

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Neyer
Europa-Universität Viadrina

The EU as a Political Community

Polity, Politics and Policies

8 ECTS

Seminar: BA, Sozialwissenschaften-Vertiefung
Dienstag, 11.15-12.45 Uhr, Ort: GD 06, Veranstaltungsbeginn: 03.04.2012

The class provides the participants with an introduction to the EU's polity, politics and policies. It touches upon important theories of integration, discusses the EU's institutional order, analyses pertinent political processes and takes a look into crucial policies. Its method consists on a combination of student presentation and group discussion.

Introductory literature:

Bomberg, Elizabeth/ Peterson, John and Stubb, Alexander (2008) *The European Union: How Does it Work?* Oxford (good introductory book, easy reading)

- Nugent, Neill (2010) *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Palgrave (the most sophisticated and elaborate description of the EU currently available)
- Wallace, Helen/ Pollack, Mark A./ Young, Alasdair R. (2010) *Policy-Making in the European Union*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (for more ambitious students who want to deepen certain aspects of EU policy-making)
- Neyer, J and A Wiener (eds.) (2011) *Political Theory of the European Union*. Oxford University Press (for advanced students with an interest in theory).

Selected Internet resources for further research and information:

- <http://www.europa.eu.int> (EU server with links to all EU institutions, all policy areas, etc.);
- <http://www.europa-digital.de> (regularly updated online service on all aspects of the EU, free newsletter);
- <http://www.euobserver.com/> (English-language online service on all aspects of the EU, updated several times daily, newsletter).

Requirements for completing the course

Regular attendance (no more than two absences allowed), oral presentation, 4000 word term paper with the grade "sufficient" or higher. For formal requirements, see "The Magic Eight" (Appendix).

Agenda

3.4. Organisation, reader, planning presentations

A. Theory

- 10.4. Haas, Ernst B. 1961: International Integration: The European and the Universal Process, in: IO 15:3, 366–392.
- 17.4. Moravcsik, Andrew 1997: Taking Preferences. Seriously. A Liberal Theory of International Politics, in: International Organization, 51(4).

B. Polity

- 24.4. Puetter, U 2012: Europe's Deliberative Intergovernmentalism: the Role of the Council and the European Council in EU Economic Governance, in: JEPP 19:2, 161-178.
- 1.5. Banking Holiday
- 8.5. Scharpf, F.W. 2010: The Asymmetry of European Integration, or Why the EU Cannot be a 'Social Market Economy'. In: SER 8:2, 211-250
- 15.5. Moravcsik, A. 2002: In Defence of the Democratic Deficit. Reassessing Legitimacy in the European Union, in: JCMS 40:4, 603-624.
- 22.5. Follesdal, A/ Hix, S. 2006: Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik, Journal of Common Market Studies, Volume 44, Issue 3, pages 533–562.

C. Politics

- 29.5. Rittberger, B. 2003: The Creation and Empowerment of the European Parliament, in: JCMS 41:2, 203-225.
- 5.6. Tallberg, J. 2008: Bargaining Power in the European Council, in: JCMS 46:3, 685-708.
- 12.6. Marshall, D. 2010: Who to Lobby and When: Institutional Determinants of Interest Group Strategies in European Parliament Committees, in: EUP 11:4, 553-575.
- 19.6. Börzel, Tanja A. 2002: Pace-Setting, Foot-Dragging, and Fence-Sitting: Member State Responses to Europeanization, in: Journal of Common Market Studies 40:2, 193-214.

D. Policies

- 26.6. Schimmelfennig, Frank 2003: Strategic Action in a Community Environment: the Decision to Expand the European Union to the East, Comparative Political Studies 36: 1-2, 156-83.
- 3.7. Manners, Ian 2002: Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?, in: JCMS 40:2, 235-58.

“The Magic Eight”

Guidelines for writing academic papers

- **Proposal:** Discuss your term paper, BA or MA thesis with me before writing it. Send me a one- or two-page abstract per email including an outline of your main thesis (what you want to argue / show / prove or disprove), the structure of your argument and the literature that you intend to use (see below). At this stage, you should already have carried out a systematic literature search and have some knowledge about the state of the scientific debate. Your term paper must be related in a meaningful way to the topic of the seminar in which it is written.
- **Research question:** Start your paper with a research question, that is, with saying what you want to find out! Only the research question can provide the necessary direction for your paper. A research question is always limited in scope and closely related to a specific research interest. It should normally refer to a topic which is also dealt with in the scientific literature.
- **Literature review:** Make a systematic literature review, i.e. check the most important journals in your field for relevant literature published in the last five to ten years! Without a systematic literature search, you are blind and have no idea about the state of affairs in your research area.
- **Focus:** Develop one (!) main argument in your paper! Usually, you know that you have found this argument when you can put it one sentence including no more than a subordinate clause and when at least two friends of yours have understood this sentence after hearing it once. Do not begin writing your paper until this is the case.
- **Creativity:** Be imaginative and make arguments of your own whenever possible. In order to do this, you need to know the relevant literature so that you can develop your own arguments in contrast to others' arguments from the literature.
- **Structure:** Make sure that your paper has a clear and logical structure! Avoid any digression, etc. You are not supposed to show how much you know but that you are able to perform accurate scientific work.
- **Precision:** Write short sentences and, above all, be accurate! Ambiguous sentences make my task unnecessarily difficult and, if repeated, put me in a bad mood. Do not overload your paper with unnecessary statements which are of no use for your argument. An unnecessary sentence is a wrong sentence.
- **Formalities:** Check the spelling, the grammar, the format of footnotes and the bibliographical references! If you write your paper in a language you are not fluent in, ask someone for help. Each mistake you make suggests that you do not take your own work seriously – so why should I?

Evaluation Sheet

Student:

Topic:

Grade:

	very good	good	satisfactory	sufficient	deficient	
research question clear and interesting						research question unclear
references to relevant research						no reference to relevant research
argument clear and focused						argument incoherent and illogical
original argument						mere review of literature without any added value
structure clear and coherent						incoherent structure
language clear and understandable						language poor or incomprehensible
formally correct (cover sheet, citation, etc.)						serious formal defects

Comments:

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Neyer

Date:

