



**American University
European Union Program
Fall 2015**

SYLLABUS

***THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION
(SISA-383-001S and GOVT-333-001S)***

This course is an in-depth study of the governance, politics, and evolution of the European Union (EU). It studies the EU's institutions, and the dynamics of its internal and external policy-making processes. In this course, you learn about the structure and powers of all of the EU institutions. You learn how these institutions interact with each other and with the member states. You learn the dynamics of the EU's legislative and policy processes. Toward the end of the semester, we turn our attention to the external political relations of the EU. We examine the process of accession for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and we take a first-hand look at the process of accession during our field trip. We also discuss of the EU's emerging Common Foreign and Security Policy, and what the evolution of the EU means for the rest of the world.

Course Structure

The course is intended to help you develop an in-depth working knowledge of the purpose, organization, politics, and governance of the EU. The course begins with a study of Belgium, how parliamentary democracies function, and the history and evolution of the EU. Following this introduction, you will learn about each of the institutions of the EU, and how these institutions interact with each other, and with the EU's member states, in the development of EU policy.

Professor Sheridan teaches the course. He will give you an in-depth lecture on each topic, and you will then have seminars with guest speakers who are actively involved in the public policy process in Europe and you will visit the EU's institutions. Discussing issues with policy experts gives you a unique opportunity to test your theoretical classroom training against the realities of politics in Europe. By doing so, you will gain a greater understanding of what the European Union is and how it is evolving.

Course Requirements

You are required to read the assigned material, participate in our seminars with guest speakers and to contribute to our class sessions and discussions. You cannot expect to sit back and learn from this experience through passive absorption of the material. Instead, the process of learning in this program requires you to play an active role in our class meetings. In this program, more than in any other academic experience that you have had, you will truly get out of it what you put into it. In light of this, your final grade is determined by the following:

- 1) **Attendance, Participation, and Conduct:** Most of the learning in this course occurs in the classroom. You simply cannot get the notes from a friend and hope to understand what the seminar was about or how strongly an individual speaker felt about an issue. So, attendance and punctuality for all of our scheduled speakers and institution visits is mandatory. Please remember that an early departure for a weekend out-of-town, a late return from traveling, a visit from your family or friends, an extra day of work at the internship or an early departure from the program at the end of the semester are all unacceptable excuses for missing class. You are also expected to participate actively in our classes and this participation will be taken into account in assigning the grade.

- 2) **Examinations:** Three examinations will be held during the course of the semester. The first will be held on **Friday 17 September**. The second is on **Friday 23 October**. The third is the final examination that will be held on **Thursday 10 December**. Since you know the dates of the exams now, make your travel plans accordingly.

To determine your final grade, these elements are weighted as follows:

First Examination.....30 percent

Midterm Examination.....30 percent

Final Examination.....30 percent

Attendance and Participation.....10 percent

PLEASE NOTE: A student who performs poorly on the first examination and who wishes to improve his or her final grade for the course may do so through a remedial assignment. The student must inform Professor Sheridan that he or she wishes to do the assignment no later than one week after the original examinations are returned to the students. The actual date(s) of the remedial exam(s) will be mutually agreed upon.

Textbooks and Readings

Your textbooks have been chosen to provide you with a scholarly background into the topics we will be covering. In addition to this text, the daily reading of the news is required. You must keep abreast of the issues of the day and you will be tested on those issues in light of our course-work. You may also receive additional readings from academic journals and current periodicals during the semester.

Your two textbooks are:

Erik Jones, Anand Menon, and Stephen Weatherill, *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.)

Niell Nugent, *Government and Politics of the European Union*, Seventh Edition, (London: Macmillan, 2010).

Topics and Reading Assignments

Below is a schedule of the topics that are covered and the reading assignments from our texts. Additional readings from journal articles and current periodicals may also be assigned during the semester. In addition to the following, the daily reading of a major newspaper is required, and the issues in the news may appear on exams.

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| Topic I: | Introduction to Belgium and to the European Union |
| Readings: | Nugent, Chapters 1 through 7.
Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 10 through 17.
<i>The Ventoteno Manifesto</i>
<i>The Tragedy of Europe</i> (by Winston Churchill)
<i>The Schuman Declaration</i> |
| Topic II: | The European Commission |
| Readings: | Nugent, Chapter 8.
Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapter 24. |
| Topic III: | The European Council and the Council of the European Union |
| Readings: | Nugent, Chapters 9 and 10.
Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapter 23. |
| Video: | EU Summit Backstage |
| Topic IV: | The European Parliament |
| Readings: | Nugent, Chapter 11.
Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapter 26. |
| Topic V: | The EU's Legislative and Policy Making Processes |
| Readings: | Nugent, Chapters 16, 17, and 18.
Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapter 47. |
| Topic VI: | The Court of Justice and The EU's Constitutional Order |
| Readings: | Nugent, Chapter 12.
Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 25 and 51. |

- Topic VII: The EU's Other Institutions and Agencies
 Readings: Nugent, Chapter 13.
 Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 27 and 28.
- Topic VIII: The Budget of the EU
 Readings: Nugent, Chapter 22.
 El-Agraa (from the economics course), Chapter 19
- Topic IX: The EU's Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice
 Readings: Nugent, p. 335-339.
 Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 42 and 43.
 European Commission Justice and Citizens Rights:
http://ec.europa.eu/policies/justice_citizens_rights_en.htm.
 Follow all links.
- Topic X: Policy Making in the Common Foreign and Security Policy
 Readings: Nugent, pages 376-387.
 Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 41 and 45.
 European External Action Service web site:
<http://www.eeas.europa.eu>. Follow all relevant links!
- Topic XI: The Politics of Accession
 Readings: Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 19 and 20.
- Topic XII: The Democratic Deficit and the Lisbon Treaty
 Readings: Nugent, Chapter 7
 Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 12, 40 and 46.
The Lisbon Treaty Find it on www.europa.eu
- Topic XIII: The Transatlantic Relationship
 Readings: Daniel Hamilton and Joseph Quinlan, *The Transatlantic Economy 2015*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University 2015), <http://transatlanticrelations.org/books/out-now-transatlantic-economy-2015>
 Video: President Obama's Speech in Brussels
- Topic XIV: Theories of the EU
 Readings: Nugent, Chapters 23 and 24.
 Jones, Menon, and Weatherill, Chapters 1 through 5.

Contacting Professor Sheridan

Since he is also your program Director, you will see Professor Sheridan nearly every day that you have classes. Simply talk to him between classes to arrange a meeting, or send him an email at aub@aub.be