

## **Poli 891.200: Special Topics**

### **The European Union Today: People, Policy, Politics**

Is Europe really at its "breaking point" as the media is keen to insist? This question is on the minds of many – and now you can discuss this question and many important issues facing Europe in POLI 891, the new "EU Today" course with experts in the field.

As a new Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the UNC Center for European Studies is offering this 1-credit capstone undergraduate/graduate course designed for seniors and MA students who have been studying Europe and the EU. The course is team-taught by faculty affiliated with the Center, including the Center's Director John Stephens and the new Jean Monnet Chair Milada Vachudova as well as by Dr Claudia Matthes, an academic and colleague from Humboldt University in Berlin.

The course will offer students a chance to discuss current issues such as EU Enlargement and Democratization, Social Policy, Terrorism, Education, the Schengen Agreement, and the refugee crisis in a colloquium/discussion-focused environment. In addition, students will have the chance to discuss and develop their own research interests and on-going research projects.

#### Course Requirements:

Attendance at the weekly meetings is required. If you know you will have to miss a session, please email Katie Shanahan Lindner at [klindner@email.unc.edu](mailto:klindner@email.unc.edu) as soon as possible. Please note that this kind of prior notification does not necessarily mean that your absence will be excused. One unexcused absence is allowable; after that participation points will be deducted from your final grade. Students are expected to read the weekly session's reading(s), which will be posted on Sakai and prepare questions to discuss in class.

#### Grades and Tardiness:

Failure to do the work involved or to comply with the attendance norms could result in an F grade for the course. Please take these requirements seriously. The final grade will be calculated as follows: **Participation:** 20%; includes attendance and oral participation. **Final Oral Presentation:** 40% Final oral presentation should be 10 minutes total (5-6 your presentation followed by 4-5 minutes of questions) and provide an overview of the main points of your capstone report. You may use power point if you wish, but it is not required. Your classmates and the instructor will have a chance to ask questions afterwards. The presentations will be filmed so that Dr Matthes can assess them (she will be the only person with access to the video). She will also respond with questions via email. **Capstone Report:** 40% The report should be a ca. 3-5 page, double-spaced, research paper on a current topic in EU Studies on which the final presentation is based. It should identify an academic problem to investigate and entail a research question plus a description of how the research should be conducted. Dr Matthes will hold office hours in GEC Room 3216.

## Readings

**1. Monday, January 11, 2016 Orientation** Katie Shanahan Lindner, CES Executive Director will provide an Introduction of the course, review of the syllabus and an overview of course requirements. Please come prepared to discuss your own research topics on which you might be focusing on outside this course (MA Thesis, BA Honors Thesis, conference presentation, research paper, etc).

**2. Monday, January 18, 2016 MLK holiday**

**3. Monday, January 25, 2016 “EU Enlargement and Democracy Promotion: The State of Play”** Milada Vachudova, Associate Professor of Political Science, Chair, Curriculum in Global Studies, Jean Monnet Chair for EU Studies; Post-communism has transformed comparative politics by adding a substantial role for external actors to existing theories of democratization. The finding is dramatic: external actors can, under certain conditions, tip the balance in favor of democracy by offering strong rewards to elites, conditional on complying with tough requirements. External actors can also influence the performance of the state – and how the state treats its citizens. The main player is the European Union, which has shaped the trajectories of political change in the new and credible future EU members in East Central and South Eastern Europe. Yet among the countries of the Western Balkans there is great variation in the tenor of domestic politics, with some suffering from outright capture of the state by illiberal forces. We will discuss the role of political parties in shaping political change, and ask: Under what conditions does party competition foster or undermine high level corruption and state capture? When and how is the EU effective in shaping the agendas of political parties in democratizing states, improving the treatment of ethnic minorities and checking the power of rent-seeking elites?

- **Reading:** Vachudova, M. A. (2014), EU Leverage and National Interests in the Balkans: The Puzzles of Enlargement Ten Years On. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 52: 122–138. doi: 10.1111/jcms.12081
  - Optional: – Daniela Schwarzer and Ivan Vejvoda, “After Paris: Western Unity Ever More Difficult, Ever More Essential”  
<http://www.gmfus.org/blog/2015/11/16/after-paris-western-unity-ever-more-difficult-ever-more-essential>
  - Timothy Garton Ash, “Roll Up That Map of Europe. The Walls Are Back.”  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/29/europe-2015-walls-1989-parisrefugee-crisis>

**4. Monday, February 1, 2016 “Does the Lisbon Strategy work? Do Social Investment Policies Produce More and Better Jobs?”** John D. Stephens, Lenski Professor of Political Science and Sociology; Director, Center for European Studies, Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, TransAtlantic Masters Program; Does the Lisbon Strategy work? Do Social Investment Policies Produce More and Better Jobs? The stated goal of the 2000 Lisbon Summit of the European Union was ‘to become the

most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with 3 more and better jobs and greater social cohesion... Investing in people and developing an active and dynamic welfare state will be crucial.' In my lecture, I will examine whether there is empirical evidence that social investment does produce "more and better jobs."

