

PhD in Political Science, European Studies and International Relations (PEI)
Academic Year 2015-2016

Course
European Union Politics

Instructor: Sabrina Cavatorto (Università di Siena) sabrina.cavatorto@unisi.it
Special Guest: Luciano Bardi (Università di Pisa)

Lecture Hours: Tuesday 11-13 (*exceptionally, the course starts on April, 6, 2016*)
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, a new institutional and political architecture.

The course aims at providing students with the skills to engage in current debates on the various forms and actors of political and 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 deeper integration and democratic renewal? Or, on the contrary, do they provoke pressures for greater differentiation, if not risks of truly dis-integration, together with the serious weakening of channels of democratic representation in the EU polity?...

Calendar & Programme
[Version April 2016]

6/4 h 14-16 Is there a quest for democratic sustainability of the EU? Introduction to the course
Introductory readings:

- Piattoni S. (2013) “Representation as delegation: a basis for EU democracy?”, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 20:2, pp. 224-242.
- Kohler-Koch, B. (2014) “Representation as the Cornerstone for Efficient and Legitimate Governance”, in Kröger S. (Ed.) *Political Representation in the EU. Still democratic in times of crisis?*, Routledge, pp. 215-235.

12/4 h 11-13 Plural representation in the EU and criteria for analyzing EU democratic legitimacy
Basic readings:

- Schmidt, V. A. (2013), *Democracy and Legitimacy in the European Union Revisited: Input, Output and ‘Throughput’*. *Political Studies*, 61, pp. 2-22.
- Fossum J.E. (2015) “Democracy and differentiation in Europe”, in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22:6, 799-815.

Additional:

- 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.

19/4 h 11-13 Functional & Territorial Representation (students presentations)

Suggested readings as a basis for class discussion

(to be considered with students, possibly in order to enlarge/specify):

- 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.
- 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.

26/4 h 11-13 The role of Legislatures (students presentations)

Suggested readings as a basis for class discussion

(to be considered with students, possibly in order to enlarge/specify):

- Winzen, T. (2012) "National parliamentary control of European Union affairs: a cross-national and longitudinal comparison", *West European Politics*, 35: 3, pp. 657-72.
- 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.
- 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.

9/5 h 16-18 The development of a EU party system and the building of party government at EU level

& 10/5 h 11-13 Political parties, responsiveness and responsibility in multi-level democracy. The challenge of Horizontal Euroscepticism (L. Bardi)

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.

17/5 h 11-13 The democracy-politicization *nexus*: theoretical & empirical questions

24/5-31/5-7/6 h 11-13 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)

NOTE

Active participation in the EUREACT Workshop & Teleconference *Experiencing multilevel democracy* in early June (possibly 13/6 to be confirmed) is highly recommended. The Event is linked to the Tutorial seminar about EU-related political debates which takes place from April to May in the context of EUREACT activities. If you are interested, you can be part of the staff.

- Details at <http://eureact.unisi.it>
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