

# **IS/PSCI 4024 Seminar in Diplomacy and Security**

## ***The European Union***

### **Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University**

**Fall 2023**

#### **Instructor's Contact Details**

**Professor:** Dr. Yannis Stivachtis  
**Office:** 528 Major Williams Hall  
**E-mail:** ystivach@vt.edu  
**Tel:** (540) 231-5816  
**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00-Noon and Tuesday & Thursdays 2:00-3:00 pm or with appointment  
**Zoom Meeting:** <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416>

#### **Class Information**

**Lectures:** Monday & Wednesday: 2:30-3:45 pm  
**Location:** AA 114

#### **Course Description**

Exploration of the origins and evolution of the European Union (EU). Analysis of the European Union's system of governance (institutional structure and decision- and policy-making mechanisms). Examination of the Union's policies focusing on security (internal and external), defense and foreign policy.

The course is divided into two parts: lectures and seminars. During lectures, the instructor will present the relevant weekly material in class. During seminars, students are expected to have studied the material presented by the instructor during the lecture to be able to respond to the instructor's questions and discuss relevant issues in class.

Part of this course will take place in collaboration with the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). More information will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

#### **Course Outcomes**

At the end of the study, students will be able to:

- Explain the EU's development in terms of regional integration theories;

- Recall the historical origins and institutional foundations of the European Union;
- Critically analyze the operation of the EU as a political system and the process of EU policy-making.
- Analyze EU's foreign, security and defense policy.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of EU policies by taking into account the organization's structures and decision-making mechanisms.
- Assimilate material and develop arguments in a short time period;
- Present and defend rational and well researched arguments and constructively criticize the arguments of others; and
- Conduct research on the subject matter and write a competitive research paper.

### **Required Texts**

Jonathan Olsen, *The European Union: Politics and Policies*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (London: Routledge 2021).

Additional material will be distributed by the instructor.

### **Course Requirements**

*Students will work in mixed teams composed by students from both universities. The teams will be blindly constructed at the beginning of the semester and the topics will also be blindly assigned to each team.*

*The performance of the students will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:*

Total numbers of points: 100 points

Policy proposal: 40 points

Research papers: 40 points (20 points X 2)

Professionalism: 20 points

### **Mid-term & Final Exams**

There are no mid-term and final exams for this course.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Students will receive 1 penalization point for each class session they miss **unless a note from the Office of the Dean of**

**Students is provided excusing the student's absence.** Penalization points will be subtracted from the students' grade for 'Professionalism'.

Only students who are in the classroom during the first ten (10) minutes of the class will count as being present.

If a student needs to leave the class early, s/he needs to inform the instructor. Students, who 'walk out' of class without doing so, will not receive credit for attendance and participation on the day or the class section in question and will be regarded as absent.

### ***Policy Paper***

A maximum of two (2) single pages describing the proposed policy/approach.

*Clarifications regarding the mechanics of the peer and instructor evaluation will be provided in class.*

### ***Presentations***

*Clarifications regarding the presentations will be provided in class as well as during the first Plenary session.*

### ***Professionalism***

Professionalism includes in-class behavior, class attendance and participation to in-class activities.

Because participation and attendance are inextricably linked (students cannot participate in class activities if they absent), after they miss three (3) classes, students will receive 1 penalization point for each class session they miss **no matter the circumstances** (i.e. health issues, death in the family, etc.). Penalization points will be subtracted from the students' final number of points (final grade).

Classroom discussion should be open, frank, and casual. Please respect the perspectives and inquiries of your peers and instructor. Do not interrupt someone who is speaking and refrain from deliberately demeaning language or intimidating behavior.

### ***Topics***

1. Digital Technology: a) Data Protection; b) Artificial Intelligence
2. Neighbourhood Relations: a) Collective Security; b) Human Migration
3. Planetary Habitat: a) Environmental Protection; b) Climate Action
4. Public Health: a) Pandemic Response; b) Risk Prevention

## ***Research Papers***

Students are required to write two (2) research papers.

*No extensions will be provided. Late submissions will receive a 1.0 penalization point per day.*

**Research Paper 1:** To be submitted on Wednesday, October 25, 2:30 pm.

Research Topic: Main policy topic

**Research Paper 2:** To be submitted on Wednesday, November 29, 2:30 pm.

Research Topic: Secondary policy topic

*More information about the topics of the research papers will be provided in class.*

## **Author's Guidelines**

A hard copy of the assignment should be submitted in class.

The assignment should be typed in single space, justified and presented in Times New Roman 12 format.

The author should use APA style.

The length of the assignment should not exceed the 3,000 word limit (including references and bibliography).

The research paper should include at least ten (10) different bibliographical sources.

## **Research Paper Grading**

The following criteria will be used in assessing students' research papers:

### **1. Definition of the topic**

- Has the topic been clearly defined and directly addressed?

### **2. Structure of the essay**

- Does the introduction present a clear statement of the issues to be covered?
- Does the essay have a clear structure or organization in which a) the main points are developed logically; and b) the relevance of the material to the theme or argument is clear?
- Is there an effective conclusion which draws together the main points?

