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## **European Integration, Civil Society and Social Movements**

### **Online Seminar Summer 2020**

The founding of the Council of Europe in 1949 and the European Coal and Steel Community two years later ushered in an era of unparalleled international cooperation and led to the creation of supranational courts and organizations. Over more than seventy years, these organizations have been transformed into two of the most powerful regional organizations in the world. Today the Council of Europe ('COE') comprises forty-seven States with more than 820 million inhabitants, traversing the entire continent of Europe. Of its more than 200 international conventions, the most renowned is the European Convention on Human Rights, the interpretation of which is entrusted to the European Court of Human Rights ('the Strasbourg Court').

The European Union ('EU') traces its history back to the European Coal and Steel Community, founded in post-war Europe. It is now a formidable political, legal, and economic union of unrivaled power to enact binding laws for more than 500 million European Union citizens in twenty-seven States. The EU legal system is formally integrated with that of its Member States, and its laws have supremacy over all national laws, including national constitutional laws. The EU's top court, the Court of Justice of the European Union (the 'Luxembourg Court'), has the authority to provide binding interpretations of EU law for all EU Member States. Both organizations have long been the subject of litigation and lobbying by civil society actors.

This course draws upon the disciplines of history, political science, and law. It explores the actors and ideas behind the founding of these two powerful regional organizations. It

introduces the main theories of European integration, and the role that principled actors have played in the development of key legal doctrines. The relationship between civil society mobilization and European legal integration is then explored regarding the women's rights movement, minority rights, and the environment. The course will conclude with a focus on the current challenges faced by European organizations seeking to integrate a diverse and increasingly divided Europe.

The language of this course is English. To participate in this course, register with [campus management](#). All course materials will be provided on [Blackboard](#). Prepare online for a lecture and weekly class discussions on Fridays commencing on the **24th of April on Webex from 10 am-12 pm CET** (Central European Time). This online seminar will be held at the same time every week and will include a Q&A session to assess the participant's understanding of the readings. Information on how to access this online seminar will be provided by email via Webex invitation. This seminar will provide an opportunity for the participants to debate and discuss each topic. Questions on Blackboard will guide your preparation.

Participants must prepare a research paper on a topic of their choosing from this course (70%). Participants are also required to write a short essay on one of the contemporary challenges facing the EU or Council of Europe (20%). This short essay must be submitted by email before the 1st of July to (j.schoenfeld-quinn@fu-berlin.de). On completion of this course, successful participants will receive 5 ECTS and proof of 'language skills in English' under § 8(2) of the Fremdsprachenfachkompetenz. The final grade awarded will be assessed based on the research paper, short essay, and class participation (10%).

Topics	Dates
(no class)	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Part 1a: Introduction: The Idea of a United Europe	24 <sup>th</sup> April
	1 <sup>st</sup> May (Public holiday)
2. The Council of Europe and the European Union	8 <sup>th</sup> May
Part 1b. European Integration Theory	
3. Neo-functionalism and Liberal Intergovernmentalism	15 <sup>th</sup> May

4. Historical institutionalism and Europeanization	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>
<b>Part 2: Two Supranational Courts</b>	
5. The Power of the Court of Justice: Agent or Trustee?	<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>
6. The Influence of the European Court of Human Rights	<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Part 3: Civil Society, Social Movements and European Integration</b>	
7. Sex Equality & Environmental Law	<b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b>
8. Non-Discrimination in European Union Law	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>
9. LGBTI Rights (a 'twin court' strategy)	<b>26<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Part 4: Contemporary Challenges</b>	
10. Are European integration theories obsolete?	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>
11. Integrating a Divided Europe, Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions	<b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>
12. Concluding Debate: Which European integration theories do you find the most compelling and why?	<b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b>