

PSC 341

Government, Politics, and Policies of the European Union

Instruction Mode: Traditional

SUNY Buffalo State

Spring 2024

Department of Political Science, Public Administration & Planning

Instructor	Dr. Laurie Buonanno (“Prof B” or “Dr. B”) Faculty webpage
Department	Political Science & Public Administration
Office	Cassety Hall 219
Private Matters	<p>The BEST way to reach me is through Brightspace email. DO NOT email me through Buffalo State Outlook email because your mail might be routed to clutter. SUNYMEU requires close communication, therefore we will also exchange mobile numbers. My cell is 716-830-5108</p> <p>How to reach me:</p> <p>Please communicate about private matters via <i>Brightspace</i> email. All messages are self-contained within BrightSpace. 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).</p>
Public Matters	<p>For any correspondence such as assignment due dates, a broken web link, questions regarding expectations concerning assignments – that can’t wait until our next class meeting – post to the Activity Feed located on our course home page in Brightspace. (I demonstrate in class how to post to the Activity Feed.)</p>
Office Hours	Mondays 12 – 3 p.m. in-person and by appointment. There will also be ample time in class for discussions.

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. In-class discussions 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 Friday, April 14-Sunday, April 16. Our last class session will be a "post-mortem" on SUNYMEU. Students complete the course requirements with a reflection essay about their SUNYMEU experience. Students should also fill out the IEUSS/SUNYMEU confidential/anonymous online questionnaire about their experience as well. Students are sent a link to this survey after SUNYMEU ends.

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. McCormick, John (2020). *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. Eight Edition. The European Union Series. Bloomsbury/Red Globe Press
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. [Sign up for your free online subscription](#). Focus on articles about Europe, the EU, and transatlantic relations.
4. Additional resources can be found at: "[Staying Current on the EU](#)"

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Table 1: Course Requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS
Class Attendance & Participation	100
(Essay) Major Issues Currently Confronting the EU (Mid-February)	125
Agenda Proposal (March 10)	125
(Essay) Alter Ego and position on the SUNYMEU agenda (Due just before or at SUNYMEU – due date depends on when the SUNYMEU student leadership team publishes the agenda.)	125
(Essay) Reflection on SUNYMEU Experience (Due April 21)	125
Participation in SUNYMEU April 12-14	400
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

Essays/Papers (UPLOAD TO BRIGHTSPACE)

Use of AI and wikipedia– perfectly okay. Just be careful to cross-check facts because AI often provides erroneous information. I doubt AI will provide in-depth treatment you will need to write agenda items, but using AI could help you with some background information.

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.

2. Agenda Item Submissions

One agenda item per student or member state team. See [Agenda Proposal Form](#)

See Bluebook for an explanation of how to write an agenda proposal.

See [SUNYMEU 2023 agenda proposals](#)

Agenda Proposal Components:

Agenda Title

Background

Recommendation

We will work on this as a class.

Note: General Secretariat does not write agenda items. These students work as a team editing and collating agenda items with faculty who specialize in EU studies.

3. *Alter Ego Paper*

You will write a paper (2-3 pages) on your SUNYMEU alter ego with respect to the SUNYMEU 2024 agenda items. Paper's components:

- a. Identify the position, member state, and responsibilities.
- b. Include a brief bio of your alter ego.
- c. Discuss the position you think that your alter ego should take on the agenda items selected by the SUNYMEU Student Leadership Team.

Due before SUNYMEU begins so we can discuss as a class and offer feedback.

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 item? 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 were to participate in SUNYMEU 2025? What were some of the more intriguing aspects about the EU that you learned in this class (including in SUNYMEU)?

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is vital because we work as a team. Missing class let's us all down. Fridays are devoted exclusively to MEU of the MUN/MEU club and SUNYMEU planning.

Late policy for Assessments

Due to the nature of SUNYMEU, we need to be flexible about due dates. See suggested due dates, which are coordinated with SUNYMEU agenda and event.

Regarding Services Provided by the Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office helps students navigate the college experience, particularly during difficult situations such as personal, financial, medical, and/or family crises. If you or someone you know needs support, services are available. For a list of support services and information, please visit <http://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/>, 716-878-4618 or stop by 311 Campbell Student Union during business hours.