### **3. Content**

- Is there evidence of adequate reading and research?
- Is the breadth of coverage adequate?
- Are the issues and ideas analyzed in sufficient depth?
- Are arguments supported by evidence, examples, sources and quotations?

#### 4. Analysis

- Are the arguments logical and consistent?
- Are opinions based on evidence and/or logic?
- Does the essay show evidence of original or independent thought?

#### 5. Presentation

- Fluency and style of writing
- Spelling, grammar, paragraphing
- Presentation of data: effective use of figures and tables and correct use of units and quantities
- Neatness and legibility
- Sources: are sources acknowledged? Are references cited? Are references presented correctly?

#### **Students with Special Needs**

Students who need special assistance with note and exam taking should contact the course instructor within the first week of classes. However, those students should contact the relevant university office to obtain the necessary documentation before they meet with the course instructor. The instructor will do everything to address students' needs.

#### **Course Evaluation**

*Toward the end of the semester, the online Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaire (<https://eval.scholar.vt.edu>) will be used to gather feedback on particular aspects of the course and instruction. I read and consider all student comments regarding the course and instruction.*

#### **Grade Scale**

Please note that for this course the applicable grade scale is as follows:

|    |        |
|----|--------|
| A  | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92  |
| B+ | 87-89  |
| B  | 84-86  |
| B- | 80-83  |
| C+ | 77-79  |
| C  | 74-76  |
| C- | 70-73  |
| D+ | 67-69  |
| D  | 64-66  |
| D- | 60-63  |
| F  | 0-59   |
| F* |        |

*Please note that grades ending at .5 will be rounded up.*

The F represents failure in the course. The “\*” is intended to identify a student who has failed to uphold the values of academic integrity at Virginia Tech.

A student who receives a sanction of **F\*** as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation “FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION.” You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the “\*” and notation “FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION” removed from your transcript. The “F” however would be permanently on your transcript.”

### **Honor Code**

Students are encouraged to complete the Academic Integrity Success Module. It may be found at this link: <https://canvas.vt.edu/enroll/CE7YK9>

This module covers necessary information regarding Academic Integrity at Virginia Tech that students will need throughout their time as a student. This information includes our policies and the importance of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. Even if a student has completed the module in the past, a refresher is always helpful.

### ***Understanding the Code***

Understanding the Code is a program presented and designed by the Undergraduate Student Delegates. It will be offered live on the following dates:

- August 29th, 2023 @ 7:30 – 8:30pm in 100 Johnson Student Center
- August 31st, 2023 @ 7:30 – 8:30pm in 102 Johnson Student Center

To ensure that this information is accessible to all students, *Understanding the Code* will also be offered in Canvas as a module, which will open on August 30, 2023, and will remain open for the duration of the semester. This module will not be published or available until August 30th. The self-registration link for *Understanding the Code* is: <https://canvas.vt.edu/enroll/AC7F7C>

*Understanding the Code* and the *Academic Integrity Success Module* are complimentary to each other. Students are strongly encouraged to complete both.

*Understanding the Code* is created by the Undergraduate Student Delegates and provides common scenarios students find themselves in and is designed to teach students how to avoid common missteps related to academic integrity. This session is designed to be engaging and interactive.

*The Academic Integrity Success Module* focuses on the *Undergraduate Honor Code* policies and takes no more than 30 minutes to complete. This resource is

free, and can make an impact on your classroom and the student's educational experience at Virginia Tech. It will be open all semester, however, the Office of Undergraduate Academic

Integrity recommends that you ask your students to complete the module within the first few weeks of classes starting.

### ***Syllabus Statement***

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

*“As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”*

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation.

Students are strongly discouraged from misusing sites such as Chegg and CourseHero, as well as misusing ChatGPT and other Generative Artificial Intelligence. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their faculty members regarding the use of such outside materials as the misuse of these sources may constitute a violation of the Honor Code. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

All university policies and procedures apply in any Virginia Tech academic environment, and all students are expected to follow them. For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

Honor Code Pledge for Assignments: The Virginia Tech honor code pledge for assignments is as follows:

*“I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment.”*

The pledge is to be written out on all graded assignments at the university and signed by the student. The honor pledge represents both an expression of the student's support of the honor code and a commitment to uphold the academic standards at Virginia Tech.

If you have questions or are unclear about what constitutes academic misconduct on an assignment, please speak with me. I take the honor code very seriously in the course. The normal sanction I will recommend for a violation of the Honor Code is an 'F\*' sanction as your final course grade. The

'F' represents failure in the course. The "\*" is intended to identify a student who has failed to uphold the values of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. A student who receives a sanction of F\* as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "\*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript.

*Your written assignments may be reviewed through the University's plagiarism prevention and detection software called Turnitin- Feedback Studio, which is a resource designed to detect and prevent plagiarism. This software is a tool that works by cross-referencing submitted materials with journals, essays, newspaper articles, papers, books, the internet, and other literary works. Turnitin-Feedback Studio does not identify all forms of plagiarism. The software also does not replace my judgement regarding what constitutes plagiarism.*

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

#### A. CHEATING

Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.

