

# ITRN 761 European Political and Economic Union

## Syllabus

Spring 2003

The European Union (EU) is the most advanced regional political and economic entity in the world. It is more than a traditional international organization but less than a traditional nation state. It has some of the attributes of a federation—such as a central bank—but lacks sovereignty in the “high political” areas of internal and external security, including defense. Nevertheless the EU is central to the lives of its 375 million citizens because of its extensive regulatory authority. This course will examine the history, politics, and policies of the EU, focusing on selected policy areas and on such critical issues as institutional reform and enlargement. The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with key aspects and elements of the EU, a major player in the global system and a close partner of the United States.

*Instructor:* Desmond Dinan, Jean Monnet Professor of Public Policy, GMU  
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*Class Time:* Thursday, 7:20-10:00pm

*Classroom:* Arlington Campus ??

*Office Hours:* Thursday, 6:00-7:15pm (Arlington Campus 207)

*Methodology:* The class will be conducted as a seminar, with discussion based on the assigned reading.

*Assessment:* Assessment will consist of two reports on country- or sector-specific aspects of European political and economic union. Specific assignments, and their format and deadlines, will be decided early in the semester.

*Core Texts:* The core texts for the course are Desmond Dinan, *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999), and Wallace, Helen, and Wallace, William, *Policy-Making in the European Union*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

*Additional Reading:* There is a voluminous literature on the EU consisting of reference books, monographs, journal articles, dedicated newspapers and newsletters. The EU also publishes its own material, ranging from information leaflets, to academic studies, to legally binding regulations and directives. As an EU documentation center, GMU has a collection of EU official documentation (in the Arlington campus library). The EU has a large, authoritative website ([http://europa.eu.int/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm)). Students should use the

website and other sources to update the material in the core text and to keep abreast of current developments in the EU.

*Class sessions):*

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| Session 1  | Introduction: the EU and its member states  |
| Session 2  | Issues in European Integration: 1945-1989<br>(Dinan, Chapters 1-5)  |
| Session 3  | Issues in European Integration: 1989-2002<br>(Dinan, Chapters 6-7)  |
| Session 4  | Institutions and Decision-Making<br>(Dinan, Part 2; Wallace and Wallace, Part 1)  |
| Session 5  | Market integration<br>(Dinan, Chapters 12 and 13;<br>Wallace and Wallace, Chapters 4, 7 and 13)                                 |
| Session 6  | Competition, enterprise, employment and social policy<br>(Dinan, Chapters 14 and 15;<br>Wallace and Wallace, Chapters 5 and 10) |
| Session 7  | Biotechnology and the environment<br>(Wallace and Wallace, Chapters 11 and 12)  |
| Session 8  | Cohesion policy and the budget<br>(Dinan, Chapter 15; Wallace and Wallace, Chapters 8 and 9)                                    |
| Session 9  | External relations<br>(Dinan, Chapter 17; Wallace and Wallace, Chapters 14 and 15)  |
| Session 10 | Economic and Monetary Union<br>(Dinan, Chapter 16; Wallace and Wallace, Chapter 6)  |
| Session 11 | Internal security<br>(Dinan, Chapter 15; Wallace and Wallace, Chapter 18)   |
| Session 12 | Enlargement<br>(Wallace and Wallace, Chapters 16)   |
| Session 13 | Relations with the United States<br>(Dinan, Chapter 18)   |

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