

Textbooks:

J. Richard Piper: **The Major Nation-States in the European Union**
David M. Wood, Birol A. Yesilada: **The Emerging European Union**

Other readings:

One magazine: **The Economist**

Course objective:

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the full scope of political changes that have occurred in Europe since the end of WWII. The gradual development of the European Union and its various enlargements will constitute the framework of this course. Through the study of this development, students will hopefully understand how the complexity of the political relationships between the European states is largely due to the variety of their historical, cultural, social and economic differences. By studying this difficult process of political integration, students will also gain significant appreciation of the variety of the forces in presence, of the necessity to preserve those differences and of the need to channel their effects.

Course schedule**Monday January 17**

Introduction to the course. What is **Europe** ? Geographic, political and cultural definition of Europe. The notion of sovereignty and the impact of culture in politics. Research the main characteristics of the largest European countries in terms of geography, population, size of the economy, political regimes and social contexts. Research the main features of **France, Germany, Italy** and **the United Kingdom**.

Wednesday January 19

We start with a quick review of the division of Europe after WWII and its immediate consequences. The victorious Allies (the United States and the Soviet Union for the most part) are soon divided by their conflicting ideologies. The Americans want to promote democracy and capitalism while the Soviets want to impose communism and central planning. The European countries are caught in the middle of the conflict. It is the beginning of the Cold War that divides the continent. The necessity for French-German reconciliation leads to the first attempt at forming a Union: the European Coal and Steel Community. We discuss its creation and its institutions, the failure of the European Defense Community, and the success of the Treaty of Rome. Research the main characteristics of the **Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Ireland** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 1 pp.1-10.

Monday January 24

The **Federal Republic of Germany** and NATO. Creation of the Warsaw Pact and crackdown in Budapest. In Western Europe the UK refuses to cooperate. **France**: some political, social and cultural notions – a centralized, national socio-political system in sharp contrast with Germany. **The United Kingdom**: more political, social and cultural notions. A sociopolitical system based on economic liberalism, in contrast with France and West Germany. Comparison of the three countries: three free market economies, three democratic systems, and yet three very different sociopolitical structures. Creation and launching of the EEC and Euratom. Research main characteristics of **Portugal, Greece, Spain and Denmark** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU* chapter 2 pp. 12-19.

Wednesday January 26

The Six during the 1960's. Reconciliation between **France and West Germany**. Charles de Gaulle comes to power in France, Konrad Adenauer is chancellor of Germany. Their relationship sets the tone for years to come. De Gaulle clashes with the British, the Americans and the EEC partners. Different notions of Europe appear. France's attempt to assume political leadership of the EEC triggers the first institutional crisis. Problems also arise outside Europe as the process of de-colonization goes on. Research main characteristics of **Finland, Sweden and Austria** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 2, pp. 12-21.

Monday January 31

The relationship between the EEC and the UK remains difficult. The end of the decade is marked by unrest in the West, tension in the East and crackdown in Prague. Western European hopes are crushed by Soviet determination and France remains suspicious of the U.S. and the U.K. More institutional problems divide the EEC on sovereignty and cooperation issues. Research the main characteristics of **Norway, Switzerland, Slovenia and Poland** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime. Also, read *The Emerging European Union*, Chapter 3, pp. 27-38.

Wednesday February 2

Violent ethnic and linguistic conflicts trigger a political and social crisis in Belgium. Foreign policy and the country's relationship with the East (Ostpolitik) create another political and social crisis in **West Germany**. The early 1970's, the first enlargement of the EEC. The Anglo-Saxons bring their own traditions, ideologies and values that translate into lasting consequences for the Community. The EEC takes on a new nature. Research the main characteristics of **Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Hungary** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime.

Monday February 7

Meanwhile the oil crisis puts the brakes on economic growth and brings years of stagnation and inflation. The EEC tries to get its house organized economically but political nationalisms and cultural differences come in the way: some ideas but no momentum. Détente in the Cold War: the United States and the Soviet Union make a few rhetorical toasts. **Greece, Portugal and Spain** jettison their dictatorship and slowly open up to democracy. Brighter political prospects but economic realities are still bleak. Research the main characteristics of **the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime. Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp.38-44.

