

EUROPEAN UNION

Overview and Teaching Opportunities



Introduction

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- Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, FAU
- Teaching: Comparative Politics, European Politics, Latin American Politics
- Research: Minority rights, particularly women's rights, in Europe and Latin America

Definition

- The European Union is a regional organization in which the member states attempt to cooperate in issues of mutual interest, and voluntarily agree to pool their sovereignty in several competencies, and thus, allow decisions and policies to be made at the supranational EU level in those issue areas.

Definition

- UPO
- State and international organization
- Teaching Opportunities: domestic vs. international institutional structures; leadership for domestic voting audience vs. international consensus-building with peers

Division of EU Course

- Development of EU
- Institutions
- Policies
- Simulation

Development of EU

- Origins
 - Centuries old
 - WWII – ideas for current process of European integration
 - Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman
- Processes of deepening and widening
 - Widening
 - 7 enlargements
 - 28 member states
 - (24 official languages)
 - Deepening
 - Series of treaties and treaty reforms
 - From coal and steel to a common currency and coordinated foreign policy
 - Latest treaty reform (Lisbon 2009) – EU has a President and Foreign Minister

Development of EU

- Teaching Opportunities
 - European history from the inter-War period on
 - European politics from WWII to today
 - Consensus-building exercises
 - Writing exercises – drafting treaties/policies
 - European-US relations history from inter-War period on

Institutions

- European Council
 - Heads of State and Government
 - Domestic elections
- Council of Ministers
 - Cabinet ministers of 28 member states
 - Main decision-making body
 - Domestic elections
- European Commission – appointed
- European Parliament
 - Directly elected by people
 - Weaker house of legislature
- European Court of Justice – appointed
- European Central Bank – appointed
- Teaching Opportunities: Differences between presidential and parliamentary political systems

Policies

- Agriculture – protection; cost
- Cohesion
- Single market – four free movements
- Economic and Monetary Union – euro
- Teaching Opportunities:
 - Important role of agriculture in politics and trade
 - Economics

Simulation and other exercises

- Debate
 - To join or not to join the EU
 - To join or not to join the euro
- Writing
- Simulation