About the Course

The European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) seem to be everywhere in the news these days. Both have faced a series of major challenges since the end of the Cold War, both have ultimately decided to enlarge their membership to take in post-communist states in Central and Eastern Europe, and both have faced enormous tensions generated by the events of 9/11 and the wars in Iraq and, especially, Afghanistan. In this course, we will turn sustained attention to these two prominent international organizations. We will look at their historical evolution to a certain extent, but this class is centered around various interpretations of the current dilemmas that each organization faces. You will notice right away that the authors we will read have very different views on some of these issues. Because both organizations also play a central role in “transatlantic” relations, we will also look at the American relationship with the EU and its role inside NATO.

The senior capstone seminar is a requirement of the BYU political science department and can fulfill the capstone requirement for international relations majors. It provides the context in which most of our majors write their major senior paper or, in some cases, a draft of their honors thesis.

This course will largely follow a book-a-week format, though some weeks also will be given over to preparing for and developing your capstone papers. As a general rule, we will focus on one book each week (i.e. two class meetings). The meetings are long enough to allow us to explore the books’ argument and evidence in some detail, and these discussions will also help you formulate and carry out ideas for your major research paper. This is not a lecture course. Students will carry the bulk of the discussion, and I will work with you to ensure that we make the most of our time together. Please note that if your work or class schedules will not allow you to keep up with class readings and discussion preparation, then you will need to find another class. The department is actually teaching a good number of capstones this semester.

I assume you will actively participate in identifying and discussing the main issues in the books. You should read the assignment carefully and completely, and come to class ready to make connections to other readings and to contemporary events, to synthesize points and to ask questions.

Course Objectives

No class can do everything. In this class, I have three primary goals, and I have chosen assignments that can help you achieve these objectives:
1) To learn to argue – especially to recognize when you are making a contentious claim and to learn to provide reasons and evidence for your views.
2) To give you a structure that can result in an excellent senior paper – something you can be proud of as a cap to your college career.
3) To expose you to current and engaging scholarship on the EU and NATO and to teach you to think hard and think well about the ideas the books advance.

Requirements

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<td>Short initial paper</td>
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<td>Research design paper</td>
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<td>Findings paper</td>
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<td>Email questions and comments</td>
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There are no exams in this course, but there are three shorter formal papers in addition to the main research paper of about 20-25 pages. All papers will be written based on your analysis of class readings and from sources acquired in or through Lee Library and, to a limited extent, through the internet. The research paper will allow you to analyze in detail some aspect of the EU or NATO in which you are especially interested. This requirement actually consists of several separate requirements: getting a topic approved, writing a research design paper, presenting your work to the class (twice), writing a paper on your preliminary findings, and writing a final draft of your paper. You will also write two peer reviews of one page (single spaced) for each of two of your fellow students. Your grades for your oral reports and your peer reviews are incorporated into your overall paper grades for the research design and findings papers.

1) Proposal and topic approval: a one-page description of your topic and research question plus an annotated bibliography with at least four printed (not internet) sources relevant to the question. This proposal must be turned in and approved by Tuesday, October 5. To gain approval, simply submit the proposal anytime before September 30 and then make an appointment to discuss it with me in the next few days (I will hold extra office hours for this, and I will be fairly flexible). I will return proposals in class on October 5. In most cases, you will need to do some revisions after our meeting. Please note that our early readings focus more on NATO and transatlantic relations, so if you want to do an EU topic, you will likely need to “read ahead” at least enough to write your one-page proposal.

2) A paper on your research design. This paper will be 5-6 double-spaced pages (a detailed assignment sheet will be distributed). Due by Thursday, October 21 at 5
3) A paper on your primary research findings. This paper will be 5-6 double-spaced pages (a detailed assignment sheet will be distributed). Due by Tuesday, November 23 at 5 pm to the Political Science Secretaries’ office in 750 SWKT. An oral presentation and peer review are associated with this assignment as well.

4) Final draft (20-25 double spaced pages) is due by Monday December 13 at 5 pm, again to the Political Science Secretaries’ office in 750 SWKT. If you would like your final paper returned to you, you also should leave a self-addressed envelope with the paper when you turn it in. Please note: I do not give extensions on research papers.

