

IS/PSCI 3116: Selected World Problems - Europe

Contemporary European Challenges

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, Friday: 12:20-1:10 pm
Location: ROB 210

Course Description

Analysis of selected contemporary challenges (political, economic, security, societal, environmental, etc.) facing Europe. Examination and assessment of current policy approaches to these challenges. Exploring potential alternative policies/solutions to these challenges. Topics under examination include: European geopolitical challenges and security; democratic deficit and the legitimacy of EU institutions; the crisis of European democracies and the rise of radical right; organized crime; migration and refugees flows; energy security; environmental security; human security and human equality; the rise of nationalism; xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism; terrorism and counterterrorism; health security and infectious diseases; and digital security.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Analyze various challenges facing Europe.
- Assess the responses of national governments and European organizations to these challenges.
- Propose alternative policies/solutions to address these challenges.
- Assimilate material and develop arguments in a short time period;

- Present and defend rational and well researched arguments relating to responses to the various challenges facing Europe and constructively criticize the arguments of others; and
- Conduct research on the subject matter and write relevant reports and policy papers.

Required Texts

No texts are required for this course. Students are required to conduct research and identify material relevant to the topic under examination.

Course Requirements

Students will work in teams. The teams will be blindly constructed in class at the beginning of the semester and the topics will also be blindly assigned to each team.

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

Total numbers of points:	100 points
Issue Analysis:	10 points (evaluated by the instructor)
Policy Assessment:	20 points (evaluated by the instructor)
Issue Presentation:	10 points (evaluated by the instructor)
	10 points (Instructor's evaluation)
Policy Paper:	20 points (evaluated by the instructor)
Policy Presentation:	10 points (Peer evaluation)
	10 points (Instructor's evaluation)
Professionalism:	10 points (evaluated by the instructor)

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.

Issue Analysis

A maximum three (3) single pages report describing the issue at hand. This assignment should be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the team presentation.

Policy Assessment

A maximum four (4) pages assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches and policies regarding the issue under investigation. This assignment should be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the team presentation.

Policy Paper

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

Presentations

Students/teams are required to make two (2) in-class presentations (issue presentation and policy presentation). Issue presentation will include both issue description and current policy assessment. Each student/team presentation should last a maximum of 20 minutes followed by a Q&A session. All students should have an equal participation in the presentations.

The peer and instructor evaluations of the presentations will be secret and will proceed as follows:

10 points = 1 team
9 points = 2 teams
8 points = 3 teams
7 points = 4 teams
6 points = no limit
5 points = no limit

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

Professionalism

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

Because participation and attendance are inextricably linked (students cannot participate in class activities if they absent), students should refrain from missing classes or provide the documentation requested by the instructor (please see above). Penalization points will be subtracted from the students' grade for 'Professionalism'.

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.

Assignment Submission

Students/teams should submit hard copies of their assignments during the class proceeding the day of their presentation.

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

The author should use APA style.

Topics

1. Democratic deficit and the legitimacy of EU institutions
2. The crisis of European democracies and the rise of radical right
3. Digital security
4. Environmental security
5. Organized crime
6. Migration and refugee movements
7. Energy security
8. Human equality
9. Protection of ethnic minorities and social groups
10. Xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism
11. Terrorism
12. Public health and infectious diseases

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. We 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 the Center for European Union, Transatlantic and Trans-European Space Studies (CEUTTSS) – *A Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*.

His research and teaching interests include national and international security, strategic theory, strategy and world order, comparative strategy, 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 was recently awarded (2019) the *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 also taught in various diplomatic and military academies.

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 Pontifican 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 Analyst 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

+13017158592,,8826427416# US (Washington D.C)

+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	Class organization
08/ 25	Team preparation

Weeks 2: Issue analysis

08/28	European geopolitics: The geopolitics of natural resources
08/30	The geopolitics of the European economy
09/01	The politics of European geography

Week 3: Issue analysis

10/04	Labor Day – no classes
09/06	The geopolitics of human movements
09/08	The geopolitics of identity in Europe

Week 4: Issue analysis and policy assessment

09/11	European security and EU/NATO-Russia relations
09/13	EU-China relations
09/15	EU-US/NATO relations

Week 5: Issue analysis and policy assessment

09/18	Democratic deficit and the legitimacy of EU institutions
09/20	The crisis of European democracies and the rise of the radical right
09/22	Digital security

Week 6: Issue analysis and policy assessment

09/25	Environmental security
09/27	Organized crime
09/29	Migration and refugee flows

Week 7: Issue analysis and policy assessment

10/02	Energy security
10/04	Human equality
10/06	Fall Break – No-classes

Week 8: Issue analysis and policy assessment

10/09	Human security: Protection of ethnic minorities and social groups
10/11	Xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism
10/13	Terrorism and counter-terrorism

Week 9: Issue analysis and policy assessment

10/16	Health security and infectious diseases
10/18	In-class discussion
10/20	In-class discussion

Week 10: Policy proposal

10/23	Democratic deficit and the legitimacy of EU institutions
10/25	The crisis of European democracies and the rise of the radical right
10/27	Digital security

Week 11: Policy proposal

10/30	Environmental security
11/01	Organized crime
11/03	Migration and refugee flows

Week 12: Policy proposal

11/06	Energy security
11/08	Crime (drugs, human trafficking, etc.)
11/10	Human equality

Week 13: Policy proposal

11/13	Human security: Protection of ethnic minorities and social groups
11/15	Xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism
11/17	In-class discussion

Week 14

- **Thanksgiving Break – No classes**

Week 15: Policy proposal

11/27	Terrorism and counterterrorism
11/29	Health security and infectious diseases
12/01	In-class discussion

Week 16: Conclusions

12/04	In-class discussion
12/06	In-class discussion