School of Social Sciences
Academic Year 2015/16 Term 1

POSC211  EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS

Instructor Name  Dr. Clara PORTELA
Title  Assistant Professor
Email:  clara.portela@smu.edu.sg
Office:  School of Social Sciences, Level 4

PRE-REQUISITE
None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to European integration and European Union politics. It examines the basic structures and processes of European Union governance and the theoretical conceptualisations of European integration, followed by a comprehensive overview of EU policies in key areas.

COURSE GOALS

This course provides an introduction to the European integration process and basic structures and decision-making processes of the European Union. The course examines selected policies, both the main internal policies of the European Union and the diverse foreign policies of the European Union, as well as co-operation in justice and home affairs. Attention is devoted to the relations with Southeast Asia.

Given that the course is conceived as an introduction to European integration and EU governance, no previous knowledge of Political Science is required. Students from all faculties are welcome. The course is especially adequate for students from the Schools of Business, Law and Economics, and it is strongly recommended for students who plan to participate in exchange programmes with Europe.

Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course the students will be able to:
- understand of the historical context and the central concepts of European integration
- understand the governance actors and mechanisms of the European Union
- analyse and assess current developments and problems of the European Union.
Finally, through presentations, discussion of the readings and regular class participation, students further develop their analytical, critical and synthesis ability, while improving their public speaking skills.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS**

Session will alternate lectures, students' presentations and case-driven discussion of readings. Attendance is compulsory. Students are expected to do the required readings prior to the class sessions, to participate actively in class discussions and exercises and to submit all assignments on time.

Required readings typically consist of two readings. Quizzes typically concern one of the required readings. No laptops and mobile phones are allowed in the classroom.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class presentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Research Essay</td>
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<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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**CONSULTATIONS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

If you want to make an appointment, please send me an e-mail.

**WEEKLY LESSON PLANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 Aug</td>
<td><strong>Introduction: Origins and rationale of European integration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Aug</td>
<td><strong>Institutions (I): Commission and Council</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reading Topics</td>
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| **Construction of the Single Market – EMU and the Euro - the sovereign debt crisis**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>CAP - environmental policy – competition – fisheries - regional policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
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<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>Mid-term break</td>
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<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>Trade Policy</td>
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Main reading:  
Optional reading:  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Main Readings</th>
<th>Optional Readings</th>
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</table>

*CFSP - Promotion of human rights and democracy – “Normative” power – “civilian power” – conditionality – CSDP* |

*Justice and home affairs – migration and asylum* |

Ong, KY. (2012) “Bringing Europe and Southeast Asia closer through
ASEAN and the EU” in D. Novotny and C. Portela (eds) *EU-ASEAN Relations in the 21st Century*, Houndmills: Palgrave

*EU-ASEAN relations – comparative regional integration*

**Democracy/ Public opinion in the EU**

Main reading:

Optional reading:

*Democratic deficit – public opinion and European integration – European identity*

Revision/Preparation for final exam

**CLASS TIMINGS**

Class sessions are typically of 3 hours duration, every Thursday from 15:30 to 18:45 in venue x.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT AND READINGS**

**Textbook:**

Note: Purchasing the textbook is recommended, but not compulsory.
Further reading:


Additional readings to be announced.

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that there are severe penalties associated with plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let me know immediately. You are also welcome to contact the university’s disability support team if you have questions or concerns about academic accommodations: included@smu.edu.sg

Please be aware that the accessible tables in our seminar room should remain available for students who require them.