

**George Washington University
Graduate School of Political Management**

COURSE SYLLABUS

**Politics and Policies of the European Union
(PMGT265.60)
Summer, 2004**

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide a detailed and critical understanding of how the European Union institutions work, how public policy is adopted at the European level, and the central issues at stake in this critical stage in the development of the European Union. The focus is the EU as an emerging “political system” where there is an ongoing interaction between the process of *government* (the operation of the institutional and legal framework), *public policy* (the adoption and impact of policy decisions and EU legislation) and *politics* (the interests, ideas, opinions, and values of the political actors including trade unions, Member States, media, corporations, regions, ministers, bureaucrats, citizens, party leaders, etc.).

The course begins with a 2½-week intensive series of seminars held in conjunction with the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium. The seminars follow a progressive logic—

- An introduction to the history of European integration and a practical course on Internet resources about the European Union will set the essential basis for the assimilation of the notions to be developed in the following days.
- During the first week, students will be presented with the main policies of the European Union. The introduction to European lobbying theories and practice will be the starting point for a simulation game that will reproduce the decision-making process in the European Union.
- During the second and third weeks, and once students have acquired a certain level of knowledge, a visit to Brussels will demonstrate to the participants the actual setting where the European decisions are made and how the political relationship between both sides of the Atlantic is run.

Several practical workshops and seminars will be conducted during this period with key actors from the European lobbying and business spheres to allow for a practical understanding of European policy making as a complement to the academic knowledge provided by the lecturers.

Following the 2½ weeks at the College of Europe, students will return to the GW campus to complete their projects and present their findings.

This course provides a bridge between skill sets developed for lobbying in the United States and adaptation of those skills for lobbying effectively within the European Union. The goal of the course is best summed up by a former Rector of the College, Otto von der Gablentz:

Our students know that the Europe they will work in will be very different from the one we can teach them today. In a time of rapid change and growing uncertainty about all traditional structures, it becomes more important to ask all the right questions than to have all the right answers.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

This course will be coordinated by Nick L. Laird and Rita K. Roosevelt, Ph.D., members of the adjunct faculty of the Graduate School of Political Management. Mr. Laird and Dr. Roosevelt are recognized international authorities on best practices benchmarking of government and public affairs activities and co-teach courses in Lobbying the European Union, International Lobbying, and Corporate Public Affairs.

Individual seminars during the 2½-week intensive series in Brugge will be conducted by regular academic and practitioner faculty of the College of Europe.

TEXTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Several weeks prior to departure for Brugge, students will be provided with a recommended reading list in order to make the intensive seminar series a more enriching and productive experience.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Upon arrival in Brugge, students will be provided with a *Course Reader* related to specific material to be covered in the individual seminars.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

I. Simulation Game (30% of final grade)

Each student will be required to participate in a simulation game developed by the College of Europe and used in their regular program. Students will receive specific instructions related to the simulation and given ample time to prepare for participation. Each student will be evaluated on his/her participation and interaction during the simulation specifically as each relates to effective use of negotiation skills. This evaluation will be conducted jointly by College of Europe and GWU faculty.

II. Final Project (50% of final grade)

At the completion of PMGT265.14, students will be given a project topic for PMGT265.60 and detailed instructions for completion. The period in Brugge will be used to assimilate an European perspective on lobbying the EU, to collect information, to test possible strategies, and to begin to formulate a strategic government and public affairs plan. Following the 2½ weeks at the College of Europe, students will return to the GWU campus to complete their projects and present their findings to the class.

III. Attendance and Class Participation (20% of final grade)

The nature of the intensive 2½-week series of seminars should underscore the fact that attendance is a very important element.

COURSE OUTLINE

A schedule of seminars and activities is provided below.