

**STV 2500**  
**EU decision-making processes and policy areas**  
**SPRING 2015**

**Instructor:** Prof. Bjørn Høyland

**Time and Location: Lectures:**

**Email:** bjorn.hoyland@stv.uio.no

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10:00-11:00, Room 933

**Seminars:** To be announced

## Overview and Objectives

Starting from the observation that the European Union possesses many of the attributes of a modern political system, the aim of the course is to enable students to apply general theories of political science in order to explain how the EU works.

The first part of the course covers the governing structure. We start by investigating the EU executive, focusing in particular on the Commission. Then, we study the legislative process of the EU, investigating the causes for legislative gridlock in more detail. We end the first part with an investigation of the judicial system of the Union, emphasizing the role of the European Court of Justice.

In the second part, we study politics in the EU. We look at public opinion, paying particular attention to the role of information and trust amongst citizens in the EU. Also, we discuss democracy in the EU context and the role of parties and elections, in addition to the role played by interest groups. In particular, we investigate how parties adopt policy-positions and how voters respond.

The third part covers various policy-areas. First, we look at regulatory policies, paying particular attention to recent developments in the field of financial services. Second, we look at expenditure policies, focusing on the role of structural and regional funds. Third, we look at economic and monetary policies, highlighting the issue of fiscal discipline. Fourth, we look at interior policies, focusing on asylum and citizenship policies. Finally, we discuss foreign policies, focusing on international aid.

## Teaching

There will be 10 lectures and 4 seminars. The lectures will discuss the material covered in the relevant text-book chapters and provide the background for the topics discussed in the assigned journal articles. In the seminars, there will be a discussion of the assigned journal articles in light of the relevant textbook material. Students are expected to come well prepared and participate actively in the discussion. The written assignments will be based upon a combination of the relevant textbook chapters and the assigned journal articles.

## What will you learn?

### Knowledge:

- Understanding of relevant political science theories for analyzing key aspects of government, politics, and policies in modern political systems
- Overview of the developments in the EU in all key aspects of its political system
- Familiarity with the scholarly debate in all main areas of government, politics and policies in the European Union

### Skills:

- Ability to identify and apply relevant general theories from political science to analyse any aspect of the political system of the EU
- Ability to summarize and discuss journal articles in the field of EU politics

### General knowledge:

- Develop the ability to write short academic texts
- Be able to consume, summarize, and evaluate academic research

The textbook for the course is Simon Hix & Bjørn Høyland (2011) *The Political System of the European Union*. This textbook applies general political science theories on various aspect of government, politics and policies in the EU. For each week, one current topic will be given particular attention through a series of related journal articles.

## Assessment

The assessment for this course is in the form of six hand-in written assignments on topics discussed. The written assignments are due one week after the seminar. The word limit on the written assignments is 1000. Each written assignment counts  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the final grade. All written assignments must be passed in order to pass the course. The topics for the assignment will be posted during the last lecture prior to the seminar where the topics will be discussed.

## Required Texts

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition

## Useful background texts

- Chalmers, D., Davies, G., and Monti, G. (2010). *European Union Law: Text and Materials*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition
- Nugent, N. (2010). *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. Palgrave, 7th edition

## Course Outline

### Executive Politics (Week 1)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 2)
- Crombez, C. and Hix, S. (2011). Treaty Reform and the Commission's Appointment and Policy Making Role in the European Unions. *European Union Politics*, 12(3):291 – 314
- Hooghe, L. (2012). Images of Europe: How Commission Officials Conceive Their Institution's Role. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 50(1):87 – 111
- Schafer, J. (2014). European Commission Officials' Policy Attitudes. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 52(4):911 – 927

### Legislative Politics (Week 2)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 3)
- Klüver, H. and Sagarzazu, I. (2013). Ideological congruency and decision-making speed: The effect of partisanship across European Union institutions. *European Union Politics*, 14(3):388 – 407
- Crombez, C. and Hix, S. (forthcoming). Legislative activity and gridlock in the European Union. *British Journal of Political Science*
- Junge, D., König, T., and Luig, B. (forthcoming). Legislative Gridlock and Bureaucratic Politics in the European Union. *British Journal of Political Science*

### Judicial Politics (Week 3)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 4)
- Stone Sweet, A. and Brunell, T. L. (1998). Constructing a Supranational Constitution: Dispute Resolution and Governance in the European Community. *American Political Science Review*, 92(1):63–81
- Carrubba, C. J., Gabel, M., and Hankla, C. (2008). Judicial Behavior under Political Constraints: Evidence from the European Court of Justice. *American Political Science Review*, 102(4):435 – 452
- Stone Sweet, A. and Brunell, T. (2012). The European Court of Justice, State Noncompliance, and the Politics of Override. *American Political Science Review*, 106(1):204 – 213

- Carrubba, C. J., Gabel, M., and Hankla, C. (2012). Understanding the Role of the European Court of Justice in European Integration. *American Political Science Review*, 106(1):214 – 223

### **Seminar: Government in the EU** (Week 4)

Discussion of topics for assignment 1 and 2.

### **Public Opinion** (Week 5)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 5)
- Boomgaarden, H. G., De Vreese, C. H., Schuck, A. R. T., Azrout, R., Elenbaas, M., Van Spanje, J. H. P., and Vliegenthart, R. (2013). Across time and space: Explaining variation in news coverage of European Union. *European Journal of Political Research*, 52(5):608 – 629
- Elenbaas, M., De Vreese, C. H., Boomgaarden, H. G., and Schuck, A. (2012). The impact of information acquisition on EU performance judgements. *European Journal of Political Research*, 51(6):728 – 755
- Klingemann, H. D., H.-D. and Weldon, S. (2013). A crisis in integration? The development of transnational dyadic trust in the European Union, 1954 - 2004. *European Journal of Political Research*, 52(4):457 – 482

### **Democracy, Parties and Elections; Interest representation** (Week 6)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapters 6 and 7)
- Adams, J., Ezrow, L., and Somer-Topcu, Z. (forthcoming). Do Voters Respond to Party Manifestos or to a Wider Information Environment? An Analysis of Mass-Elite Linkages on European Integration. *American Journal of Political Science*
- Klüver, H. and Rodon, T. (2013). Explaining Policy Position Choice of Europarties: The Effect of Legislative Resources. *British Journal of Political Science*, 43(3):629 – 650
- Garry, J. and Tilley, J. (forthcoming). Inequality, state ownership and the European Union: How economic context and economic ideology shape support for the European Union. *European Union Politics*

### **Seminar: Politics in the EU** (Week 7)

Discussion of topics for assignment 3.

## Regulatory Policies (Week 8)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 8)
- Grossman, E. and Leblond, P. (2011). European Financial Integration: Finally the Great Leap Forward? *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 49(2):413 – 435
- Seikel, D. (2014). How the European Commission deepened financial market integration. The battle over liberalization of public banks in Germany. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 21(2):169 – 187
- McPhilemy, S. (2014). Integration rules, disintegrating markets: the end of national discretion in European banking? *Journal of European Public Policy*, 21(10):1473 – 1490

## Expenditure Policies and the Budget (Week 9)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 9)
- Dellmuth, L. M. and Stoffel, M. F. (2012). Distributive politics and intergovernmental transfers: The local allocation of European Union structural funds. *European Union Politics*, 13(3):413 – 433
- Chalmers, A. W. (2013). Regional Authority, Transnational Lobbying and the Allocation of Structural Funds in the European Union. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 51(5):815 – 831
- Tosun, J. (2014). Absorption of Regional Funds: A Comparative Analysis. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 52(2):371 – 387

## Seminar: Regulatory and expenditure policies (Week 10)

Discussion of topics for assignment 4.

## EMU (Week 11)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 10)
- Alt, James, L. D. D. and Wehner, J. (2014). It Isn't Just about Greece: Domestic Politics, Transparency and Fiscal Gimmickry in Europe. *British Journal of Political Science*, 44(4):707 – 716
- Kelemen, R. D. and Teo, T. K. (2014). Law, Focal Points, and Fiscal Discipline in the United States and the European Union. *American Political Science Review*, 108(2):355 – 370

- Bechtel, M. M., Hainmuller, J., and Margalit, Y. (forthcoming). Preferences for International Redistribution: The Divide over the Eurozone Bailouts. *American Journal of Political Science*

### **Interior Policies** (Week 12)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 11)
- Avdan, N. (forthcoming). Do asylum recognition rates in Europe respond to transnational terrorism? The migration-security nexus revisited. *European Union Politics*
- Toshkov, D. D. (2014). The dynamic relationship between asylum applications and recognition rates in Europe (1987 - 2010). *European Union Politics*, 15(2):192 – 214
- Dronkers, J. and Vink, M. P. (2012). Explaining access to citizenship in Europe: How citizenship politics affect naturalization rates. *European Union Politics*, 13(3):390 – 412

### **Foreign Policies** (Week 13)

- Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition (Chapter 12)
- Baccini, L. and Urpelainen, J. (2012). Strategic Side Payments: Preferential Trading Agreements, Economic Reform, and Foreign Aid. *Journal of Politics*, 74(4):932 – 949
- Schneider, C. J. and Tobin, J. L. (2013). Interest Coalitions and Multilateral Aid Allocation in the European Union. *International Studies Quarterly*, 57(1):103 – 114
- Schneider, C. J. and Urpelainen, J. (2014). Partisan Heterogeneity and International Cooperation: The Case of the European Development Funds. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58(1):120 – 142

### **Seminar: EMU, Interior, and Foreign policies** (Week 14)

Discussion of topics for assignment 5 and 6.