George Mason University Course Approval Form
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Department: Public and International Affairs Course Abbrev/Number__GOVT 833

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Full Course Title: European Union and Political Integration

Abbreviated Course Title (Inventory will only accommodate 24 characters):
European Union/Integ

Term First (new courses): F 2006 Course Level: GA
UL=Undergrad lower
UU=Undergrad upper
GF=Grad lower (500-600)
GA= Grad upper (700 + )

Credit Hours: (Fixed) __3__ (Var.) ______ Catalog Format : (3:3:0)

Previous Course ID :_________________ Last Term Course will be Offered:______________

Repeatable for Credit: N
D=Yes, but not within same term (indicate max hrs) Up to:
T=Yes, within same term (indicate max hrs) (Maximum hours)
N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code 1: Sem LEC=Lecture LAB=Lab
Activity Code 2: RCT=Recitation SEM=Seminar
STU=Studio INT=Internship
IND=Independent Study

Maximum Enrollment:

Prereq: GOVT 540

Approval:
Department or Program: ___________________________ Date: ________________
(Signature)

College Council: ___________________________ Date: ________________
(Signature- if applicable)

Graduate Council:* ___________________________ Date: ________________
(Signature - Provost or Graduate Council Representative)

*All courses numbered 500 or above must be forwarded to Graduate Council once approved at the departmental or college level. OtR 11/99
It is one of the truisms of international relations that international organizations are weak institutions because they cannot enforce the decisions they make, if they make them at all. While that is true of most international organizations, it is not true of the European Union and several of the other IOs which have brought most European states together since the end of World War II.

For some years now, the EU has had more impact on its member states’ economies than their domestic governments. Its impact on some aspects of judicial and foreign policy making is growing. With the accession of 10 new countries with tens of millions of citizens in 2004 and the adoption of a constitution in 2005, the future is likely to see an even stronger EU.

The same holds for other European institutions, the most important of which for our purposes is NATO. Though it includes non-European countries including the United States and Canada and though its decision making is largely dominated by Washington, NATO has helped the major European powers come together in their national security policy, despite their disagreements about such recent issues as the war with Iraq that began in 2003.

**Prerequisites**

Since GOVT 833 is a research seminar, I will strict enforce prerequisites. The course is only open to PhD and to MA students who are concentrating on European politics. It is also only open to students who have taken GOVT 540 and 631 or their equivalents elsewhere. Exceptions to these prerequisites will only be granted under unusual circumstances.

**Structure of the Course**
The course will have two overarching goals. First, it will reinforce and deepen what students already know about European integration and theories of international organizations. Second, it will provide students with an opportunity to do a substantial research project which could and should be the first draft of a publishable article.

Therefore, the first half of the semester will be based on general discussions of core readings which will provide a common conceptual and empirical base for us all to draw on. In the second half of the semester, students will present their research findings after having distributed an executive summary of their paper for the rest of us to read before coming to class. Each student will have half a class session to present his or her findings and lead the discussion.

Readings

Students will be expected to buy two books:
- Desmond Dinan, *An Ever Closer Union*
- David Yost, *Redefining NATO*

In addition, articles from InfoTrac and other online sources of scholarly journals will be assigned on a “just in time” basis in the week before selected sessions. As this is a research seminar designed primarily for PhD students, it is my assumption that student will have read and thought about assigned readings before coming to class.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on the basis of five bodies of work:
- Weekly one page “presidential daily briefs” on the topic to be discussed (10%)
- A 5-7 page paper on the issues we will face in the near future regarding European integration (20%)
- Class participation (20%)
- Research presentation in class (10%)
- Final paper (40%)
Details on the two papers will be discussed in class early in the semester.

**Dealing with me**

I have been studying and writing about European politics since the late 1960s. Even though I no longer publish original scholarly research in the field, Europe remains the part of the world I know the most about and write the most about.

I also bring two perspectives to the class. The first is that of a conventional scholar who has been teaching since the mid-1970s. The other is that of a conflict resolution practitioner for almost as long a period. In that work, I frequently refer to the European Union as an example of the kind of institutions we could create to make win/win outcomes more common and for constructively resolving the conflicts which are an inevitable part of our daily lives.

I also enjoy being a mentor to students. Until recently, that has been limited to undergraduates at George Mason. However, for many years, I have helped young scholars from other institutions start and build their careers. I look forward to doing the same thing on campus.

Finally, I live a chaotic life which, I jokingly refer to includes three half time jobs. The best way to contact me is by email which I check neurotically. Second best is to call me at home or on my cell phone. But PLEASE do not call after 9:00 in the evening. If I’m in a period of intense writing, I tend to get up very early....

**Schedule**

- **Week 1**: Introduction to the course
- **Week 2**: International organization
  - Articles by Mitrany, Putnam, and Warleigh
  - Careful review of EU web site
- **Week 3**: The origins of the EU
  - Dinan I
- **Week 4**: From the EEC to the EU
  - Dinan II
- **Week 5**: Writing a Research Paper
  - Discussion of research proposals
Week 6  The origins of NATO
         Yost I
Week 7  The evolution of NATO since 1991
         Yost II
Week 8-9 Individual appointments on research papers
Week 10-13 Student presentations
Week 14  Conclusions
         Readings TBA