Course Description
This course will offer an introduction to the history, institutions and politics of the European Union, with an emphasis on policymaking in the EU today. First, the class will review the process of European integration and enlargement since the Treaty of Paris in 1951, including a review of the major theories of European integration. Second, the structure and function of the EU institutions will be introduced, and recent research on the topics of the democratic deficit, the Treaty Reform debate, multilevel governance and EU civil society will be reviewed.

Course Requirements
There will be four major requirements for the course. First, each weekly seminar will follow a discussion and debate format. This means students are required to read all required readings prior to the course and engage in lively debate during every weekly seminar. To fully participate requires careful and thoughtful reading of the material before class, leaving time to assemble the information and make linkages between the pieces.

Second, students are required to write 5 weekly thought papers throughout the semester. Students will be placed in group A or B. Readings in the Syllabus are marked with an A or B indicating which weeks the group of students will write. Thought papers are due by email at 9:00 a.m. the Monday morning of class. Late papers will be marked down a letter grade for each day it is late. They should generally be one single-spaced page not to exceed two single spaced pages. (12 pt. font, 1” margins)

Thought papers should not simply describe the readings, rather they should critically analyze the readings, which means you may critique the works, agree or disagree with the main arguments (giving some argument to support your opinion), or interpret them in light of other works you have read in the course or current events.

Third, each student will be required to lead one seminar discussion during the semester. This will coincide with one of the weeks the individual will be writing a thought paper. The seminar discussion leader will make a short presentation at the beginning of class
discussing the topics of the readings; how they did (or did not) fit together; what the major research questions were; the methodology the authors used to investigate the research question etc. Then, the seminar discussion leader will lead the seminar debate that day – presenting the other seminar participants with questions in order to foster further debate and dialogue.

Fourth, there will be a final paper requirement. This will be an in-depth research paper (approx. 25 pages) on a policy area of the student’s choosing. Topics are due in class on 25 February. The research should consider the history, development and current state of politics surrounding the selected topic area. Further details will be discussed in class the first weeks of the semester. Final papers are due in class in hard copy on April 28, 2008 and a short discussion of the research topic and findings will be presented to the class on April 28th. Late papers will be marked down a letter grade for each day it is late.

Grading
Class Participation 15%
Weekly Thought Papers 30%
Leading Seminar Discussion 15%
Final Assignment 40%

Current Events & Speakers Series
Class discussion will be more interesting if we are all up-to-date on EU current events. In addition to the coverage in national newspapers, you might also find www.euractive.com www.europa.eu and http://euobserver.com helpful.

You may find it interesting to attend the Maxwell European Research Centers Speakers Series which will be held throughout the semester. This Spring we will be bringing in a number of top scholars to present their current work on the European Union. These will be announced in class.

Academic Integrity
As graduate students you know all writing should be informed by the literature that came before you. Giving scholars the credit they are due enhances your argument by showing you have well-researched your topic. Instances of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University’s Academic Integrity Policy http://provost.syr.edu/academicintegrity_office.asp#integrity_policy.

Required Books (available in the SU bookstore)

Course Schedule

14 January – Introductions

21 January – History of the EU – The Founding Treaties, Stagflation & Enlargement

*Required*
- Dinan 2005 – Chapters 1-4

28 January (A) – History of the EU – The Recent Past

*Required*
- Dinan 2005 – Chapter 5 and 6
- Hix 2005 – Chapter 1

4 February (B) – Theories of Integration

*Required*

11 February (A) – The Institutions – European Parliament

*Required*
- Dinan 2005 – Chapters 9 and 10
  - Fifty Years on: Research on the European Parliament, Simon Hix, Tapio Raunio, Roger Scully
  - The Creation and Empowerment of the European Parliament, Berthold Rittberger
Public Support for the European Parliament, Matthew Gabel
The Party System in the European Parliament: Collusive or Competitive?, Simon Hix, Amie Kreppel, Abdul Noury

18 February (B) – The Institutions – European Commission & Council

Required

- Dinan 2005 – Chapters 7 and 8
- Hix 2005 – Chapter 2

25 February (A) – Economic Monetary Union

[Final paper topics due]

Required

- Dinan 2005 – Chapter 13 and 15
- Hix 2005 – Chapter 10

3 March – Guest Speaker

- Wolfgang Wessels - Jean Monnet Chair
- Readings TBA

10 March – SPRING BREAK!
17 March (B) – Democratic Deficit

*Required*


24 March (A) – Multilevel Governance & Europeanization

[Discussion of Paper Topics and Progress]

*Required*


31 March (B) – Enlargement

*Required*

7 April (A) – The EU as an External Actor

Required
- Dinan 2005 – Chapters 16, 17 and 18
- Hix 2005 – Chapter 12

14 April (B) – EU Civil Society

Required

21 April – Social Policy in Europe

Required
- Dinan 2005 – Chapter 14
- Hix 2005 – Chapter 8 and 9

28 April – Research Paper Presentations
[Hard copy of Papers due in class]