

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE
Course Descriptions and Bibliographies
ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008
European Studies (Undergraduate)

EST 2140 Politics of the European Union (4 ECTS)
Assessment – 2 hour written test at the end of the semester
Lecturer – Mark Harwood

The course aims to apply political concepts to an understanding of the dynamics of the EU's political system. The course will begin by analysing the actors who participate in this political system, taken as given that students will already have a basic understanding of the EU institutions. Actors covered will include national coordination mechanisms, political parties and movements and a detailed look at interest groups. The credit will then move on to a look at how these actors interface with the EU institutions in the operation of the EU's political system in terms of the three main branches of government, namely executive, legislative and judicial politics. The credit will end by looking at the EU effect on national political systems, namely Europeanization.

The topics that are to be covered are the following:

- The EU as an example of governance, not government
- National level politics: national coordination mechanisms
- Political Movements at the National and EU Level
- National and European-level actors: interest types
- Interest Group Targets: regional, national and the European level
- EU level politics: executive politics
- EU level politics: legislative politics
- EU level politics: judicial politics

Select Bibliography

Core Text:

'The Political System of the European Union', Simon Hix. 2nd Edition, Palgrave, UK. 2005

Addition texts:

'European Union: power and policy-making', Jeremy Richardson (ed.). 2nd Edition, Routledge, UK. 2005

'European Union Politics', Michelle Cini. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press, UK. 2007.

'Representing Interests in the European Union', J. Greenwood. 1st Edition, Macmillan, UK. 1997.

'The Institutions of the European Union'. John Peterson and Michael Shackleton (Eds.). 1st Edition. Oxford University Press, UK. 2002.

'The Government and Politics of the European Union'. Neill Nugent. 5th Edition. Palgrave, UK. 2003.

'Understanding the European Union'. William Nicoll and Trevor Salmon. 1st Edition. Pearson Education Limited, UK. 2001.

'Policy-making in the European Union'. Helen Wallace and William Wallace (eds.). 4th Edition. Oxford University Press, UK. 2000.