POL 3413
SELECTED TOPICS: THE EUROPEAN UNION
PROFESSOR JONES
SPRING 2010

Office Location:C312a
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-3:45
TR 2:00-2:45
Office Phone:524-7143
Email: sjones@jbu.edu

Textbooks:
The Economist

I. Objectives

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- Understand in broad terms, the historical background of the rise of the European Union as a supranational entity.
- Understand, in broad terms, the institutions that make up the European Union.
- Understand the policymaking processes of the European Union, and some of the policies that have been the result of those processes.
- Apply current news articles regarding the European Union and its member states to the theory/history presented in the textbook.

II. Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the following assignments that add up to a total possible of 500 points:

Chapter Summaries (150 points) For each of the chapters in the Nugent book, I would like you to type up a summary of the major points of the chapter. The purpose of these summaries is to demonstrate to me that you have read the material assigned.

Current Event Papers (100 points) Each week I would like for you to read the “Europe” and “Britain” sections of The Economist magazine. I would like for you to write 4 short papers (2-3 pages in length) during the semester. When is up to you, though you cannot turn in more than one paper per week. In your paper you will summarize your chosen article and analyze the article’s content in the context of the textbook material we have studied.
Country Study Papers (150 points) You need to choose one of the current member states of the European Union. You will then write 2 papers of 5-7 pages in length dealing with that country. In the first paper you will outline the political structure of that country, and in the second you will address that country’s relationship to the EU. The first paper will be due just prior to Spring Break, the second by the end of the semester.

Participation (100 points) You need to come to our meetings and participate in the conversations. Your grade on this portion of the class will be based on your ability to demonstrate to me that you are reading the material, understanding it, and able to interact with it. Conversations will include the week’s articles from the Economist magazine, so even if you are not turning in a paper that week, you should still be reading it.

III. Miscellaneous Policies

A. Attendance

Because this is an independent study course, you are allowed to miss only one of our meetings. I will be flexible as to when we meet, so this should not be a problem, but if we have set a meeting time, and you do not show up, that will count as an absence.

B. Statement on Academic Integrity

As a Christian institution of higher education, John Brown University seeks to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Violations of these standards will result in substantial penalties. At a minimum, any instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and a report submitted to the academic dean. Further infractions will result in failure of the course and possible suspension. For additional information and examples, refer to the Academic Integrity section on pages 4-5 of your John Brown University Student Handbook.

C. Civility

I hope and expect that we will treat each other with civility and respect in our discussions. There will no doubt be instances this semester where you think that something I have said or a classmate has said is totally off the wall and ridiculous. No matter how tempted you are to say something disparaging, please remember that we are here to have a discussion, and that that can only take place where everyone feels they are welcome to participate. Thus, do not abuse your freedom to comment by ridiculing the comments of others.

D. Grade Scale

The grade scale I will use to calculate your final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>465-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450-464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>400-449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>440-449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>410-439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>360-389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>390-399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>350-359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>300-339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>340-349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E. Policy on Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who need academic accommodations should make an appointment with the Director of Student Support Services (238-8770) to begin the accommodation process. They also are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible. Students without documented disabilities who feel they may have difficulty with this course are also encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss what steps need to be taken to be successful.

F. Breaks & Holidays

Friday, March 19, and Thursday, April 1, are regular class days. Students should not make travel plans for these dates until after their regularly-scheduled classes have ended. In addition, I am going to be gone for a further week in April. I will let you know more about what we will do during that week as the time approaches. Thus, it is especially important that you attend class on the other days that we are meeting.

G. Final Exam Policy

There is no final “exam” for this class. We will spend some time during finals week turning in final assignments and having our last discussion over the material.

H. Time Commitment

Do not be deceived by the low number of pages listed on some of the reading assignments. The material is going to require you to spend a fair amount of time to digest. The general rule of thumb for a college course is that you should be spending around 2 hours working for every hour spent in class. Since this is the equivalent to a three credit course, the homework could amount to somewhere around 75 hours of work over the term. For some of you, this material will come easier than for others, and thus require less time. For others, this class will be unusually difficult, and it will absorb more of your time than you think it should. But in all cases, if you will stick with the readings, participate in class, I hope that by the end of the semester we will all have found this course to have been a rewarding experience!