

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

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

