### Brussels-Lux Study Tour 2022

#### Post-Secondary Faculty Course Module Planning Template

| Name: Lashonda Slaughter-Wilson | Course Title/Module Title: Global Problem Solving  
| Discipline: History |

### Course/Module Narrative:

A global examination of history from 1600 to the present

### Course Objectives:

- Students will learn how to apply historical methods to critical evaluation. Students will develop skills to assess the value of sources, interpretations, and historical narratives. Students will learn to develop appropriate research question criteria and then use those questions to develop research-based historical arguments.

### Module Objectives/Learning Objectives:

- Students will learn about the functionality of international collaborative governments through the European Union. Students will examine how the European Union operates and then formulate an idea of how a governing body like the European Union handles a specified international concern/issue.

### Assigned Readings

- The official European Union Website, EU Handouts, information sites on specific countries

### Content & Delivery

**Course Content**

- Internet site reading, handouts, in-person discussion about the EU
- Week One: Students Learn of EU background. Have a discussion in-class about the EU
- Week Two: Students read about the procedures and laws of the EU. Have students discuss these issues in-class with a question and answer session
- Students will compose an essay, choosing one of the EU Candidate countries, and deciding whether or not the EU should allow the country into the EU.

**Instruction & Delivery (lecture, discussion, group work, etc.)**

- Direct students to the handout packet and the EU Website. Assign the following readings: Principles and values, Key facts and figures, country profiles, History of the EU, and Joining the EU in Week One. In Week two, have students go to the EU site and read: Institutions and bodies, Leadership, decision-making process, Law, Budget, the Euro
- Week Three: Essay Due

### Assessment

- Students will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
  1. The student’s overall understanding and explanation of the purpose and function of the EU
  2. The student’s interpretation of the laws and procedures of the EU
  3. The student’s incorporation of the induction of an EU nation and the chosen nation’s background
  4. The student’s critical assessment of the problem and their ability to communicate the reasons for their argument.
  5. The student’s essay format, formalization, and technical accuracy.

### Resources and Materials

- The official European Union Website, Wikipedia, EU handouts
# All About EU

## The European Commission in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27</th>
<th>Commissioners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissioners are approved by the European Parliament and Council for five-year terms. These commissioners propose EU legislation and draft the EU’s budget. Each member has specific competencies and an equal voice on the Commission.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tr>
<td>President is nominated by the European Council and approved by Parliament to lead the Commission.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>139</th>
<th>Delegations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Delegations represent the EU in non-member states and conduct outreach and EU diplomacy.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33</th>
<th>Directorates-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directorates-General each specialize in a specific set of policy. Ranging from Climate Action to Translation, these offices draft and implement EU legislation.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Learn more at jmce.unc.edu!
Elections
The Parliament is the only directly elected institution of the EU. Citizens in EU Member states vote for their preferred parties, who send representatives to be Members of Parliament (MEPs).

Officials
The European Parliament influences the direction of EU policy by electing the President of the EU Commission. Furthermore, the Parliament must approve all members of the Commission.

Legislation
The Parliament approves Commission legislation with the Council of Ministers. It can also edit or add to legislation with acts that influence details of a law or its implementation.

Budgeting
A subset of its larger legislation duties, the Parliament approves the EU’s spending with the Council of Ministers. It also examines past EU spending, and proposes changes for future budgets.

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All About EU

Comparing Councils

Though they share similar names and structures, the Council of the EU and the European Council are two very different institutions. To help avoid confusion, we’ve created a brief, side-by-side comparison.

Source: consilium.europa.eu

**European Council**

- Identifies policy priorities and plans strategically to direct EU integration.
- Council comprising the 27 EU heads of state or government
- Focuses on EU policy as it relates to the institutions and their relation to states outside the EU.
- **5-year**
  - Term for the President of the European Council, elected internally.

**Council of the EU**

- Works with the Commission and Parliament to create EU legislation.
- **10**
  - Topic-specific Configurations of 27 officials from member state governments.
- Prioritizes the small details of EU policy, ensuring that member states policies are aligned.
- **6-month**
  - Term for the rotating Council president, who works in a “trio” with two other incoming presidents.

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All About EU
A Brief History of EU Institutions

1950-52
TREATY OF PARIS
The European Coal and Steel Community was created under the Treaty of Paris to combine the economic interests of France and Germany in order to avoid future animosity between them.

