

STV2500 – Politics in the European Union

Course content

In this course, you will learn to analyze decision-making in the European Union. The course consists of three parts: Government, Politics, and Policies. The premise for the course is that although the EU is not a state, it can be analyzed using standard theoretical tools from mainstream political science. The empirical focus is on how the EU is currently operating. We expect you to follow EU current affairs and be able to apply the theoretical tools to interpret contemporary developments. Moreover, you will develop the ability to use relevant data for analyzing politics in the European Union.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

You will

- master central theoretical concepts in institutional rational choice
- know where to find relevant information about the EU institutions, politics in the EU and development in the various policy-areas
- be able to explain the main decision-making processes in the EU

Skills

You will

- be able to apply concepts from institutional rational choice in substantive analysis of EU government, politics, and policies
- learn to obtain and utilize primary and secondary EU data in your own writing
- be able to analyze the consequences of decision-making procedures and the policy positions of actors for policy-outcomes
- be able to employ theoretical tools to analyze current developments in the EU
- be able to structure short academic texts to answer pre-defined research questions.

Competences

You will

- develop the ability to find relevant data on the European Union provided by the Union's institutions as well as secondary data
- develop your ability to use data to make an argument

- develop your analytical writing skills

Recommended previous knowledge

Students should be familiar with the EU institutions and politics in the European Union, at the level of [STV1501](#) or similar. Students should also have basic research design and statistical skills, at the level of [STV1010](#) and [STV1020](#). As the course draws on general theories and concepts from comparative politics, familiarity with such concepts, e.g. from [STV1300](#) will be assumed.

Teaching

The course consists of 11 two-hours lectures and 4 two-hours seminars. As the lectures will involve student activities such as group discussions of theoretical concepts and searches for relevant data, and assessment of specific aspects of the weeks' readings, students should come to class prepared and ready to interact with fellow students and the lecturer. To assist students in preparing for class, weekly self-test quizzes will be provided. These quizzes will open two weeks before the lecture and close as class begins. Students can attempt the quizzes as many times as they like before class. It is not possible to attempt the quiz after class has started as the students' answers to the quiz will be reviewed during the lecture. Students are required to submit assignments for their formative assessment. Students will receive feedback on how to improve and revise their assignments before submitting the portfolio for a final summative assessment.

Examination

Portfolio examination.

The portfolio examination will be given one overall grade and consists of 4 written assignments, each 1500 to 2000 words.

To qualify for submitting the portfolio for summative assessment, all parts of portfolio must have been previously submitted for formative assessment and deemed worthy of feedback. In addition, students must obtain a score of at least 50 percent on the pre-class quizzes.

Syllabus

The material for the course consists of three parts

- a textbook that provides an overview of relevant theory, developments in the EU, and the scholarly debate,
- two journal articles dwell deeper into one aspect of the topic of the week
- An EU data resource

Lecture template

Each lecture should start by going through a typical empirical “case” of the journal article topic of the week and place it in a substantive context (why do we care?). Then to explain it, we first look at the relevant theories for understanding the broader topic and apply these to the EU as it functions today (book-chapter). We should not aim at covering the history of European integration in the area. Then, connecting back to the empirical case, we place the two journal articles in a broader scholarly context and provide their “take” on how to understand the empirical case, introducing a relevant dataset and empirical recourses (and a template for analysis), in the process.

Seminars

In the seminars, students get more training using relevant data / information to conduct their own analysis and write up a short report.

Textbook (all weeks)

Hix, Simon and Bjørn Høyland (2022) *The Political System of the European Union*, London: Bloomsbury Academic Press (364 p.) Hereafter HH

Weekly readings

Week 1: Commission agenda-setting power

- HH 1 – 56
- Koop, Christel, Christine Reh & Edoardo Bressanelli (2022) ‘Agenda-setting under pressure: Does domestic politics influence the European Commission?’, *European Journal of Political Research*, 61(1) 46 – 66.
- Rauh, Christian (2021) ‘One agenda-setter or many? The varying success of policy initiatives by individual Directorates-General of the European Commission 1994 – 2016’, *European Union Politics*, 22(1) 3 – 24.
 - Data: Commission webpage

Week 2: Bicameral bargaining

- HH 57 – 88
- Broniecki, Philipp (2020) ‘Power and transparency in political negotiations’, *European Union Politics*, 21(1) 109 – 129.
- Haag, Maximilian (2022) ‘Bargaining power in the informal trilogues: preference cohesion and inter-institutional bargaining success’, *European Union Politics*, 23(2) 330 – 350.
 - Data: Arregui, Javier & Clément Perarnaud (2022) ‘A new dataset on legislative decision-making in the European Union: the DEU III dataset’, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 29(1) 12 – 22.