- **Reading:** Frank Vandenbroucke, Anton Hemerijck, and Bruno Palier, "The EU Needs a Social Investment Pact," Observatoire social européen, Opinion paper number 5, 2011.
  - Optional: – Gøsta Esping-Andersen et al., *Why we need a New Welfare State*, Oxford, 2002, Chapter 2
  - Nathalie Morel, Bruno Palier, and Joakim Palme, editors, *Towards a social investment welfare state? Ideas, policies and challenges*, The Policy Press, University of Bristol, 2011.

**5. Monday, February 8, 2016 "Careers in the Foreign Service"** Richard E. Jaworski, Diplomat in Residence, Southern Mid-Atlantic region; Richard Jaworski will talk about foreign and civil service careers, internships and fellowships at the US Department of State. He will also share insights from his career as a Foreign Service officer. Before coming to UNC as Diplomat in Residence, Richard Jaworski completed an assignment as minister counselor for management affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. As the principal management officer for the U.S. Mission in Iraq – the largest U.S. foreign mission in the world – he was responsible for a Department of State budget exceeding \$400 million and a staff of over 3,000 U.S. Government and contractor employees under Chief of Mission authority. As a senior Foreign Service officer, Mr. Jaworski had the honor to serve as minister counselor for management for the U.S. Mission in Turkey (2010 to 2013) and deputy executive director of the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs and International Organizations Affairs (2008 to 2010). He served previously as minister counselor for management at the U.S. Embassy in London (2005-2008) and Warsaw (2001-2005); director of operations for the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (1997-1999); senior general services officer in Tel Aviv (1994-1997); director of the Helsinki Support Activity for U.S. Missions in the Soviet Union (1990-1994); and he held additional consular and administrative positions in Moscow, London and Washington, D.C.

**6. Monday, February 15, 2016 "Europe and the War on Terrorism – From 9/11 to the Paris Attacks"** Tobias Hof, DAAD Visiting Professor of History; French President François Hollande condemned the terrorist attacks in Paris as an "act of war". The vocabulary used by him and others is meant to establish a sense of unity, prepare citizens for suffering and herald the long effort ahead. In its core it is thus similar to George W. Bush's rhetoric after the 11 September terrorist attacks and during the subsequent military reaction known as the first global war on terrorism. Some scholars fear that the French and European reaction after the Paris attacks foretells a new global war on terrorism that may be just as unsuccessful as the first one. They demand that Europe must learn from the mistakes of the United States in the

aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. In the lecture we will look at the changing pattern of the terrorist threat for Europe from 9/11 to recent events in Germany. We will discuss its impact on European everyday life and security policy as well as the involvement of European countries in the "war on Terror" in the midst of serious challenges to the European Union. The lecture will focus on the central question of how to find a balanced path between the Scylla of unbridled liberalism and the Charybdis of authoritarianism in fighting terrorism in modern times.

- **Readings:** – "Paris confirms IS's weakness", Bernard Haykel, November 19, 2015 Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/paris-confirms-issweakness/article7892753.ece> "Terror threats will be the new normal for Europe, experts say", Matthew Taylor, Friday 1 January 2016 Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/01/terror-threats-will-be-the-new-normal-for-europeexperts-say>
  - NOTE: After class, Sarah Hutchison will be showing L'Auberge Espagnole in preparation for next week's class in GEC Room 3009. Pizza will be served. You can of course also watch the film on your own; you can check it out (or watch it) in the MRC in the Undergraduate Library.

**7. Monday, February 22, 2016 "The EU, Erasmus, and Representations of Study Abroad"** Sarah Hutchison, PhD, Associate Director, TransAtlantic Masters Program, Center for European Studies; In this session students will learn about the EU's funding mechanism to promote student mobility and discuss representations of experiential education in film. Students will be required to watch the **2002 film L'Auberge Espagnole** before class. They will also be required to respond to a question about this film on Sakai by 2/21.