Wednesday February 9

First quiz

The late 1970's – early 1980's: the end of Détente. Increasing tension between East and West. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is followed by a crisis in Poland. Creation of Solidarity as a workers' union in a communist dominated country. Reactions in Western

Europe and in the Soviet Union. The early 1980's: **Greece** becomes the 10th member of the EC. Political changes in **France** and **Germany** with good effects on the EEC, for ex. the EMS. Problems, on the other hand, with the U.K. (the BBQ) and with the East: the Euromissile crisis. Necessity to strengthen the EEC. Research main characteristics of **Iceland, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Belarus and Ukraine** in terms of geography, population, size of the economy and political regime. Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp. 51-60, and *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 2, pp. 21-24..

Monday February 14

The Institutions of the EEC: The European Parliament and its first democratic elections. A Parliament like no other one in the world: three sites and many official languages! Read *Ever Closer Union*, pp. 259-278, 286-287. The Commission, its role, powers and prerogatives. From Walter Hallstein to Jacques Delors. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 3, pp. 42-46, and 49-52.

Wednesday February 16

Creation of the European Council, its purpose and its immediate effect on the day-to-day politics of the Community. The ambiguous role of the Council of Ministers, its meetings and its role in perpetuating the intergovernmental nature of the Community. Some other institutions: EMU, EMS. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU* pp.46-49, *The Emerging European Union* pp. 84-88.

Monday February 21

The first paper is due

The third enlargement of the EU. The Ten become the Twelve: following **Greece, Spain** and **Portugal** join the EEC, the Mediterranean culture penetrates the group and changes its nature. Jacques Delors becomes President of the European Commission and immediately starts rocking the boat. **The Federal Republic** assumes some leadership of the Community to the dismay of France but the partnership remains at its best. Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Union. The Single European Act re-launches the EEC. Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp. 47-59 and, as a review, chapter 6, pp. 92-100.

Wednesday February 23

From the Single Act to the Treaty of Maastricht. Economic growth and new prosperity. The road to Maastricht and preparation of the Maastricht Treaty. 1988-1989 the “velvet” Revolution in Eastern Europe. From a small incident in Hungary to the fall of the Berlin Wall: the previously unthinkable chain reaction.

Monday February 28

1989 the peaceful (or almost) revolution in Eastern Europe suddenly reshapes the continent: the Fall on the Berlin Wall. Its impact on the European Community in particular and on the continent in general. Some extra reading will be assigned from magazines. The German reunification and some immediate consequences within the EC. Read articles assigned in *The Economist* and *The Emerging European Union*, chapter 4, pp. 57-63.

Wednesday March 2

Second quiz

Spring recess

Monday March 14

The peaceful revolution in Europe follows its course. The Union achieves undeniable success with economic integration but runs into increasing difficulties with regard to political integration. The will to integrate is there, but traditions and cultures are hard to transcend. The German reunification and its consequences in Central and Eastern Europe. While uncertainty prevails in Russia, ethnic and religious conflicts flare up again in the Balkans, and war erupts in the ex-Yugoslavia with no reaction on the part of the EU. New states are born, adding to the already prevailing confusion. Are they viable politically and economically? Is the European Community becoming an economic monster and a political midget? Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp. 108-110 and *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 5 on France, pp.89-112,

Wednesday March 16

The Maastricht Treaty and its painful ratification show the difficulty of political and social integration. Cultural values come in the way of political intentions. The early 1990's. The post-ratification period and some of the lessons learned. The new situation within the EU.

In the early 1990's the relationship between France and Germany is, once again, the focal point of the new Union. On the issue of EMU, economic stagnation in the EU makes monetary union more of a necessity. Meanwhile there is disappointment in Central and Eastern Europe because young democracies and fledgling capitalism do not deliver the goodies quickly enough. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 6 on France and the EU, pp. 115-128.

Monday March 21

Crisis in the Union due to its inability to put an end to the civil war in Yugoslavia. The Union really shows its absence of common policy and lack of initiative. The new enlargement does not hide the problems: from Twelve to Fifteen, Scandinavian cultures and traditions join the Union. A look at the new members, the need for institutional reforms, and preparation for the Amsterdam Treaty. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, Chapter 7 on Germany, pp.139-159.

Wednesday March 23

From Maastricht to Amsterdam: with 15 members the new European Union needs flexibility and flexibility is born out of compromise. Once again, old traditions must be overcome. Economic and monetary problems within the Union, EMU, the common currency, the (in)famous criteria. Meanwhile a new Europe takes shape. Another issue that challenges traditions: the Common Agricultural Policy. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 8 on Germany, pp. 163-181 and *The Emerging European Union* pp. 65-70.

Monday March 28

The Central and Eastern European countries come knocking at the door of the European Union. Can they join and how is it going to affect the integration of the 15? The treaty of Nice is a good indication of the problems to come and of the difficulties to

accommodate the future members. Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp. 70-77 and 110-116.

Wednesday March 30

Preparation for and implementation of the euro. The advantages, disadvantages and the uncertainties of the single currency. The next enlargement to Central and Eastern European countries: need for reforms. How can the institutions of the Union survive with 20 or 25 members? The Nice Treaty fails to deal with the situation and shows the difficulties of political integration. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 9 on Italy, pp.187-208.

Monday April 4

The next enlargement to Central and Eastern European countries: need for reforms. Can the Central European and Eastern European new democracies bridge the economic and cultural gaps that separate them from their Western counterparts? Can common political and economic aspirations reconcile cultural differences? Read *The Emerging European Union*, chapter 7, pp.116-123, and *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 10 on Italy, pp.212-229

Wednesday April 6

Third quiz

The Copenhagen summit and the next enlargement. Questions answered and unanswered. Twenty five countries in the European Union in 2004. Turkey is still waiting in the wings. EU relations with the rest of the world, read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, Chapter 11 on the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, pp.233-252.

Monday April 11

EU relations with the US. Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp. 186-191. The American invasion of Iraq divides Europe, brings France and Germany closer together against American policy, and damages the relations.

Wednesday April 13

EU relations with Japan – mostly a trade relation. Its importance on world trade and its recent history. Disagreements, tensions and need for cooperation. The trouble caused by protectionist trade policies and the modern Battle of Poitiers. The Agreement of July 1992, its limited success and the remaining problems. The continuous Japanese balance-of-payments surplus with the EU and the annoying Japanese legal barriers that limit EU exports to Japan. Several reasons why EU markets need to remain accessible to Japanese products. Read *The Emerging European Union*, pp. 191-194, and *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 12 on the UK and Northern Ireland, pp.255-276. **The second paper is due today**

Monday April 18

EU relations with Japan (cont.) – The unconvincing July 2000 summit – agreement toward further dialogue and cooperation, a lot of wishes but few concrete results. Japan toes the American line on the Iraqi issue, exacerbates the existing division within the EU, and irritates the French and the Germans. The emergence and future of economic blocks. A look at Japan and China and the likely future trade problems. Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 13 on Spain, pp.281-299.

Wednesday April 20

The regions. Could the future of Europe be in the hands of the regions? Could it be the end of the nations in Europe? Could regionalisms replace old nationalisms? Integration and preservation of differences: the on-going double challenge. Is there any future for NATO, for a credible European defense policy, and for a European citizenship? Is there a European culture or just a mosaic of European cultures? Can there be a common foreign policy or just a common policy? Read *The Major Nation-States in the EU*, chapter 14 on Spain, pp. 302-317.

Wednesday April 27

Review and hopefully Q/A.

FINAL EXAM

Final comments:

Class attendance is mandatory and class participation is very highly encouraged. You must come to class prepared, with good knowledge of the material covered in the previous class, and of the reading assigned as homework. As a token of my good will you will be allowed to miss class **twice** (the equivalent of one week of work) with no question asked. Unpredicted situations can always happen and some tolerance is necessary. After two absences however you will need a serious note from your doctor (in case of illness) or from a person able to testify as to the seriousness of the situation. This, of course, excludes friends, roommates and neighbors, but not parents and College officials. Unless you have a very good reason for doing it, **DO NOT ASK** for make-ups.

After the two tolerated absences, further unexcused absences will be penalized and the final grade lowered. The student will be notified of her/his situation before the grade is lowered.

There will be three hourly quizzes and two papers. The midterm grade will be determined by averaging the grade on the first quiz, the grade on the paper and the class participation. The final grade will include the average of the quizzes for 40%, the average of the papers for 25%, the final exam for 25%, and the class participation for 10%

Finally, **be careful with plagiarism.** Quoting from a book, journal, or some kind of website without indicating the source does constitute plagiarism.

To foster an environment conducive to learning all cellular phones will have to be turned off at the beginning of each class. Sending text messages during class will NOT be tolerated. Also, there is no trip to the bathroom or the water fountain during class. Take the necessary precautions before class. Finally, I want you to know that I will do my best to be on time and I expect you to do the same.

I wish you all a good, productive and pleasant semester.