

PSC 341

Government, Politics, and Policies of the European Union

SUNY Buffalo State

Spring 2022

Department of Political Science & Public Administration

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| How to reach me: | |
| Private Matters | Please communicate about private matters via MyMessages. (Located on the Navigation Bar.) Private matters are those that would typically be asked during my office hours (about your grades, class absences – that concern you only and not the class). |
| Public Matters | For any correspondence such as assignment due dates, a broken web link, questions regarding expectations concerning assignments – that is, anything that you would typically ask by raising your hand in a f2f class – post to the INTERNET CAFÉ. |
| Office Hours | Virtual via MS Teams and in-person on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (no appointment necessary – come in-person or JOIN MEETING) Or, if necessary, by appointment - students should contact Prof Buonanno via Bb My Messages to schedule a meeting. (Teams meeting link is also located on Blackboard and my faculty webpage.) |

Course Description

This course examines the European Union (EU) from a policymaking perspective, specifically what the EU does and what it produces (outputs). We consider the nature of the EU's policy portfolio, theories of European integration, the EU's policy actors, policy processes, and key policies. We also study the EU's budget. Course assessments are "hands-on" rather than consisting of quizzes and exams. Weekly discussion questions invite students to think about some aspect of the assigned readings and current events affecting EU governance. Essays are designed to prepare students to perform at their fullest potential in the SUNY Model European Union (SUNYMEU), which takes place from Thursday, April 7-Saturday, April 9. Buffalo State is hosting SUNYMEU, for the first time in SUNYMEU's 35-year history. Participation in SUNYMEU 2022 is a required part of this course. The \$50 registration fee is waived for this class due to funds the faculty co-directors raised to support BSC students. Our last two class sessions are "post-mortems" on SUNYMEU. Students complete the course with a reflection essay about their SUNYMEU experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Examine the structure of the European Union
2. Explore the policies currently of concern to the European Union and its Member States.
3. Gain expertise in current issues on which the EU is focusing.
4. Analyze the background of the specific person to be represented, i.e., the alter ego of the student-participant.
5. Acquire skills at negotiating, conflict resolution, parliamentary procedure, parliamentary prose, public speaking, and debate.

Required Course Text and News Sources

1. Buonanno, L. and Nugent, N. *Policies and Policy Processes in the European Union*. 2021. 2nd Edition. London: Bloomsbury Press. (Note – any royalties I may earn from sales for this class will be donated to the SUNY Model European Union program.)
2. Politico – Europe. Daily reading. <https://www.politico.eu/>
3. Students should read *The New York Times* regularly. *The New York Times* online is free to members of the Buffalo State community. To sign up for your free online subscription, <https://libanswers.buffalostate.edu/faq/177914>. Focus on articles about Europe, the EU, and transatlantic relations.
4. Additional resources can be found at: "Staying Current on the EU" at <https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/staying-current-eu>

I have also placed a number of books related to EU studies on a bookshelf I created in Ebook Central, which may be useful as you conduct research for your position papers. (The URL is posted to our Bb course site.)

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Table 1: Course Requirements

| COURSE REQUIREMENTS | POINTS |
|---|-------------|
| Weekly Discussion Questions | 140 |
| (Essay) Major Issues Currently Confronting the EU (Due February 13) | 150 |
| Agenda Items (written as a member state group) (Due February 23) | 160 |
| (Essay) Alter Ego (Due March 16) | 150 |
| (Essay) Reflection on SUNYMEU Experience (Due April 20) | 150 |
| Participation in SUNYMEU April 7-9 | 250 |
| TOTAL | 1000 |

Table 2: Points and Grade Chart

Use this chart to compare accumulated points on Bb gradebook with your letter grade.

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | E |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| ≥930 | 900 | 870 | 830 | 800 | 770 | 730 | 700 | 670 | 630 | ≤590 |

Discussion Questions

Each week you will post two (2) discussion questions (DQs) to the discussion forums located on Bb for the current learning module. Each DQ can earn a maximum of 10 points. There are 7 learning modules with DQs for a total of 140 points.

DQs – One (1) derived from the assigned readings and One (1) from current events pertaining to the EU/Europe. These questions serve as the basis for Wednesday’s in-class discussions.

Each DQ should be approximately 50-100 words. A DQ should pose a question, provide background (e.g. comment), and state clearly the reading from which the question is derived (text, p. # and URL for the current event). Proper grammar, clear syntax, concise language is expected.

Due dates listed on Table 3. DQs are due by 11:59 p.m.

Essays/Papers

1. Major Issues Confronting the EU Paper

This paper should identify three issues of current concern to the EU. The issues should be substantially distinct – that is, they should not all be in the same policy areas (e.g., don’t write all three on a foreign affairs or defense issue). One page for each current issue, for a total of three pages. Cite sources in a reference section (not counted as part of the three pages) using APA 7th.