#### B. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.

#### **C. FALSIFICATION**

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

#### **D. FABRICATION**

Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.

#### **E. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION**

Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.

#### **F. COMPLICITY**

Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.

#### **G. VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES**

The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

#### **Instructor's Bio**

Yannis A. Stivachtis is Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair. He currently serves as Director of Virginia Tech's *Jean Monnet Center of Excellence* for European Union, Transatlantic and Trans-European Space Studies (CEUTTSS).

His research and teaching interests include national and international security, strategic theory, U.S. and EU strategy, EU's foreign, security and defense policy, EU's external relations, EU's interior policies (Homeland Security), European organizations, the evolution of international society, and the study of regional international system/society in Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East. He has been awarded (2019) a *Jean Monnet Chair* in recognition of his excellence in European Studies by the European Commission — Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA). He has also been recognized as *National Security Scholar* by the U.S. Department of Defense (2014).

His previous appointments include: Professor of International Relations, Geneva School of Diplomacy (Switzerland); Professor of International Relations, *The American College of Switzerland*; Visiting Professor, The American University of Paris; Visiting Lecturer, European Institute-University of Geneva; Research Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); Senior Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies-Austrian Ministry of Defense (Austria); Senior Fellow, Austrian Institute of European & Security Policy; and Research Fellow at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

He has published numerous journal articles and book chapters, as well as several books. He has also presented at several national and international conferences and has given invited talks at the London School of Economics, the Bundeswehr University-Munich, the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas in Brazil, the University of Vienna, The Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky, the University of Virginia, Kent State University, the University of Alabama-Birmingham, and the University of Central Missouri.

He is currently the editor of the *Critical European Studies* book series (Routledge) and co-editor of the *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. He currently serves as Senior Policy Advisor of the Center for European and Mediterranean Affairs (Greece); External Expert for the H2020 Research Program, European Commission (EC) - Research Executive Agency (REA); External Expert & Evaluator, Accreditation of Internal Quality Assurance Systems (IQAS) and Study Programs of the Greek Higher Education Institutions, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), Greek Ministry of Education; Advisory Board member of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, Bellevue University; and Senior Advisor of the Research Institute for European & American Studies (RIEAS, Greece).

**Yannis Stivachtis' Personal Meeting Room**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416>

Meeting ID: 882 642 7416

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,8826427416# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 882 642 7416

Find your local number: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/u/kcJPbpafzg>

Join by SIP

8826427416@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

213.244.140.110 (Germany)

103.122.166.55 (Australia)

149.137.40.110 (Singapore)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada)

207.226.132.110 (Japan)

Meeting ID: 882 642 7416

Join by Skype for Business

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/skype/8826427416>

## **Class Schedule**

Adjustments to the assignment schedule are inevitable. The instructors will make every effort to keep students abreast of changes.

**Week 1**

08/21 Explaining the course syllabus  
08/23 Federalism (material distributed by the instructor)

**Weeks 2:**

08/28 Functionalism and Neo-functionalism (material distributed by the instructor)  
08/30 Functionalism and Neo-functionalism (material distributed by the instructor)

**Week 3:**

09/04 **Labor Day – no classes**  
09/06 Liberal intergovernmentalism (material distributed by the instructor)

**Week 4:**

09/11 Seminar  
09/13 The origins of European integration, 1945-1958 (chapter 2)

**Week 5:**

09/18 Seminar  
09/20 **Plenary - online**

**Week 6:**

09/25 From EEC to EU, 1958-1993 (chapter 3)  
09/27 The evolution of the EU, 1994-present (chapter 4)

**Week 7:**

10/02 Seminar  
10/04 The European Council and the Council of the European Union (chapter 6)

**Week 8**

10/09 The European Commission (chapter 5)  
10/11 The European Parliament (chapter 7)

**Week 9:**

10/16 Seminar  
10/18 The Court of Justice and the European Financial Institutions  
(chapters 8 & 9)

**Week 10:**

10/23 Seminar  
10/25 The European External Action Service (EEAS) (material  
distributed by the instructor)

**Week 11:**

10/30 Europol, Eurojust and FRONTEX (chapter 9 and material  
distributed by the instructor)  
11/01 **Plenary - online**

**Week 12**

11/06 Seminar  
11/08 Common Foreign & Security Policy (CFSP) and material  
distributed by the instructor)

**Week 13**

11/13 Common Foreign & Security Policy (CFSP) (chapter 15 and  
material distributed by the instructor)  
11/15 Common Security & Defense Policy (CSDP) (chapter 15 and  
material distributed by the instructor)

**Week 14**

**Thanksgiving Break – No classes**

**Week 15**

11/27 Seminar  
11/29 The EU and the world (chapter 16)

**Week 16**

12/04 The EU and the world (chapter 16)  
12/06 Seminar