



4SK102: Seminar 2 Application and discussion of theoretical perspectives (23 September)

General information:

The topic of the second seminar is discussion and application of theories and concepts. It will take the form of “poster presentations” followed by discussions. I appreciate that poster presentations may be new to many of you, but in academia as well as in many jobs, you will be required to give brief oral presentations in conferences/fairs/exhibitions and the like, so it’s good to practice in a safe environment.

The poster presentations will be on theoretical perspectives or concepts that have been covered in the lectures and the course literature. There will be nine different theoretical perspectives or concepts for the poster presentations. These are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. A maximum of three students can choose each topic, and students who choose the same topic must work together as a group (or a pair if there are two of you). You will select your topic area via Moodle. The selection will open at the end of the lecture on Thursday 17 September, and you need to have made your selection by 13:00 on Friday 18 September (to allow time to get in touch and prepare).

Instructions for preparation and for the seminar itself:

Once you have selected a theoretical perspective or concept, you need to choose a case study related to European integration (for instance a current issue or a historical event) that can be better understood or analysed using your theoretical perspective or concept. Analyse your chosen case. You need to decide yourself how you are going to link and apply the theory and/or concept to the case.

When you have done your analysis, prepare a poster and a poster presentation for your case study.

There is ample advice on the internet about how to prepare and present academic posters, so search around yourselves for information about how to do it. We are not expecting designer miracles or superb software skills here, focus on the content. It is perfectly possible to create a decent poster using PowerPoint. You do not need to print it out. Instead, upload your poster in the forum provided for this purpose on Moodle before the seminar. When it is time for your presentation, your poster will be displayed electronically in the classroom.

A poster presentation is normally short. Yours should be approximately 10 minutes (a minute more or less is okay, but you cannot deviate more than that). If you work in a pair or a group of three, speaking time needs to be shared as equally as possible. In this brief time, you need to explain your case study in a succinct and engaging way using your poster as a visual aid. It needs to be clear what the case is and that you understand and can apply the theoretical perspective/concept in an appropriate way. In other words, the focus needs to be on application of theory, *not* on empirical description of your chosen case. Practise beforehand. You will *not* be allowed to use any notes for your presentation. You can of course point to your poster but simply reading out what it says there will not be accepted.

When preparing for the seminar, you are free to experiment with AI, and I encourage you to see if it can help you in any way. However, at the time of the seminar, it is essential that you “own” your knowledge. If you do not understand what you are talking about because you have only memorised an AI generated presentation, this will become apparent and you will not pass. Your presentation will also be followed by a brief discussion. Now you need to be prepared to answer questions from the teacher or fellow students. You should be able to expect a kind audience. There should be no “deliberately malicious” questions, but you need to be able to respond to questions on things you could reasonably be expected to comment on after having attended the lectures, read relevant course literature and researched your case.

Grading criteria:

The seminar forms part of the examination for the course. To pass this seminar you must:

- 1) Before the session: Prepare a poster and a poster presentation. Upload your poster in the forum provided for this purpose on Moodle. If working in a pair/group it is sufficient that one person uploads it.
- 2) In the session: present the poster you have prepared and answer questions on it in a satisfactory manner (if working in a pair/group of three – speaking time needs to be shared as equally as possible), attend the whole session and engage constructively with the other students’ poster presentations.

Nota bene: this is not to say that everyone needs to ask questions about everyone else’s poster (as this would mean that we’ll be there all day!), but as a minimum you do need to show a polite interest in other students’ work by actively listening and by being prepared to offer your comments if prompted by the teacher or presenting students.

Regarding re-takes:

Students who are unavoidably absent will have to take part in a re-take seminar *in person* and submit an additional written assignment. In the event a student attends but the teacher is not satisfied that the student meets the criteria above, the student will be individually notified about the need to re-take.

If you know in advance that you cannot attend on the day, do not choose a topic now but notify the teacher that you will attend the re-take instead. If you have prepared but then cannot attend on the day due to illness or similar, please notify the teacher.

Details about the re-take will be communicated after the original seminar has taken place to students who have actively declared their wish to re-take.