

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: POLITICAL ELITES AND THE EU

18 hours – 3 ECTS – Semester 2

Bianca Polo del Vecchio

Objectives

Through this course students should gain an understanding of the important interplay between national politics and EU integration. We will begin by studying the consequences of EU membership for states' domestic institutions and policies, accounting for differences in states' experiences of membership, and the institutional means available to states to advance their preferences. We will then turn to focus on the impacts that EU membership has had on domestic politics, again accounting for inter-state differences. We will identify the factors key to determining a party's position on EU integration before considering the rise of Eurosceptic and anti-EU parties, and increasing popular Euroscepticism. The course will end with focused studies on the debate around the EU issue in both France and the UK. In doing so, we will seek to determine whether, and if so, why, it can be said that there is mainstream consensus on EU membership in France, while in the UK there is not.

Course Overview

1. The EU and the state

The Europeanization of member state institutions and policies
Accounting for variations in the impact of EU membership
The representation of member state preferences within the EU's institutions

2. The EU and national politics

The Europeanization of national politics
Accounting for variations in the importance of the EU issue on the domestic political agenda
Accounting for party positions on EU integration
The rise of Eurosceptic and anti-EU parties
Explaining popular Euroscepticism

3. The cases of France and the UK

Mainstream consensus in France
Mainstream discord in the UK

Assessment

50% of the final grade will be based on a research presentation given in class.
50% of the final grade will be based on a short written exam to take place at the end of the semester.

Bibliography

Bulmer, S. and Lequesne, C. (eds), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford
Featherstone, K. and Radaelli, C.M. (eds), *The Politics of Europeanization*, Oxford
Ladrech, R., *Europeanization and National Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan
Leconte, C., *Understanding Euroscepticism*, Palgrave Macmillan
Harmsen, R. and Spiering, M. (eds), *Euroscepticism. Party Politics, National Identity and European Integration*, Rodopi
Guyomarch, A., Machin, H. and Ritchie, E., *France in the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan
Geddes, A., *The European Union and British Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan