

INTA 2221: Introduction to the European Union

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

SPRING 2024

Monday, Wednesday 2:00-3:15PM - Habersham G17

Instructor: Vince Pedicino

Email: vince@gatech.edu

Office: Sam Nunn International Affairs 157

Office Hours: By appointment

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

This course is designed to familiarize you with the politics of the European Union, concentrating on the period since 2004. The fundamental goal of this course is to examine the historical circumstances behind the creation of the EU, the theoretical explanations underlying the EU and the policy areas and the actual results. The course is divided thematically into four broad sections: 1) historical and theoretical underpinnings, 2) EU institutions, 3) day-to-day policymaking, and 4) the large debates facing the future of the European Union.

We begin by looking at the historical situation at the end of the Second World War. We will then complement our studies with more in-depth investigation of the theoretical explanations for EU development. We will then look into specific EU institutions and their functions. We will look at how the institutions work with each other to create EU-wide law. We will end with debates on higher-level issues that will shape the future of the EU in the form of a simulation of the European Council.

There are no formal prerequisites for this class, but an introductory course in political science or comparative politics is helpful as well as basic knowledge about European political institutions.

Required Reading

One textbook is required for this course. Copies are available at the student bookstores and elsewhere.

- Lelieveldt, Herman, and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

I will be posting additional readings in Canvas.

Being informed about what is going on in the world is always a good idea. We will spend some time in this course discussing contemporary European politics, and though it is not required I highly recommend spending a little time each day checking the international news. Keeping up with European events will enhance the quality of our discussions as we incorporate what we are learning with what we see and read in the news. Listed below are some of the best news sources you can use to stay abreast of events in Europe. If you speak a non-English European language, I can recommend country-specific news outlets as well.

- [The Financial Times](#) (British daily newspaper with quality information on Europe)
- [The Economist](#) (weekly British newsmagazine)
- [BBC News](#)
- [The New York Times](#) (best American coverage of European events)
- [Politico](#) (European version with excellent coverage)

Class Format

This class will meet two times a week for 75 minutes. I expect all students to come to class having done the reading and ready to comment and/or ask questions. Remember, no question is too small or too obvious. Chances are your classmates will be wondering the same thing.

Course Requirements

- Exams (2): 30% each -
- Final Simulation: 40%

Quizzes (30%)

There will be two exams during the semester, each worth 30%. Each of these exams will consist of a series of short answer, matching, and identification questions. These exams will be administered on Canvas while in class.

Final Simulation (40%)

At the end of the semester (during Final exam period), you will engage in a simulation of a crisis meeting of the European Council. You will represent either the government of a country (in the form of that country's Head of Government) or an EU role (such as a member of the Commission). You will be expected to discuss several main issues concerning the EU (such as economic or immigration-type issues). Your grade will depend on the following: preparedness (in the form of the position paper), accurate representation of the role you are following, and active participation in the simulation.

In preparation for the final simulation, you will compile a position dossier on a range of issues facing the EU from your assigned country/role's perspective. You are to compile all of the different policies that have been made and put out by the country or role that you are representing in the simulation. This will probably end up consisting of 8-10 pages of writing. You must submit this electronically in .doc(x) format by the deadline (to be announced). You will use Times New Roman 12-point font with 1" margins. Half of your grade for the simulation will be derived from your position paper.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale (with rounding):

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations. For more information on the Honor Code, visit the OSI website.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

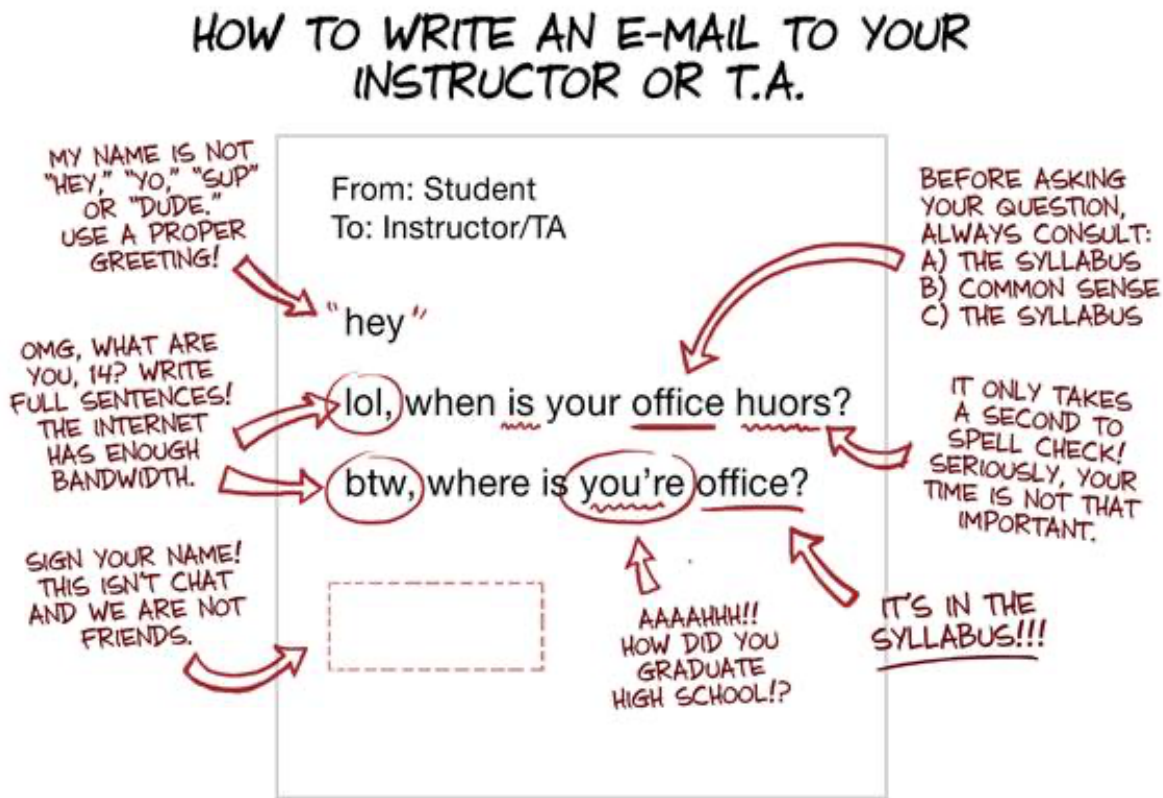
If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at 404.894.2563 or their website as soon as possible to discuss your needs and obtain an accommodations letter. Then, make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your learning needs.

Statement on Inclusion

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Final Caveat

This syllabus is to be considered a living document and, therefore, subject to change. If you have any questions about what you see on the syllabus, please see me to discuss.



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

JORGE CHAM © 2015

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading, Notes, due dates, and more	
1/8-12	Introduction		
1/15-19	History (I)	Chapter 1	M: MLK HOLIDAY
1/22-26	History (II)	Chapter 1	
1/29-2/2	Theories	Chapter 2	
2/5-9	Institutions (I)	Chapter 3	
2/12-16	Institutions (II)	Chapter 3	M: EXAM ONE
2/19-23	Making Laws	Chapter 4	
2/26-3/1	Political Parties	Chapter 7	
3/4-8	Public Opinion	Chapter 5	
3/11-15	Interest Groups	Chapter 6	M: EXAM TWO
3/18-22	SPRING BREAK		
3/25-29	Netherlands, France, Belgium, Italy	Readings in Canvas	
4/1-5	Sweden, Denmark, Germany	Readings in Canvas	
4/8-12	Czechia, Poland, Hungary, Romania	Readings in Canvas	
4/15-19	Simulation Prep		