Course
European Union Politics

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Special Guest: Luciano Bardi (Università di Pisa)

Lecture Hours: Wednesday 14-16 *(the course starts on January, 25, 2017)*
Venue: Presidio Mattioli, Università di Siena (Aula Seminario, II Floor)

In the state of acute crisis that befalls Europe, the course focuses on the tensions affecting representation and democratic participation in the EU. Scholars have debated the "democratic deficit" of the EU for long time and the depth of today's challenges imposes new reflection and, possibly, new institutional and political remedies.
The course aims at providing students with skills to engage in current debates on the various forms and actors of democratic representation in the EU and the key issues of EU legitimacy and accountability, which have been under particular stress in these critical times.
More in general, can the ongoing crises (great recession, migration, security, Brexit… just to mention the hottest issues) offer an opportunity for higher politicization of the EU, and therefore for a relaunched integration and democratic renewal? Or, on the contrary, do they only provoke pressures for greater fragmentation and differentiation, if not risks of truly dis-integration, together with the serious weakening of channels of democratic representation in the EU polity?...

These topics will be analysed and developed also thanks to students presentations and class discussions. The final assignment will consist of a review essay, that is a critical review of at least 3 readings which relates the issue of politicization of the EU to a research topic students are interested in. The review essay should be approximately 3.000 words in length. Of course, students' attendance and active participation will be held in high consideration. Absences must be justified.

Calendar & Programme
[updated Version February 2017]

25/1 h 14-16 Is the EU facing an existential crisis? Will be political elites capable of restoring control over events and processes which disorientate European citizens? In particular, *is there a quest for democratic sustainability of the EU?...*
Introductory questions and course overview.

A reading to start with:
  – Innerarity D. (2015) The Inter-Democratic Deficit of the EU, in Dawson M., Enderlein H. & Joerges C. (Eds.) *Beyond the Crisis*, OUP, pp. 173-184.

Slides will be circulated. Moreover, a reading exercise will be introduced for the 2nd meeting.

1/2 h 14-16 Basis for EU democracy and criteria for analyzing EU democratic legitimacy. *Why may the delegation model of representation at EU level be not enough?*

Recommended references:
- Piattoni S. (2013) "Representation as delegation: a basis for EU democracy?", Journal of European Public Policy, 20:2, pp. 224-242.
- Schmidt, V. A. (2013), "Democracy and Legitimacy in the European Union Revisited: Input, Output *and* 'Throughput' ", Political Studies, 61:1, pp. 2-22.

Discussion on the reading exercise, extracted from Piattoni 2013, included. Slides will be circulated.

8/2 h 14-16 The search for a "superior" legitimacy *via* functional & territorial representation.

Suggested readings recommended for class discussion (students presentations):
- Heidbreder E.G. (2015) "Governance in the EU: A Policy Analysis of the Attempts to Raise Legitimacy through Civil Society Participation", in Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice, pp. 359-377.
- Smismans S. (2012) "Interest Representation in the EU. Is there any? A top-down perspective", in Kröger S. & Friedrich D. (Eds.) The Challenge of Democratic Representation in the EU, Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 209-225.
- Hönnige C. & Panke D. (2016) "Is anybody listening? The Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee and their quest for awareness", Journal of European Public Policy, 23:4, 624-642.

A case-study will be considered (and possibly further developed): the Transparency Register (http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/democratic-change_en).
The consultation launched by the Commission to reform the Transparency Register can be checked here: http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/civil_society/public_consultation_en.htm

Optional about changes in EU governance regime and next space for interest mobilization and representation can be read in this Special issue: Comparative European Politics (2016), "EU governance in times of crisis: Inclusiveness and effectiveness beyond the 'hard' and 'soft' law divide", 14:1.

15/2 h 14-16 The role of legislatures in EU policy making.

Suggested readings recommended for class discussion (students presentations):
- Rittberger B. (2014), "Integration without Representation? The EP and the Reform of Economic Governance in the EU", Journal of Common Market Studies, 52, pp. 1174–1183.
- Auel K., Rozenberg O. & Tacea A. (2015), "To Scrutinise or Not to Scrutinise? Explaining Variation in EU-Related Activities in National Parliaments", West European Politics, 38:2, pp. 282-304.
- Winzen T., Roederer C. & Schimmelfennig F. (2015), "Parliamentary Co-Evolution: National Parliamentary Reactions to the Empowerment of the European Parliament", Journal of European Public Policy, 22:1, pp. 75-93.

A case study can be considered also in this section: the Yellow Card on the Posted Workers Directive
https://www.euractiv.com/section/social-europe-jobs/opinion/national-parliaments-3rd-yellow-card-a-preliminary-assessment/

23/2 h 11-13 The development of a EU party system and the building of party government at EU level **AND 2/3 h 11-13** Political parties, responsiveness and responsibility in multi-level democracy. The challenge of Horizontal Euroscepticism (L. Bardi)
c/o Università di Pisa - Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche (Via Serafini 3, Pisa) Aula Magna

Recommended readings:
- Bardi L., Katz R.S., Mair P. (2011) Verso una politica europea, Rivista Italiana di Scienza politica (English & updated version in Johnson & Sharman Eds., 2015, Parties & Party Systems, UBC Press)
- Bardi L. (2014) Political parties, responsiveness, and responsibility in multi-level democracy: the challenge of horizontal euroscepticism" in European Political Science, AOP, doi:10.1057/eps. 2014.27 September 2014.

Additionally, the following EUDO Reports (http://www.eui.eu/Projects/EUDO-OPPR/Home.aspx)
(2014) Political Parties and Political Foundations at European level
(2010) How to create a Transnational Party system

Optional:
- Bardi L., Bartolini S., Trechsel A. (Eds) (2014) Themed issue: "Party adaptation and change and the crisis of democracy: Essays in honour of Peter Mair", in Party Politics, March 2014; 20 (2).
- Bardi L., Bartolini S., Trechsel A. (Eds) (2014) Special Issue "Responsive and Responsible? The Role of Parties in Twenty-First Century Politics", in West European Politics, Volume 37, Issue 2.

8/3 h 14-16 The democracy-politicization *nexus*: theoretical & empirical questions

Suggested readings *(to be considered with students, possibly in order to enlarge/specify)*:
- West European Politics (2016) Special issue: The differentiated politicization of European governance, 39:1.

15/3 & 22/3 & 29/3 h 14-16 Unpacking politicization and the structure of political conflict about Europe, if any… How to deal with empirical research?
(students presentations about a sample of empirical cases to be selected in cooperation with the instructor)

Readings and a possible outline for the final assignment will be considered and discussed.
A more precise Calendar will be fixed after due coordination.

NOTE
Active participation in the EUReACT Academic Jean Monnet Module a.y. 2017-18 is highly recommended. Activities will be developed from March to June 2017. Details at http://eureact.unisi.it.