March 26, 2012

"Europe at the Crossroads: The Euro Crisis and the Future of European Integration"

Alumni Lounge, The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison WI

The panel will feature George Ross (University of Montreal), Arthur Goldhammer (Harvard University) and Menzie D. Chinn (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Moderators: Mark Copelovitch (UW-Madison, Political Science and La Follette School of Public Affairs) and Nils Ringe (UW-Madison, Political Science)

The panel will be followed by a small reception co-sponsored by the European Union Center of Excellence and Division of International Studies.

About the Panel:

In 1999, the launch of the euro was heralded by many as the capstone of five decades of successful European integration. Amidst the optimism of the euro's first days, most observers forecast a future in which Europe's progress toward "ever closer union" would continue unabated. Indeed, in the ensuing decade, the European Union became the world's largest trading area, the euro area expanded to include seventeen member-states, and the Lisbon Treaty moved European integration forward in critical ways. Since 2010, however, the euphoria of the euro's early days has been replaced by the acrimony and pessimism now on display in Germany, Greece, and other member-states. Rather than a future of broader and deeper integration, many now worry that the future of the single currency - if not the entire project of European integration itself - is in peril of collapse.

To what extent is such pessimism warranted? Where do matters stand with respect to the eurozone crisis and the future of the single currency?

How will the crisis alter the future trajectory of European integration? In order to address these critical questions, we have brought together a panel of distinguished experts on the economics, politics, and history of European integration.

About the Speakers:
George Ross is Hillquit Professor emeritus at Brandeis, faculty associate of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard, and ad personam Chaire Jean Monnet at the University of Montreal. He has been Chair of the European Union Studies Association, Executive Director of the European Union Center at Harvard University, Chair of the Council for European Studies, and is a founding editor of French Politics Culture and Society. His most recent books are Brussels in Crisis: The European Union and its Crises Through the Eyes of the Brussels Elite (Palgrave-Macmillan 2011), and What’s Left of the Left?, edited with James Cronin and James Shoch (Duke UP, 2011).

Arthur Goldhammer is a Senior Affiliate of the Center for European Studies, Harvard University. He has translated more than 120 books from the French, including Tocqueville's Democracy in America, and has written extensively on French politics and culture. He also blogs on French politics at http://artgoldhammer.blogspot.com. He serves on the editorial board of French Politics, Culture, and Society and The Tocqueville Review and is a contributor to a recent volume on the fate of European social democracy, What's Left of the Left? edited by James Cronin, George Ross, and James Schoch.

Menzie D. Chinn is Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs. In 2000-2001, Professor Chinn served as Senior Staff Economist for International Finance on the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He is currently a Research Fellow in the International Finance and Macroeconomics Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and has been a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund, the Congressional Budget Office, the Federal Reserve Board and the European Central Bank. With Jeffry Frieden, he is the coauthor of Lost Decades: The Making of America's Debt Crisis and the Long Recovery (September 2011, W.W. Norton). He is also a contributor to Econbrowser, a weblog on macroeconomic issues.