BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Department of International Relations

Spring Semester 2011

SOCIAL EUROPE:
IDENTITY, CITIZENSHIP, AND THE WELFARE STATE

Wednesday 9-12
Location: IRC 220

Vivien A. Schmidt
Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration
154 Bay State Road, 2nd floor
Boston, MA 02215
Tel: 358-0192
Email: vschmidt@bu.edu

Office Hours:
Mondays 11:00 am-12:30 pm, Tuesdays 2pm-4:00pm and by appointment
SOCIAL EUROPE:  
IDENTITY, CITIZENSHIP, AND THE WELFARE STATE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Now that European economic integration is a reality, the social and political questions that in the past had remained in the background have returned to center stage. The ‘no’ votes in the referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands and in Ireland for the Lisbon Treaty suggest that national publics have become increasingly concerned about the challenges to national identity and sovereignty while the economic crisis brings questions about about the economic impact of the EU on social justice. The Lisbon Treaty may take care of the institutional issues, but it does not address the issues of policy or democracy at the heart of citizen concerns in the member-states.

Although ‘social Europe’ is a relatively new area of concern, EU policies on employment, welfare, gender and immigration have already greatly affected national policies and practices. The EU’s ‘open method of coordination’ is a new mode of governance which has been touted to create a new dynamic of interaction on employment and social policy which would push member-states to reform themselves by learning from one another, without any clearly specified EU-level directives. The EU’s initiatives on gender, whether through Commission-inspired directives or European Court of Justice decisions, have had a profound impact on women’s rights and employment. The EU Charter on Fundamental Rights is equally important for the protection of individual rights throughout the Union. And the EU’s proposals on immigration are beginning to alter national rules on immigration, which in turn have important ramifications for national ideas about citizenship.

Finally, the EU has had an important albeit indirect impact on the welfare state, which has itself been under great pressure since its ‘Golden Age’ in the postwar period. No course on ‘social Europe’ would be complete without considering the profound changes in national social and employment policies since the 1970s. These changes are the result of external economic pressures, global and European, as well as of internal political dynamics. And they can only be explored on a country by country basis, in order to understand the differences in responses following from differences in postwar policy legacies, in the impact of the economic crisis beginning in the mid-1970s as well as the major crisis beginning in 2008, in the preferences that played themselves out in electoral politics, and in the ideas and discourses through which national politicians sought to legitimate the reforms.

This course, in short, seeks to consider the past, present, and future of ‘social Europe.’ It begins with a focus on the impact of European political as well as economic integration on national identities, cultures, politics, and citizenship, follows with an examination of the policies that have had or will have the greatest impact on these social constructions, and ends with an examination of the changes in the welfare state over time.
COURSE OUTLINE:
A. Introduction: What is Social Europe?
B. The Building Blocks: Identity and Citizenship
   1. Identity
      a. Identity and Culture
      b. Identity and Borders
   2. Citizenship
      a. Politics and Democracy
      b. Politics and Citizenship
C. EU Policies for a Social Europe
   1. EU Immigration and Integration
   2. EU Gender Issues
   3. Other Identity-Related EU Policies: Global Warming, Food Safety, Biotech, the EU Social Model, Human Rights
D. The Underpinnings: The Welfare State in Europe
   1. EU Economics and National Welfare States
   2. National Social Policy Reform
   3. Politics, Values, and Discourse in Social Policy Change
E. Conclusion and Class Presentations

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kantola, Johanna Gender and the European Union (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

The books are all available at Barnes and Noble. Other readings are on reserve, accessible through the web, or from me via email.

Students are also strongly encouraged to get a subscription to the Financial Times as well as to the Economist. Also, please also check out the internet. The EU has a very
elaborate site, with a great deal of information. Check it out at www.eurunion.org. Also find a short guide at www.eurunion.org/infores/eurguide/eurguide.htm. In addition, see the list of internet sites on my website at: http://people.bu.edu/vschmidt

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
This course will be run as a seminar. Students are expected to do all the readings and to be prepared to discuss them. There will be one mid-term exam (worth 40 percent of the grade) and a final paper (worth 40 percent). Students will also be expected to provide one to two group oral presentations in class (worth 10 percent) in addition to a final class report on their paper, plus attend class regularly and participate in discussions (worth 10 percent of the grade). The paper (15-20 pages) will be a research paper focused on an important issue with regard to social Europe. The group oral presentations consist both of reports based on readings from the syllabus and presented in class (15 minute presentation) and a presentation of their final paper during the last few classes (5-10 minute presentation). Late papers or missed presentations without acceptable excuse or prior notification will be docked 3 percentage points.

