</i> 74, no. 1: 83-97</p> <p>Study: Week Two in Lessons:</p>	
3	<p>Political Dynamics in Contemporary Europe</p>	<p>CO-2</p> <p>Examine the process and institutions of European integration, including public sentiment about the EU</p>	<p>Mayhew, Alan, Kai Oppermann and Dan Hough. German Foreign Policy and Leadership of the EU – ‘You Can’t Always Get What You Want ... But You Sometimes Get What You Need.’ 1-32</p> <p>Harmsen, Robert. 2005. “A Dual Exceptionalism? British and French Patterns of Euroscepticism in Wider Comparative</p>	<p>Week Three Forum Discussion</p> <p>Progress Assignment</p>

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			<p>Perspective.”</p> <p>Warleigh, Alex. (2009). “Controversies within EU.” 92-113</p> <p>Video: Week Three Video</p> <p>Study: Week Three in Lessons</p>	
4	Integration Dynamics in Contemporary Europe	<p>CO-2</p> <p>Examine the process and institutions of European integration, including public sentiment about the EU</p>	<p>Likic-Brboric, Branka. 2011. EU Enlargement, Migration, and Asymmetric Citizenship: Political Economy of Inequality and the Demise of the European Social Model? 277-294</p> <p>Sorensen, Catharina. 2008. Love me, Love me not...A Typology of Public Euroscepticism. 1-29</p> <p>Vetik, Raivo. 2003. Élite vs. People? Eurosceptic Public</p>	Week Four Forum Discussion

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			<p>Opinion in Estonia.: 1-17</p> <p>Video: Week Four Video</p> <p>Study: Week Four in Lessons.</p>	
5	Monetary Union and its Impact on EU	<p>CO-3</p> <p>Evaluate the role of the European Monetary system in the EU debt crisis.</p>	<p>Cato, Molly Scott. 2006. "How the Euro Threatens the Well-Being of the Planet and Its People." 157-211</p> <p>McGiffen, Steve. (2011). Bloodless Coup d'état: The European Union's Response to the Eurozone Crisis. 25-43</p> <p>Study: Week Five in Lessons</p>	<p>Week Five Forum Discussion</p> <p>Midterm Assignment</p>
6	Economic Policy of EU Member States: the Debt Crisis	<p>CO-3</p> <p>Evaluate the role of the European</p>	<p>Cimadomo, Jacopo. 2011. The Fiscal Stimulus and Challenges Ahead: Views on the Euro</p>	<p>Week Six Forum Discussion</p>

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		Monetary system in the EU debt crisis.	Area. 23-28 Schmidt, Vivien A. (2010). The European Union's Eurozone Crisis and What (not) to do about It. 199-212 Video: Week Six Video Study: Week Six in Lessons	
7	All tother now: Challenges after 2004 Enragement	CO-4 Compare and contrast the EU enlargement issues from the perspective of established and transitioning democracies.	Fritz, Verena. 2005. New Divisions in Europe? East-East Divergence and the Influence of European Union Enlargement. 192-217 Lendvai, Noemi. 2008. EU Integration and the Transformation of Post-communist Welfare: Traversing a 'Quantum Leap'? 504-523	Week Seven Forum Discussion Final Assignment

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			<p>Leuffen, Dirk, and Robin Hertz. 2010. If Things Can Only Get Worse: Anticipation of Enlargement in European Union Legislative Politics. 53-74</p> <p>Video: Week Seven Video</p> <p>Study: Week Seven In Lessons</p>	
8	Current Trends: European Political Objectives in Global Context.	<p>CO-5</p> <p>Apply the results of the integration and expansion to current political issues of EU member states.</p>	<p>Warleigh, Alex. (2009). "Where now for the European Union"? 114-141</p> <p>Wai, Ting. 2011. EU-China Relations in the Age of Globalization and Regionalization. 181-220</p>	Week Eight Forum Discussion

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			Study: Week Eight In Lessons	
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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

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Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- ***Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:*** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

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- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course
(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library:
librarian@apus.edu.

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Selected Bibliography

Fritz, Verena. 2005. New Divisions in Europe? East-East Divergence and the Influence of European Union Enlargement. *Journal of International Relations and Development* 8, no. 2: 192-217

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Leuffen, Dirk, and Robin Hertz. 2010. If Things Can Only Get Worse: Anticipation of Enlargement in European Union Legislative Politics. *European Journal of Political Research* 49, no. 1: 53-74

McGiffen, Steve. (2011). Bloodless Coup d'état: The European Union's Response to the Eurozone Crisis. *Socialism and Democracy* 25, no 2: 25-43

Medvec, Stephen. The European Union and Expansion to the East: Aspects of Accession, Problems, and Prospects for the Future. *International Social Science Review* 84, no. 1 & 2: 66-89

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