The research paper should build an argument while also considering alternative viewpoints. Discussion of paper topics among classmates is encouraged as is the use of the writing center for a range of “craft” issues. The prose must, of course, be your own, and I expect standard social science composition form for attribution of ideas to others (i.e., Author: Page) plus a bibliography. I prefer Turabian, but feel free to consult with me about an alternative system. If I find a student plagiarizes a paper, the student fails that paper, and there may be additional consequences as well. Please don’t jeopardize your integrity by using the work of others without attribution.

The papers are due as indicated in the syllabus, and no extensions will be given except in the case of truly exceptional personal circumstances. The ever-popular “computer breakdown” excuse works much better if you have hard copies of previous drafts to document your work up to the bitter moment – we’ve all had it – when the pepsi spilled/meteor hit/power surge baked/all of the above, and you were left with nothing but a smoking hard drive and a dim memory of a once triumphant thesis. Absent solid documentation, don’t bring this one up.

Reading and Email Assignments

While all class reading are in English, I would love to see many of you using your language abilities to incorporate some foreign-language texts into your final seminar paper. All class texts are available for purchase in the bookstore. Please buy a copy of each text so that you can mark it up in preparation for our class discussions. You should always bring your text to class.

The following assignments are the tentative plan for the semester. The syllabus is subject to change as I see fit. Before each class, you should submit, via email, comments and questions about that day's reading assignment. 10% of your grade will be determined by these short (2-3 paragraph) submissions (see handout). I read these emails each day before class. Though I will not grade them, I monitor their quality carefully and will, on occasion, give feedback about them. They are due by 11 am on the day of class; each
student may miss two emails during the semester without penalty. Please do not submit an email if you have not completed the reading assignment for that day.

T 8/31  Introduction to the course.

Th 9/2  No Class.


First paper assigned (due September 17).

T 9/14  Class Meets at 2:00 pm in 115 MCKB, where we will listen to the lecture by Tora Aasland, Norwegian Minister of Research and Higher Education. Attendance is required. We may have a chance for a Q&A in 793 SWKT prior to the lecture. Stay tuned.

Th 9/16  Selected articles on Albright report. TBA.

F 9/17  First paper due at noon to political science secretaries in 745 SWKT.


Th 9/23  Hill cont. Read either Ch. 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, or 13-14 plus pp. 277-370.


I will also hand out the topics for the midterm debates scheduled for October 14.

**Initial research proposal must be accepted by today. See instructions above. Note that in order to gain approval by 10/5 you should submit your initial ideas by September 30 and make an appointment for the first few days of October.**

Th 10/7 Ash, cont. pp. 149-238.

T 10/12 Jeffrey Kopstein and Sven Steinmo (eds), *Growing Apart? America and Europe in the Twenty-First Century,* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008), selections TBA.

Th 10/14 **Mid-term debates in class. No additional reading is assigned, though each team should identify and consult outside sources for its debate preparation.**

T 10/19 Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power From, Messina to Maastricht,* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998). Read the introduction, chapter one plus one of the case studies (chapters 2-6). Please note in your email to me which case study you focused on.

Th 10/21 Moravcsik chapter 7.

**Research Designs are due by 5 pm to 750 SWKT.**

T 10/26 **Peer reviews of research designs are due at the start of class. Oral presentations on research topic/design.**

Th 10/28 **Oral presentations on research topic/design (continued).**


Th 11/4 Simon Hix, *The Political System of the European Union* continued. Read 147-231 plus 406-414 plus any one case study (chapters 8-12). Please indicate to me in your email which case study you have prepared.

T 11/9 Ann-Marie Slaughter, *A New World Order* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 2004). Read the introduction plus chapter 1, 2 or 3. Please note in your email to me which case study you focused on. Read the conclusion to the two chapters you do not read.

Th 11/11 Slaughter cont. Read chapter 4, 5, or 6 plus the conclusion. Please note in your
email to me which case study you focused on. Again, read the conclusion to the two chapters you do not read.

**T 11/16** Work on research papers. Individual appointments during office hours.

**Th 11/18** Work on research papers. Individual appointments during office hours.

**T 11/23** No class (Friday on the BYU schedule) Findings papers are due by 5 pm to political science secretaries.

**Th 11/25** No Class. Thanksgiving Holiday.

**T 11/30** Peer reviews of findings papers are due at start of class. Oral presentations on findings papers.

**Th 12/2** Oral presentations papers (continued).

**T 12/7** Work on research papers. Individual appointments during office hours.

**Th 12/9** Work on research papers. Individual appointments during office hours.

**M 12/13** RESEARCH PAPERS DUE TO 750 SWKT BY 5 PM.