

Georgia Institute of Technology  
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

**INTA 4803: The European Union as a Global Actor  
Spring 2011**

**T & TH 9:35-10:55  
Instructional Center Rm. 117**

**Instructor: Dr. Vicki L. Birchfield**

**Office: 214 Habersham**

**Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment**

**Phone: (404) 385-0604**

**E-Mail: [vicki.birchfield@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:vicki.birchfield@inta.gatech.edu)**

*There will be no peace in Europe, if the states are reconstituted on the basis of national sovereignty.... The countries of Europe are too small to guarantee their peoples the necessary prosperity and social development. The European states must constitute themselves into a federation. --Jean Monnet*

*Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.—Robert Schuman*

*If the ambitious project of European integration fails, the entire world will pay the consequences. --Moisés Naim*

**Course description and objectives:**

The key objective of this course is to examine the nature of the European Union as a global actor and critically assess the extent to which the EU has the institutional capacity and the diplomatic vision and political will to exercise an independent and unified role in international affairs. With the Lisbon Treaty now in effect, the EU has gained new legal personality and expanded institutional mechanisms, including the nascent European level diplomatic corps--the European External Action Service-- to formulate a more effective and coherent set of external policies. The course will trace the evolution of this development through an overview of the treaties, the key institutions and actors, as well as survey the scope and content of the EU's

external policies in the following broad areas: (1) trade and economic governance; (2) conflict management, peacekeeping and international security; (3) human rights, democratization and development; and (4) energy and the environment. Both scholarly and policy debates will be studied to empirically and normatively assess the EU's ability to act, wield influence, and project power in the world. A final part of the course explores the consequences of the EU's emergence as a global actor for the United States and the changing nature of transatlantic relations in an increasingly multi-polar, "post-American" world.

### **Required Textbooks:**

- *European Union Politics*, 3rd edition (2010) by Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borragan
- *The European Superpower* (2007) by John McCormick
- *Growing Apart? America and Europe in the Twenty-First Century* (2008) edited by Jeffrey Kopstein and Sven Steinmo

\*Books are available at the Engineer's Bookstore on Marietta St.

### **Supplementary Readings:**

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester and posted on the course website, T-Square. Also, to enhance the quality of classroom discussions it will be helpful to follow current events and the news related to developments in EU and world politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in the EU are *The Financial Times* and *The Economist* (with caution or a critical eye toward their editorial and political biases), both of which offer discounts for student subscriptions.

**Important websites:** For a vast array of information on the institutions, Member States and current policies of the EU, consult the EU's official website, EUROPA. The URL is: <http://europa.eu.int>

Useful information from the European Union's Delegation to the United States can be found at: [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org)

### **Course Requirements and Grade Distribution:**

Attendance and participation are essential to doing well in the course. Participation comprises 10% of the total grade for the course. Each unexcused absence beyond two allowable cuts will result in a letter grade

deduction for the participation portion of the course grade. Readings should be completed prior to class meetings and you should be prepared for active and engaged discussion. All exams are essay and short answer format. Guidelines for the group projects and in-class presentations, research projects and simulation exercise will be handed out separately and posted on T-Square.

Exam 1	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final (Research Project)	30%
Group Projects/Presentations	10%
Simulation Exercise	10%
Participation	10%

### **Academic Honesty:**

All work must be entirely your own and must be produced in accordance with the Georgia Tech Honor code. Please read the Academic Honor Code carefully (<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/honorcode.html>) and familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities under Institute regulations. Any suspected cases of plagiarism, cheating on the exams or any other form of academic dishonesty will be turned over immediately to the Office of Student Integrity for investigation. If you have any further queries on this topic, please visit the website of the Dean of Students: [www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity](http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity).

