



## **SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **Area: International Relations**

Instructor: Francisco Seijo

Francisco Seijo is a political science instructor at Middlebury College C.V. Starr School in Spain, NYU Global Campus Madrid and the Instituto de Empresa among others. He received his PhD in political science from Columbia University. Dr. Seijo's research focuses on environmental politics, forest policy, the politics of climate change and the politics of landscape fires ([http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Francisco\\_Seijo](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Francisco_Seijo)). His work has appeared in numerous scholarly publications as well as in the media. In addition to his academic activities Dr. Seijo has worked as a development consultant for various international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### **Course Description**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the history, the institutions and the politics and policies of the European Union (EU) with a particular emphasis on Spain's continuing role in this international governance regime. The first part explores the complex European setting and seeks to establish why the European integration process began, the theoretical - political and economic – underpinnings for its creation, and how and why the powers and membership of the EU have expanded and changed over time. The second part examines the history of the EU since its creation until the present while, in parallel, examining Spain's relationship with the EEC and, later, the EU. The third part looks at the institutional framework of the European Union and its main "pillars" for political and economic integration: monetary integration through the €, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The course concludes by studying the most recent developments in the EU related to the crisis of the Eurozone and Brexit.

### **Learning Outcomes**

As result of taking this course, students will gain in-depth knowledge of the development and politics and policies of the EU. They will comprehend the nature of European integration, the process and outputs of EU policy-making, and the relationship between developments at member-state and European levels. In doing so, they will be able to compare the EU with other political systems and they will become

familiar with key theoretical debates surrounding the analysis of the EU. They will also develop key skills relating to the analysis of complex issues, the ability to produce papers and to participate constructively in group discussion.

## **Assessment**

Formal assessment for this course is by:

- Participation (10%)
- Midterm exam (35%).
- Oral presentation (20%)
- Final paper (35%)

## **Session plan**

### **I. Introduction: Understanding European integration. Why does the European Union exist?**

- (1-2) Cultural and social characteristics of the European continent's political systems.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union.  
p. 1-17*

- (3-4) Economic and political characteristics of the European continent's political systems.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union.  
p. 445-448*

- (5-6) How the EU came about: Theoretical explanations I

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union.  
p. 417-439*

- (7-8) How the EU came about: Theoretical explanations II

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union.  
p. 87-100*

### **II. European historical developments and their influence on the integration process: "Life is what happens while we are making plans"**

- (9-10) Historical developments in Europe from 1945-1957: From the post-war to the Treaty of Rome.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union.  
p. 19-32*

(11-12) Political development in Spain from 1945-1992: The ups and downs of a late arrival to the European club.

*Sebastian Balfour. (2007). The Politics of Contemporary Spain. UK: Oxford University Press. p. 215-235 (Available as photocopy)*

(13-14) From European Economic Community to European Union 1957-1992

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. p. 33-50; 51-66*

(15-16) Patching up the EU “Frankenstein”: From The Euro to Lisbon.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. p. 51-84*

## **Session 17**

### **MIDTERM EXAM**

#### **III. How the EU works and why you have to be either a genius or French to understand it.**

(18-19) The EU's institutional framework: The “executive” branch.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. p. 103-178*

(20-21) The EU's institutional framework: The “legislative” and “judicial”.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. p. 179-225*

(22-23) The € and market integration.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. p. 323-352*

(24-25) The CAP, the CFSP and the budget.

*Neill Nugent. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. p. 353-415*

(26-27) The crisis of the European integration process and Brexit.

Robert Kagan. (2002). Power and Weakness. Policy Review. June-July  
<http://users.clas.ufl.edu/zselden/course%20readings/rkagan.pdf>

Robert Kagan. (2012). Power and Weakness 10 years later. Brookings Institution.  
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2012/03/30-europe-kagan>

Nouriel Roubini. (2015). 9 ways the Eurozone is more fragile than the USA.

<http://www.economonitor.com/nouriel/2015/01/05/9-ways-the-eurozone-is-more-fragile-than-the-us/>

Jensen & Snaith. (2016). "When politics prevail: The political economy of a Brexit"

## **Session 28-29-30**

### **Oral Presentations and Final Paper due**

#### **Reading List**

##### **General Reading**

##### *Required Textbook for the Course*

Neill Nugent. (2010). *The government and politics of the European Union*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

##### *Other Textbooks*

Artis, M, and Nixson, F. 2007. *The Economics of the European Union: Policy and Analysis*. New York: Oxford University Press

De Grauwe. 2014. *The Economics of Monetary Union*. 10th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dinan, D. (2010) *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration* (4<sup>th</sup>. Ed.). Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Dinan, D (2014). *The Origins and Evolution of the European Union* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Oxford University Press

Cini, M, and N Pérez-Solórzano Borragán. 2013. *European Union Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hix, S and Hoyland, B (2011). *The Political System of the European Union* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Palgrave.

Jones, E, Menon, A, Weatherhill, S (2012). *The Oxford Handbook on the European Union*. Oxford University Press

McCormick, J. (2011) *Understanding the European Union* (5th Ed.) Palgrave.

McCormick, J. (2014) *European Union Politics*. Palgrave

Nelsen, B. and Stubb, A (eds.) (2004) *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Nugent, Neill (2010) *The Government and Politics of the European Union* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Palgrave.

Rosamond, B (2000). *Theories of European Integration*. Palgrave

Teasdale, A, and T Bainbridge. (2004). *The Penguin Companion to European Union*: Penguin.

Wallace, H, Pollack, M and Young, A(eds.) (2010) *Policy-Making in the European Union* (6th Ed.) Oxford University Press.

#### *Monographs*

Bartolini, S. 2005. *Restructuring Europe. Centre formation, system building and political structuring between the nation state and the European Union*. Oxford University Press.

Hix, S. 2008. *What's Wrong with the European Union and How to Fix It*. London: Polity.

Hooghe, L , and G Marks. 2001. *Multi-Level Governance and European Integration*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Kelemen, D. 2004. *The Rules of Federalism. Institutions and Regulatory Politics in the EU and Beyond*. Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press.

McKay, D. 2000. *Federalism and European Union: A Political Economy Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McKay, David. 2001. *Designing Europe. Comparative Lessons from the Federal Experience*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Marks, Gary, and Marco R. Steenbergen. *European Integration and Political Conflict. Citizens, Parties, Groups*. Cambridge University Press 2004

Milward, A. 2000. *The European Rescue of the Nation-State*. Second. ed: Routledge.

Morvacsik, A. 1998. *The Choice for Europe. Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Nicoalidis, K and Howse, M. 2001. *The Federal Vision. Legitimacy and Levels of Governance in the United States and Europe*. Oxford: Oxford Univerisity Press.

Stone Sweet, A, and W Sanholtz. 1998. *European Integration and Supranational Governance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.