**8. & 9. Monday, March 21, 2016 (double session; 4:40 – 6:30pm)** Dr. rer. Pol. Claudia Matthes, CES Jean Monnet EU Visiting Scholar; Director of Studies, International MA Programs, Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin;

- **Session 8: "Policy-making in the EU – the Open Method of Coordination and the Community Method Focus on Commission, MS and NGOs"** Mechanisms of soft law policy making have become increasingly relevant on the European level. They are supposed to facilitate achieving agreements on matters that are not fully harmonized. In this session we will have a look at the tools, especially the Open Method of Coordination that was launched in the framework of the Lisbon Agenda in the year 2000. We will discuss the way it works, the policy fields in which it is applied and its effectiveness. Since some authors of political science and some practitioners also hoped to improve policy making we will have a critical at the extent to which these normative expectations were realized.
  - **Reading:** Eberlein, Burkhard/Kerwer, Dieter, 2004: New Governance in the European Union: A Theoretical Perspective, in: Journal of Common Market Studies, 42/1, 121–42 5

- **Session 9: “Social policy after the Eurocrisis”** Due to the perceived lack of regulation that was discussed as one cause of the Eurocrisis, the Commission managed to impose a greater level of control through e.g. the European Semester on the budgets of the member states in the aftermath of the crisis' peak. As this also impacts spending on social policy on the EU and the domestic level and the degree to which the social dimension may become subordinated to austerity measures, we will have a closer look at the interaction of the social and the fiscal spheres in Europe after these new regulations were implemented. We will also refer back to the variety of welfare states in Europe and the question if we can observe more convergence or if heterogeneity persists.
  - **Reading:** Porte, Caroline de la Porte/Heins, Elke, 2015: A new era of European Integration? Governance of labour market and social policy since the sovereign debt crisis, in: Comparative European Politics 13, 8–28

#### **10. & 11. Monday, March 28, 2016 (double session; 4:40 – 6:30pm)**

- **Session 10: “National Parliaments and the European Parliament – from neglected to more powerful players in EU decision making”** In addition to private actors, such as NGOs but also firms, the legislative organs have also become more powerful through the implementation of the Lisbon treaty and the subsequent institutional reforms of the EU. Their new roles in EU law making will be investigated in this session and their options for increased control on executives will be compared. But, as we still face a variety of institutional settings within the EU member states, one crucial question is to which extent domestic structures hinder or facilitate a stronger involvement of national parliaments, while at the same time there is also a competition between national legislatures and the European Parliament for which institution holds greater legitimacy delegated by European citizens through elections.
  - **Reading:** Neyer, Jürgen, 2014: Justified Multi-level Parliamentarism: Situating National Parliaments in the European Polity, The Journal of Legislative Studies, 20/1, 125–138
- **Session 11: “EU agencies: Frontex and others”** EU Agencies are numerous and often not well known to the public. However, they have developed into influential norm setting institutions and to a certain extent they also gained executive powers instead of simply implementing tasks delegated to them by the Commission. After a general introduction into the topic, we will have a closer look at Frontex, a well-known agency in charge of EU border control that was also involved in the EU's mission Triton aiming to rescue refugees in the Mediterranean. Hence, the main association with Frontex is that it has become a institution to help the EU's attempts to build a “fortress Europe”.
  - **Reading:** Egeberg, Morten/Trondal, Jarle, 2011: EU-level agencies: new executive centre formation or vehicles for national control?, Journal of European Public Policy, 18/6, 868–887 6

## 12. & 13. Monday, April 4, 2016 (double session; 4:40 – 6:30pm)

- **Session 12: "Home and Justice Affairs and the Schengen Agreement in times of terrorism"** One response after the recent attacks in Paris and previously in other European capitals, such as London or Madrid, was that the Schengen agreement and the idea of free movement of persons within the EU have become heavily contested. Many EU governments began to introduce border controls again and in addition certain tools for computer-based surveillance have been introduced in Europe in order to gain more oversight about those people who enter the EU and who move from one member state to another. The concept of securitization, the restriction of freedom and curtailing civil rights through tight legislation in the field of home affairs has become a hot topic for actors engaged in data protection and human right issues. This session will provide insights into the most recent institutional changes and public discourses on the issue.
  - **Reading:** Lavenex, Sandra, 2015: Justice and Home Affairs: Institutional Change and Policy Continuity, in: Wallace Helen/Pollack, Marc A./Young, Alasdair R. (ed.): Policy Making in the European Union, Oxford, 367-387
- **Session 13: "Migration and refugees"** The intensive influx of migrants in 2015 and before is now the one and only political topic in Europe. While in some countries the populations are very receptive towards refugees and a lot of grass-root self-help organizations have developed in Sweden, Italy or Germany, especially East European countries are still more hostile. At the same time, the concept of burden-sharing has for a long time not been taken seriously also by those member states that now ask for it and the recent deal with Turkey to keep refugees within its own territory has been harshly criticized. We will analyze and discuss the latest developments in the common European Asylum system and the impact that these new divisions may have for the idea of European integration and solidarity and for the people impacted by these policy reforms, the asylum seekers and the populations in Europe, that e.g. in Germany are polarized between a culture of welcoming refugees and support for populist, xenophobic political movements.
  - **Readings:** Kaunert, Christian/Léonard, Sarah, 2012: The development of the EU asylum policy: venue shopping in perspective, in: Journal of European Public Policy, 19/9, 1396-1413

## 14. Monday, April 18, 2016 Class Presentations

## 15. Monday, April 25, 2016 Class Presentations