## **Themes, Schedule of Classes, and Reading Assignments**

### **Part I. The Historical Foundation and Key Institutional Actors of the European Union**

January 18	Introduction and Overview of Course <b>Reading Assignment:</b> Introductions to each of the textbooks; Naim and Nye articles posted to T-Square
January 20	The Historical Context of European Integration

**Reading Assignment:** Cini & Borragan, pp. 1-66

January 25      Contending Theories and Conceptual Approaches to the Study of the EU

**Reading Assignment:** Cini & Borragan, pp. 71-121

January 27      Key Institutions and Decision Making Processes of the EU

**Reading Assignment:** Cini & Borragan, pp. 141-187

February 1      Program on the Rotating Presidency of the EU  
The Impact of the Lisbon Treaty and the Changing Nature of Member State Leadership in the EU: Assessing the Trio Approach

Guest Speakers: Consul General of Belgium and Honorary Consul of Hungary

**Reading Assignment:** Hand-outs on the EEAS, roles and perspectives of President Van Rompuy and High Representative Lady Ashton

February 3      Other Actors (Third Countries and Interest Groups) and Decision Making in the EU

**Reading Assignment:** Cini & Borragan, pp. 189-224

February 8      The Conceptual and Political Implications of Europeanization

**Reading Assignment:** Cini & Borragan, pp. 405-416

February 10     Discussion and Review for Exam

February 15     **EXAM 1**

## **Part II. Policy and Power Projection in the European Union**

February 17     Rethinking Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The EU as a New Model?

**Reading Assignment:** McCormick, pp.10-58

- February 22      Civilian Power versus Normative Power  
**Reading Assignment:** McCormick, pp. 59-83 and 110-174
- February 24      Catch-up and Group Discussions led by graduate students  
 \*Supplementary Readings on T-Square (articles by Karen Smith, Richard Whitman and Ian Manners)
- March 1            The EU as Economic Superpower: International trade and Global Economic Governance  
**Reading Assignment:** McCormick, pp. 84-109; Cini and Borragan, pp. 225-238.  
 \*For necessary background reading on the EU's internal economic policies, read also Cini and Borragan, pp. 258-274 and 324-339.  
**Group Presentation**
- March 3            From CFSP to ESDP and Beyond: Conflict Management, Peacekeeping and International Security  
**Reading Assignment:** Cini and Borragan, pp. 239-257; Menon and Howarth articles on T-Square  
**Group Presentation**
- March 8            The EU as Promoter of Democracy and Development: (Human rights, democratization, election monitoring, foreign aid, humanitarian assistance and economic development)  
**Reading Assignment:** TBA articles on T-Square  
**Group Presentation**
- March 10          The EU as Global Leader in Energy and Environmental Policy?  
**Reading Assignment:** Cini and Borragan, pp. 358-373 and additional articles on T-Square

## **Group Presentation**

March 15            Catch-Up and Review for Exam

March 17            **Midterm Exam**

March 21-25        **SPRING BREAK**

## **Part III. Values, Action and Global Leadership: Prospects for Europe, Challenges for Transatlantic Relations and the International System**

March 31            State of the Debate: Contending Theoretical Frameworks and Policy Analytic Perspectives on the Future of Europe  
**No Reading/ Lecture & Video-clips from Charlie Rose Interviews with Tony Judt, Chris Patten and T.G. Ash**

April 5              The Transatlantic Values Debates and the Quest for Global Leadership  
**Reading Assignment:** Birchfield article on T-Square; Kopstein and Steinmo, pp. 1-23

April 7              Divergence in EU-US Values  
**Reading Assignment:** Birchfield article on T-Square; Kopstein and Steinmo pp. 24-108, 170-191

April 12             Convergence and Diffusion in the International System  
**Reading Assignment:** Kopstein and Steinmo pp. 109-169

April 14             The Divided West or the Emergence of a Transatlantic Agora?

**Reading Assignment:** Birchfield article on T-Square;  
McGuire and Smith PDF

- April 19            The Future of Diplomacy and the Role of EU-US  
Leadership  
**Reading Assignment:** Kopstein and Steinmo, pp. 192-  
224
- April 21            Group Work and Preparation for Simulation
- April 26            Simulation Exercise
- April 28            **LAST DAY OF CLASS** (Catch Up and Course Review)
- May 5                **Final Exam: Research Projects Due by 12:00 p.m.**