

CMINT Comparative regionalism

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Regional integration has become an important feature of world politics since the mid-1980s and the explosion of various forms of regional organisations on a global scale. While the European Union appears to be one of the most integrated form of organization, regional integration is a worldwide phenomenon with many examples in Africa (ECOWAS, SADC), Asia (ASEAN, SAARC, Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and Latin America (MERCOSUR, Pacific Alliance, CARICOM).

The aim of this course is to understand the dynamics of regionalization, the rise of regions but also their vulnerability or disintegration, by comparing their institutional and normative features (concentration of powers, delegation of competences, sources of law, enforcement mechanisms, citizens representation and participation...), and their embeddedness in global politics.

We will try to collectively answer the following questions: How to compare the varieties of regionalism across time and space? How theories of integration and regional cooperation explain the emergence of regions, their development and outcomes? Why are some regional organisations more integrated than others? Is regionalization determined by legal dynamics or is it only a matter of power politics? Does overlapping regionalism lead to cooperative or a competing regionalism? What are the linkages between regional governance and global governance? To what extent do regions contribute to the stability of the international system?

Course outline:

The course is based on 10 sessions of 2 hours each.

Following the introductory lecture, three sessions (2, 3, 4) will be dedicated to the European Union, including a contradictory debate between groups of students on a topic given one week in advance by the Professor (4). During the next three sessions (5,6,7), groups of students will make oral presentations of different regional organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, followed by a discussion. Finally, in the last two sessions (8,9) a group work will be organised in order to provide a comparative analysis of the studied regions.

1. Introduction: Analysing Regional Integration
2. The European Union: History and dynamics of European integration
3. The European Union: Institutional structure and modes of governance
4. The European Union: Debates on a topic related to EU current affairs
5. Group presentations (3 students per group): Latin America (MERCOSUR – CARICOM)
6. Group presentations (3 students per group): Asia (ASEAN – SAARC)
7. Group presentations (3 students per group): Africa (SADC – ECOWAS)
8. Group work (1h) and oral restitution (1h): Comparative analysis between regional organizations
9. Group work (1h) and oral restitution (1h): Comparative analysis between regional organizations

Assignments and evaluation:

In-class participation [20 % of the final grade].

Students should prepare the sessions and debates and make the readings in advance, when required. They should engage in well-informed and fluid exchanges during the class. A special attention will be given to the debate in session 4 and to in-class work sessions 8 and 9.

Group presentations during session 5, 6, 7, and final paper [40 % of the final grade].

In-class presentations of a regional organisation should last for 15-20 minutes and be based on a PPT presentation shared on Google drive at least 5 days before class.

All students are expected to read PPT presentations in advance and give constructive feedback to the presenters during the class.

A written paper (4000 words + annexes and references) based on the PPT must be sent to the Professor before April 15th.

Final Test [40 % of the final grade].

1h30 written exam.

READINGS :

(all readings are available at the website of La Doc' Sciences Po Grenoble-UGA, Ressources numériques <https://bibliotheque.sciencespo-grenoble.fr/cms/articleview/id/299>):

Cambridge University Press:

[Closa, Carlos, Casini, Lorenzo, Sender, Omri, \(Eds.\) 2016. *Comparative Regional Integration*, Cambridge University Press.](#)

[Mattli, Walter \(Ed.\) 2010. *The Logic of Regional Integration*, Cambridge University Press.](#)
[Available here:](#)

[Paul, T. V., \(Ed.\), 2012. *International Relations Theory and Regional Transformation*, New York University Press.](#)

Oxford Handbooks Online :

[Börzel, Tanja A. and Risse-Kappen, Thomas \(Eds.\), *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Regionalism*, Oxford Handbooks, Oxford University Press.](#)

ProQuest Ebook Central:

[Nolte, Detlef, Weiffen, Brigitte \(Eds.\), 2020. *Regionalism under Stress: Europe and Latin America in Comparative Perspective*, Taylor & Francis Group.](#)

[Saurugger, Sabine, Terpan, Fabien \(Eds.\), 2016. *Crisis and Institutional Change in Regional integration*, Routledge, Routledge Studies on Challenges, Crises and Dissent in World Politics.](#)

[Saurugger, Sabine, 2013. *Theoretical Approaches to European Integration*, Palgrave Macmillan.](#)

Strada Lex Europe:

[Terpan, Fabien, *Droit et politique de l'Union européenne*, Bruylant, 2018.](#)

Taylor & Francis:

[Laursen, Finn \(Ed.\) 2016. *Comparative Regional integration : Europe and Beyond*, Taylor and Francis.](#)