Guide to APA 7th

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Due Sunday, February 13 by 11:59 p.m. (upload to Blackboard)

2. Agenda Item Submissions

Your member state delegation will write two agenda items. See [SUNYMEU 2022 Agenda Proposal Form](#)

Agenda Proposal Components:

Agenda Title

Background

Recommendation

This paper is due to me by Wednesday, **February 23** so I can review and we can work on together and submit by the March 1, 2022 deadline.

Submit on Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.

3. Alter Ego Paper

You will write a paper (2-3 pages) on your SUNYMEU alter ego with respect to the SUNYMEU 2022 agenda items. Paper's components:

- a. identify the position, member state, and responsibilities
- b. brief bio of your alter ego
- c. position you think that your alter ego should take on the agenda items selected by the French Presidency. Be sure to consult with your delegation before writing this section.

Due Wednesday, March 16 by 11:59 p.m. (upload to Blackboard)

(The French Presidency will be posting the agenda no later than March 10.)

4. Reflection Essay

We shape our own learning considerably in hands-on/experiential learning, especially when compared to the traditional classroom experience. In the "post-mortem" session we come together to share our experiences in SUNYMEU. (All students should also fill out the post-SUNYMEU survey. A link to the survey will be emailed to each participant at the end of SUNYMEU.)

The reflection essay is your opportunity to consider both the classroom and SUNYMEU experiences together. Your essay should be two (2) pages, but can be longer if you wish to write more. I summarize the key points brought out in your reflection essays and share these with the

SUNYMEU co-directors. Some questions you might wish to consider: What did you learn about yourself by taking part in SUNYMEU? In what ways might participating in SUNYMEU: enhance your social and professional networks? Helped you to understand the challenges facing the EU? How to debate, negotiate, and agree to an agenda items? How to form alliances? Affected your confidence in speaking in front of others? The level of professionalism of other delegates? Did readings prepare you for SUNYMEU? How might you prepare differently if you participate in SUNYMEU 2023? What were some of the more intriguing aspects about the EU that you learned in this class (including in SUNYMEU)?

Due Wednesday, April 20 by 11:59 p.m. (upload to Blackboard)

Attendance Policy

Come to each class session because that's how you will learn about the EU and prepare together with your delegation for SUNYMEU. Fridays will be reserved for member state delegation planning once we have been assigned our member states. Attendance required at all SUNYMEU sessions (Thursday afternoon April 7 – Saturday evening April 9, 2022).

Late policy for Assessments

Discussion Questions: I do **NOT** grade DQs posted after the due date because they serve as the basis for our Wednesday discussions.

Academic Misconduct

Buffalo State's [official academic misconduct policy](#) states that "all students at the college are expected to display honesty and integrity in completing course requirements and following college academic regulations." "Academic misconduct" refers to any form of plagiarism or cheating on examinations or assignments, and is inconsistent with the aims and goals of the State University College at Buffalo. Source: <http://academicstandards.buffalostate.edu/misconduct>

Course Accessibility

Please refer to <http://sas.buffalostate.edu/information-faculty> for the policy I follow regarding course accessibility.

Table 3: Learning Modules (Due Dates, Readings)

| Learning Modules | Dates | Weekly Discussion Questions Due | Required Readings & Tasks |
|---|--------------|--|--|
| <i>Module 1</i> | 1/31-2/4 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>IEUSS Guide to the SUNY Model European Union</i> Parts I-III (“Bluebook”) • Read SUNYMEU 2022 FAQ • Chapter 1, Buonanno & Nugent (BN) • Familiarize yourself with the website of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union • Register for SUNYMEU 2022 |
| <i>Module 2</i> | 2/7-2/11 | 2/7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bluebook</i> – Parts IV & V • EU Priorities for 2019-24 • BN Chapter 2 & 3 (Theories) |
| <i>Module 3</i> | 2/14-2/18 | 2/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BN Chapters 4-5 (Institution & Actors) • Trio Programme • French Presidency Programme |
| <i>Module 4</i> | 2/21-2/25 | 2/21 | BN Chapters 6-8 (Policy Processes, Policy Cycle, Policymaking Modes) |
| <i>Module 5</i> | 2/28-3/4 | 2/28 | BN Chapters 9 & 14 (Internal Market, Economic & Monetary Union) |
| <i>Module 6</i> | 3/7-3/11 | 3/7 | BN Chapters 18 & 19 (Foreign & Security Policy, The EU’s Budget) |
| <i>Module 7</i> | 3/14-3/18 | 3/14 | BN Chapters 15 & 16 (Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; Migration & Border Control) |
| <i>Module 8</i> | 3/21-3/25 | 3/21 | BN Chapters 12 & 13 (Environment Policy, Social & Cohesion Policy) |
| March 28 – April 1 <i>SPRING BREAK</i> | | | |
| | 4/4 | Last meeting before SUNYMEU | |
| | 4/6 | Pre-Simulation events (optional) | |
| | 4/7-4/9 | SUNYMEU (required) | This is approximately a 30-hour replacement of class meetings. SUNYMEU coupled with preparatory meetings outside of class time constitute contact hours in a three-credit hour course. |
| | 4/11 & 4/13 | Post-Mortem | Our last class meetings. |