The European Union has been subject to in-depth theoretical and empirical research from both scholars of comparative politics and international relations. It arguably has found more comprehensive attention as a research subject than most other international and regional organizations, such as the World Trade Organization or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Despite the existence of a large number of studies on a wide range of EU-related topics that are relevant to different research environments – such as the widening and deepening of the EU, patterns of formal and informal negotiations, supranational-national linkages, or foreign and security policies – EU scholars have largely operated in a vacuum and few scholars use the insights of EU studies to advance their research in other areas (and vice versa).

This course explores contemporary research on the European Union from a comparative and international relations perspective, and links this research to broader questions of global governance and political economics. Special attention will be given to a discussion of the applicability of EU research for theories of global governance and comparative/international political economy, including a discussion of relevant topics such as widening and deepening, bargaining and negotiations, delegation, foreign and environmental policies, trade and finance, as well as the domestic effects of international cooperation. The course is conducted in a very research-oriented manner. That is, we will focus on topics that are of relevance to more general questions of global governance and where EU research may have been ahead of other IR research that addresses similar questions in terms of theoretical and empirical development. We will discuss to what extent this research can be utilized to bring along research that is not necessarily focused on the European Union.

The course is tailored to two audiences. Some students will be more interested in learning from EU studies that focus on a comparative perspective, and others will want to learn from EU studies that focus on an international relations perspective. In this course, students will be exposed to both perspectives as this is crucial to an understanding of the value of research on the European Union.

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REQUIREMENTS:
There are three requirements for this course, with the percentage of the course grade that each constitutes shown in parentheses:

1. **Class Participation (30%).** I expect that you come to class prepared and participate actively. The success of this course entirely depends on your participation and you should therefore take this component very seriously. Most of our sessions focus on the discussion of the relevance of the readings for broader questions of comparative studies and international relations and I expect you to defend and discuss your insights and opinions in class.

2. **Discussion Leadership (30%).** You will be expected to lead the discussion in one or more classes (depending on the number of course participants). When you prepare for your discussion you want to think about aspects that are particularly relevant for your topic, and prepare an opinion about the extent to which you believe the readings may inform (or are informed) more general research in comparative politics or international relations. This involves conducting some research on research in other area that would be of relevance (has anything been done on this topic; if yes, what are similarities/differences, etc). A good discussion leader will guide the other participants along one or two main topics drawing from the readings (rather than simply discussing the articles subsequently without putting them in greater context) and provide the class with ideas for applicability (i.e. what other international or comparative settings could the readings be applied to; and if not, why not).

3. **Research Paper (40%).** You will write a 15-20 page research paper which will be due at 5pm December 4th. The topic has to be cleared with me first during office hours. You will present your proposal on October 16 during class. You have two options:

   - You can write a research paper that proposes to utilize some of the literature that we have discussed in class (or any other EU literature) for application to other research areas (preferably a topic of your interest). The proposal has to identify a question or puzzle, discuss how you would try to answer that question (theoretical argument, hypotheses, and research design), lay out the necessary steps of the project, and suggest how the EU-related literature would advance research in that area.

   - You can advance a research paper that you wrote for a different course and turn it into a (publishable) conference paper. In this case, you need to discuss with me how you propose to advance on your previous work. For example, if you have a research design paper you can conduct the empirical analysis. The paper should include a discussion on how the EU-related research would advance research in that area (or not).

   - You can write a research paper that proposes to solve a puzzle in the EU-related literature by adapting from other research areas. The proposal has to identify a question or puzzle, discuss how you would try to answer that question (theoretical argument, hypotheses, and research design), lay out the necessary steps of the project, and suggest how the more general literature would advance EU-related research.

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SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (9/25): The European Union as Research Laboratory
Week 2 (10/2): Delegation and Principal-Agent Relationships
Week 3 (10/9): Bargaining in the European Union
Week 4 (10/16): Norms and Socialization in European Cooperation
Week 5 (10/23): EU Widening and Deepening
Week 6 (10/30): European Political Economy
Week 7 (11/6): European Cooperation and Domestic Politics
Week 8 (11/13): European “Democratic” Governance?
Week 9 (11/20): Public Opinion and Political Parties
Week 10 (12/4): EU Foreign and Environmental Policies

READINGS:

Week 1: The European Union as a Research Laboratory?

- Core Readings:

- Further Readings:

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Week 2 Delegation and Principal-Agent Relationships

- **Core Readings:**

- **Further Readings:**

Week 3 Bargaining in the European Union

- **Core Readings:**

Further Readings:


Week 4 Norms and Socialization in European Cooperation

Core Readings:


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Further Readings:


Week 5 EU Widening and Deepening

Core Readings:


Further Readings:

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**Week 6 European Political Economy**

- Core Readings:

- Further Readings:

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**Week 7 European Cooperation and Domestic Politics**

- Core Readings:


- Further Readings:

*Updated: April 28, 2016*


**Week 8 European “Democratic” Governance?**

* Core Readings:


* Further Reading:


**Week 9 Public Opinion and Political Parties**

* Core Readings:

• Further Readings:

Week 10 EU Foreign Policies

• Core Readings:

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Further Readings:


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