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dean’s Office has requested that you be informed of the following: The last day you may drop the course without a W grade is Feb. 22. The last day you may drop the course with a W grade is Apr. 1. You are responsible for knowing the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code (copies are available in CAS 105). Cases of suspected academic misconduct with be referred to the Deans’ Office
SOCIAL EUROPE

Class 1: Wed. Jan. 19

A. Introduction: What is Social Europe?

B. The Building Blocks: Identity and Citizenship

1. Identity

Class 2: Wed. Jan. 26

a. Identity and Culture


10:30-12 Special Event:

Talk by François Foret, Free University of Brussels: "Symbolic and cultural dimensions of European integration"


Class 3: Wed. Feb 2

b. Identity and Borders

Eder, Klaus “Europe as a narrative network: taking the social embeddedness of identity constructions seriously” in “Debating Political Identity and Legitimacy, pp. 38-54. (will email)
Risse, Thomas, “Widening: EU Enlargement and Contested Identities” in Community of Europeans p. 204-225
Lucarelli, Sonja, “Mirrors of us: European political identity and the Others’ image of the EU” in “Debating Political Identity and Legitimacy, pp. 148-167 (will email)

2. Citizenship
Class 4: Wed. Feb. 9 (reschedule)

**a. Politics and Democracy**

Lord, Christopher: *Democracy in the New Europe*, chapters 1 – 4, pp. 1-87.


Class 5: Wed. Feb 16


Schmidt, Vivien “The Problems of Identity and Legitimacy in the European Union: Is more Politics the Answer?” in “Debating Political Identity and Legitimacy, pp. 16-37 (will email)

De Beus, Jos and Mak, Jeannette, “Gaining European legitimacy and identity through unlocking the public spheres of nation states: the case of the Netherlands” in “Debating Political Identity and Legitimacy, 131-147


Class 6: Wed. Feb 23

**b. Politics and Citizenship**

Risse, Thomas “Transnational Public Spheres,” “The Gradual Europeanization of Public Spheres,” and “A European Community of Communication?” pp. 107-176

Levrat, Nicolas, “Do the powers exerted by the EU need a legitimacy based on the citizens’ European identity? in “Debating Political Identity and Legitimacy, pp. 76-90 (will email)

Telò, Mario, “Three European constitutionalisms and their respective legitimacy requirements: explaining the longue durée stability of the EU polity,” in “Debating Political Identity and Legitimacy, pp. 93-114 (will email)

Class 7: Wed. Mar 2


Risse, Thomas, “Deepening” in *Community of Europeans* pp. 177-203.

**Special Event: Talk by Tanja Boerzel, Free University of Berlin**
Class 8: Wed. Mar. 9 (in class midterm)

C. EU Policies for a Social Europe

Class 9 Wed. Mar. 23

1. EU Immigration and Integration


Class 10 Wed. Mar 30

2. EU Gender Issues

Kantola, Johanna *Gender and the European Union* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), Chapters 1-6, pp. 1-147.

Zippel, Kathrin S. *The Politics of Sexual Harassment* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapters 3-5, pp. 82-201

Heather Macrae: “The EU as a Gender Equality Polity: Myths and Realities” in *JCMS*, vol. 48, issue 1, January 2010, pp. 155 – 174. [download from ejournals]

Class 11 Wed. Apr 6

3. Other Identity-Related EU Policies: Global Warming, Food Safety, Biotech, the EU Social Model, Human Rights

(chapters: 1 on identity, 3 on global warming, 4 on food safety, 5 on biotech, 8 on social model, 10 on human rights

C. The Underpinnings: European Social Welfare and Social Justice

Class 12 Wed. Apr 13

1. EU Economics and National Welfare States


Class 13 Wed. Apr. 20


Class Presentations

Class 14 Wed. Apr. 27

3. Politics, Values, and Discourse in Social Policy Change


Class Presentations

Class 15 Wed. May 4

Conclusion and Class Presentations [Papers due]