1965
MERGER TREATY
Also known as the Treaty of Brussels, the Merger Treaty combined the executive institutions of EURATOM, the EEC, and the ECSC.

1987
SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT
The SEA created the Single Market, thereby increasing economic integration by reducing barriers to commerce. Furthermore, it led to increased pooling of sovereignty in European institutions.

1993
MAASTRICHT TREATY
Called the Treaty of the European Union, this treaty created a supranational political structure founded on “pillars” of pooled sovereignty in certain policy areas.

2009
LISBON TREATY
Ratified in 2009, the Lisbon Treaty strengthened and shaped the main political institutions of the EU—the Commission, Parliament, and Council of the EU—into the forms they take today.

PRESENT
The EU and its institutions continue to change and evolve today. Learn more about contemporary Europe and the EU at jmce.unc.edu!

Sources
Out of Ashes by Konrad Jarausch
The History of the European Union @ europan.eu
Merger Treaty @ europearl.europa.eu
All About EU
Division of Power

Legislative power in the EU is divided into 3 sets of competences, or areas of policy focus.

**Exclusive Competences**
Areas in which only the EU can create legislation.

- International Agreements
- Customs Union
- Marine Resource Conservation
- Monetary Policy
- Commercial Policy
- Competition Rules

**Shared Competences**
Areas in which the EU and member states can create legislation if the EU does not — or decides not to — use its ability to create laws.

- Internal Market
- Environment
- Energy
- Research, Tech & Space
- Social Policy
- Consumer Protection
- Transport
- Trans-European Networks
- Regional Policy
- Humanitarian Aid
- Agriculture & Fisheries
- Public Health
- Freedom, Security & Justice

**Supporting Competences**
Areas in which the EU only assists in creating member state legislation.

- Health
- Civil Protection
- Culture
- Tourism
- Industry
- Cooperation
- Education

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The European Commission proposes legislation.

2. If the EP & Council accept the law, it passes. If not, the cycle restarts.

3. The Council can accept, amend, or reject the EP's changes.

4. The EP can accept, amend, or reject the Council's amendments.

5. The EP then amends or accepts the proposal.

The Lawmaking Process

The process by which the EU makes laws is called the Ordinary Legislative Procedure, sometimes referred to as "Co-decision." In this process, the three EU institutions—the European Commission, the European Parliament (EP), and the Council of the EU (or Council)—engage with each other to propose, amend, and pass legislation.
All About EU
The Seven EU Institutions

While the EU may seem like a very complex entity, it can be much more easily understood by studying its main institutions, the organs that carry out specific roles within the EU. Here, we've conceptualized them as trading cards.

The European Commission
Category: Legislative
Founded: January 1, 1958
Summary: The European Commission drafts EU legislation for the Parliament and Council to amend and approve, and proposes the EU budget. Furthermore, the Commission monitors the implementation of EU law in member states.

The European Parliament
Category: Legislative
Founded: September 10, 1952
Summary: The European Parliament is the only directly-elected institution of the EU. It passes EU law and the budget with the Council of the European Union. In addition, the Parliament approves the members of the Commission.

The Council of the European Union
Category: Legislative
Founded: July 1, 1967
Summary: The Council of the European Union—not to be confused with the European Council—approves and amends proposed EU legislation and nominates members of the Commission. It has ten sets of members called “configurations.”

The European Council
Category: Executive
Founded: December 9, 1974
Summary: The European Council is comprised of the heads of all EU member states and governments. Together, the heads of state direct the focus of EU legislation and develop the strategies for further European integration.

The Court of Justice of the European Union
Category: Judicial
Founded: April 18, 1951
Summary: The Court of Justice of the EU judges interpretations of EU law for member states and citizens, and ensures that laws are being enforced correctly. It also settles disputes between EU member states, their citizens, and the EU.

The European Central Bank
Category: Financial
Founded: June 1, 1998
Summary: The European Central Bank sets monetary policy for the EU. This can take the form of setting interest rates and controlling the value of the Euro relative to other currencies.

The European Court of Auditors
Category: Financial
Founded: July 22, 1975
Summary: The European Court of Auditors makes sure that the EU is spending money legally, and verifies that the EU spends within its means. This institution reports annually to the Parliament and Council before they approve the next budget.

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