Week 3: Preferences in the court

- HH 89 – 120
- Hermansen, Silje Synnøve Lyder (2020) ‘Building legitimacy: strategic case allocation in the Court of Justice of the European Union’, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(8) 1215 – 1235.
- Ovádek, Michal (2021) ‘Supranationalism, constrained? Locating the Court of Justice on the EU integration dimension’, *European Union Politics* 22(1) 44 – 69.
 - Data: CJEU webpage

Seminar 1: Legislative politics in the EU

- Essay: Applying the spatial model of politics to a case in DEU III, explain the outcome

Week 4: Public support for the EU

- HH 123 – 144
- Foster, Chase & Jeffry Frieden (2021) ‘Economic determinants of public support for European integration, 1995 – 2018’, *European Union Politics*, 22(2) 266 – 292.
- Clark, Nicholas J & Robert Rohrschneider (2019) ‘The relationship between national identity and European Union evaluations, 1993 – 2017’, *European Union Politics*, 20(3) 384 – 405.
 - Data: Clark Nicholas J & Robert Rohrschneider (2020) ‘Eurobarometer representation dataset’, University of Kansas and Susquehanna University.

Week 5: EU democracy: a new transnational cleavage?

- HH 145 – 174
- Hooghe, Liesbet & Gary Marks (2018) ‘Cleavage theory meets Europe’s crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage’, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(1) 109 – 135.
- Jackson, Daniel & Seth Jolly (2021) ‘A new divide? Assessing the transnational-nationalist dimension among political parties and the public across the EU’, *European Union Politics*, 22(2) 316 – 339.
 - Data: Jolly, Seth, Ryan Bakker, Lisbet Hooghe, Gary Marks, Jonathan Polk, Jan Rovny, Marco Steenbergen & Milada Anna Vachudova (2022) ‘Chapel Hill Expert Survey trend file, 1999 – 2019’, *Electoral Studies*, 75(1)

Week 6: Business lobbying

- HH 175 – 204
- Stevens, Frederik & Iskander De Bruycker (2020) ‘Influence, affluence and media salience: Economic resources and lobbying influence in the European Union’, *European Union Politics*, 21(4) 728 -750.
- Vikberg, Carl (2020) ‘Explaining interest group access to the European Commission’s expert groups’, *European Union Politics* 21(2) 312 – 332.
 - Data: European Commission Transparency register

Seminar 2: Preferences in the EU

Essay: Compare parties' and the publics' preferences over European integration, what stands out?

Week 7: Climate politics in the European Parliament

- HH 207 – 240
- Buzogány, Aron & Stefan Cetkovic (2021) 'Fractionalized but ambitious? Voting on energy and climate policy in the European Parliament', *Journal of European Public Policy*, 28(7) 1038 – 1056.
- Petri, Franziska & Katja Biedenkopf (2021) 'Weathering growing polarization? The European Parliament and EU foreign climate policy ambitions', *Journal of European Public Policy*, 28(7) 1057 - 1075
 - Data: EP Votes and debates

Week 8: Funding a European identity?

- HH 241 – 272
- Borz, Gabriela, Heinz Brandenburg & Carlos Mendez (2022) 'The impact of EU Cohesion Policy on European identity: A comparative analysis of EU regions', *European Union Politics*, 23(3) 259 – 281.
- López-Bazo, Enrique (2022) 'The Impact of Cohesion Policy on Regional Differences in Support for the European Union', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 60(5) 1219 – 1236.
 - Data: Eurobarometer

Seminar 3: European Green Deal

Essay: What are the key political hurdles for passing and implementing the Commission's European Green Deal?

Week 9: Bargaining over Economic governance reforms

- HH 273 – 298
- Franchino, Fabio & Camilla Mariotto (2022) 'Bargaining outcomes and success in EU economic governance reforms', *Political Science Research and Methods*, 10(2) 227 – 242.
- Lundgren, Magnus, Stefanie Bailer, Lisa M Dellmuth, Jonas Tallberg & Silvana Târlea (2019) 'Bargaining success in the reform of the Eurozone', *European Union Politics*, 20(1) 65 – 88.
 - Data: Wasserfallen, Fabio, Dirk Leuffen, Zdenek Kudrna & Hanno Degner (2019) 'Analysing European Union decision-making during the Eurozone crisis with new data', *European Union Politics* 20(1) 3 -23.

Week 10: Democratic backsliding

- HH 299 – 330
- Kelemen, Daniel R. (2020) ‘The European Union’s authoritarian equilibrium’, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(3) 481 – 499.
- Priebus, Sonja (2022) ‘The Commission’s Approach to Rule of Law Backsliding: Managing Instead of Enforcing Democratic Values?’, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, forthcoming.
 - Data: V-Dem

Week 11: Non-Trade Objectives in EU Trade

- HH 331 – 364
- Borchert, Ingo, Paula Conconi, Mattia Di Ubaldo & Cristina Herghelegiu (2021) ‘The Pursuit of Non-Trade Policy Objectives in EU Trade Policy’, *World Trade Review*, 20(5) 623 – 647.
- Yildirim, Aydin, Robert Basedow, Matteo Fiorini & Bernard Hoekman (2021) ‘EU Trade and Non-trade Objectives: New Survey Evidence on Policy Design and Effectiveness’, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 59(3) 556 – 568.
 - Data: Eurostat trade agreements https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/negotiations-and-agreements_en

Seminar 4: Trading Norms

Essay: To what extent do the EU stand up to its democratic values?