Other resources:

[Student Conduct and Community Standards Office](#): Phone: (716) 878-3051

[Weigel Health Center](#): Phone: (716) 878 – 6711

[Weigel Health Promotions](#): Phone: (716) 878-6711, *Health Promotions also provides in class presentations. You can find out more at: <http://weigel.buffalostate.edu/node/254>*

[The Counseling Center](#): Phone: (716) 878-4436

[Sexual Violence Prevention information and resources](#)

Food Insecurity

The [Milligan's Food Pantry](#) is an excellent resource for students on campus. Milligan's provides students who are food insecure with the opportunity to get non-perishable food from a campus source.

Tutoring

FREE and UNLIMITED academic support for all students is available, both in-person and online. Students can get assistance through the Math Center, Writing Center, and Tutoring Services located in Butler Library. After-hours online support is available through STAR-NY. Students in EOP may also seek support through the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) in Butler Library. Schedule your appointment today on the [Bengal Success Portal](#) (Find us under Your Services)! For more details check the [tutoring website](#).

Student Accessibility Services

Accommodations: Students who need accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability are invited to make their needs known to the [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\) Office](#), E. H. Butler Library 160, (716) 878-4500, email sas@buffalostate.edu or complete their request by filling out the [Initial Accommodation Request form](#).

Students registered with SAS should use the [Accommodate Portal](#) to submit their "[Semester Request](#)" (Letter of Accommodation) every semester. This letter informs faculty of the student's academic accommodations.

Table 3: Learning Modules (Due Dates, Readings)

Learning Modules	Dates	Required Readings & Tasks	Tasks & Club Activities
Week 1	1/29-2/2	<p>Introduction to SUNYMEU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEUSS Guide to the SUNY Model European Union Parts I-III (“Bluebook”) • Read SUNYMEU 2024 FAQ • Familiarize yourself with the website of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register for SUNYMEU 2024 • Discuss member states & GS of the Council for the European Union
Week 2	2/5-2/9	<p>History of the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bluebook</i> – Parts IV & V • McCormick, Chapters 1 -3 <p>VIEW various short introductory videos about the EU posted by the Trans European Policy Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select member state in your club • Begin work on the agenda proposal for your member state • Scout out rooms in Caudell Hall, assign for SUNYMEU functional meetings
Week 3	2/12-2/16	<p>EU Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trio Programme (see Bluebook, p. 41 of pdf file) • Belgian Presidency Programme (see Bluebook, p. 42 of pdf file) • McCormick, Chapter 4 <p>VIEW Documentaries about the EU’s formation posted the Trans European Policy Association</p>	Work on agenda proposal in class
		No Class 2/19 Presidents’ Day	
Week 4	2/21-2/23	<p>Introduction to Policymaking in the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Chapters 5 & 6 • Compared to the US 	Work on agenda proposal with the club & in class.

<i>Week 5</i>	2/26- 3/01	EU Policies (the policies we discuss will be linked to the agenda items) • McCormick, Chapter 7	Work on agenda proposal with the club & in class.
<i>Week 6</i>	3/04/ 3/08	Work in team on March 4 th EU Policies - Economic & Monetary Union .	Continue discussion from previous week – we need to be flexible as to which policies we examine.
<i>Week 7</i>	3/11- 3/15	Eu Policies – Internal Policies • McCormick, Chapter 8	Review SUNYMEU Agenda (if released)
<i>Week 9</i>	3/18- 3/22	EU Policies – CSDP, CFSP • McCormick, Chapter 9	
	3/25/ 3/29	SPRING BREAK	
<i>Week 10</i>	4/1- 4/5	Parliamentary procedure, reviewing alter ego & Member State strategies	We will use the Bluebook as our guide.
<i>Week 10</i> SUNYMEU		Monday, April 8 – No class, Solar Eclipse Wednesday, April 10 - Check in on SUNYMEU hosting preparations SUNYMEU: Friday, April 12-Sunday, April 14 Buffalo State campus 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.	
Monday, April 15 & 17		Post-Mortem of SUNYMEU	