

POLI 239
Introduction to European Government

Spring 2016

Instructor

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Meeting Times

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45
Phillips 247

Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-5:30 and by appointment, EspressoOasis Café (FedEx Global Ed Center)

Course Description and Objectives

The course aims to familiarize you with Western European politics since WWII and is divided into three sections:

- Part 1: European Political Systems (January 12 – February 18)
- Part 2: European Politics: Countries and Issues (February 23 – March 31)
- Part 3: The European Union (April 5 – April 26)

The first section analyzes the political institutions of European countries in a comparative way, with a focus on political parties, electoral systems, and systems of government. This section also explores aspects of political behavior, such as political participation, party choice, and election campaigns. Examples drawn from several European countries contribute to the discussion. The second section delves into four case studies (UK, France, Germany, and Italy) and addresses salient issues in European politics, including the role of radical right parties and the refugee crisis. In the end, the third section analyzes the history and the institutions of the European Union and discusses recent challenges such as the economic crisis and relations with Russia.

The fundamental goal of the course is to introduce you to the political institutions of Western European countries and the European Union. By the end of the course, you are expected to:

- Possess a good overview of the politics and recent political history of Western European countries and the European Union;
- Understand and discuss how political institutions influence policy outcomes and political representation;
- Critically analyze and discuss contemporary issues in European politics.

Readings

The book that we will use most, at least in the first part of the course, is: *Gallagher, M., M. Laver, and P. Mair (GLM). Representative Government in Modern Europe. 2011. 5th Edition.*

Since all of the readings are made available on Sakai (both the chapters from GLM and the other readings), you can decide whether to buy the book or access the readings online.

Class Schedule, Topics, and Readings*

**Please note that I reserve the right to change/add/subtract materials throughout the semester.*

Part 1: European Political Systems and Institutions		
January 12 (T)	What is Europe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 1 (1-13)
January 14 (R)	Ideologies and Party Families I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economist (1-2) • GLM, Ch. 8 (238-252; 270-275)
January 19 (T)	Ideologies and Party Families II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 8 (253-270)
January 21 (R)	Party Systems + Map Quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart, Ch. 5 (62-74 only) • GLM, Ch. 7 (195-235)
January 26 (T)	Social Cleavages and Party Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 9 (278-321) • Dalton, Ch. 8 (143-169)
January 28 (R)	Electoral Systems I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 11 (366-380)
February 2 (T)	Electoral Systems II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 11 (380-398)
February 4 (R)	Elections & Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green-Pedersen (607-626) • Kriesi (83-105)
February 9 (T)	Systems of Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 2 (23-44)
February 11 (R)	Systems of Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 3 (47-78)
February 16 (T)	Parliaments and Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 12 (412-455)
February 18 (R)	<i>Team game: Institutional Design</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Readings • Roles TBD
Part 2: European Politics: Countries and Issues		
February 23 (T)	The UK + Paper topic proposal due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 2 (17-55)
February 25 (R)	Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 3 (58-90)
March 1 (T)	Midterm	
March 3 (R)	France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 4 (94-133)
March 8 (T)	Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 5 (135-172)
March 10 (R)	<i>Catch-up session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No readings
March 15, 17	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
March 22 (T)	Paper Discussion: Same-Sex Marriage in France and the Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayoub and Paternotte (1-14) • Waaldijk (104-124)

March 24 (R)	Radical Right Parties in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudde 2007, Ch. 1 (11-31); Ch.2 (32-33; 41-59) • Mudde 2013 (1-16)
March 29 (T)	The Refugee Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Foreign Relations (1-9) • <i>The New Yorker</i>: A Syrian Refugee's Epic Escape
March 31 (R)	<i>Policy Simulation: Dealing with the Refugee Crisis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended readings TBA • Roles TBD
Part 3: The European Union		
April 5 (T)	Introduction to the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 1 (1-22) • EU Guide for Americans (26-43)
April 7 (R)	<i>No Class – Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association</i>	
April 12 (T)	EU History I + Paper due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 3 (45-60 only) • Phinnemore (33-47)
April 14 (R)	EU History II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church & Phinnemore (48-66) • Verdun (324-339)
April 19 (T)	EU Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 4 (69-93)
April 21 (R)	The Euro and the Eurocrisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress Report (1-10) • Glazer (305-326) • Pappas (31-45)
April 26 (T)	Foreign Policy of the EU: Between the US and Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bindi (13-38; 119-128; 209-219)
May 3, 12 PM	Final Exam	

Requirements

Grades are determined by the quality of the final result (i.e. the work submitted), not by the effort put into the process. The course has the following requirements:

Map quiz (January 21): 5%

Midterm (March 1): 25%

Paper (paper topic proposal due February 23; paper due April 12): 25%

Final (May 3, 12 pm): 30%

Participation (including current events presentation, team game, and policy simulation): 15%

The deadlines listed above are strict: **late quizzes, midterms, and finals will not be scheduled; late papers will not be accepted.** Paper topic proposal and research paper must be submitted at

the beginning of class on the due date. Please talk to me as soon as possible prior to any due date if you anticipate any issue and have a valid excuse.

The following grading scale applies:

A	94-100	A-	90-93		
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F	<60				

Map Quiz

The map quiz takes place on January 21 at the beginning of class. The quiz covers the 28 EU member states, in addition to Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine. You are expected to be able to identify the countries on a blank map and know their capitals. The map quiz counts for 5% of your final grade.

Midterm

The midterm exam takes place on March 1 and covers all of the topics of the first section of the course until February 25 (included). The midterm counts for 25% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Paper

The 10-page paper is due on April 12 and counts for 25% of your final grade. A one-page paper topic proposal is due on February 23. While the topic proposal is not graded, being late with the proposal submission will result in a 3-point decrease (out of 100) per day in your paper grade. The aim of the paper is to compare a specific public policy in two western European countries of your choice. The paper must meet the following requirements: 10 pages, Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1-inch margins, double-spaced. Further information about the topic proposal and the paper will be provided during the semester. The paper must be submitted at the beginning of class on April 12; late papers will not be accepted.

Final

The final exam takes place on May 3 at 12 pm and counts for 30% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Participation

Participation is an integral part of the class and counts for 15% of your final grade. While I understand that some of you may not be comfortable with speaking up in class, everyone should make an effort to do it. Just being present in class will not grant you an "A" for participation; instead, it will grant you a C+. To receive full participation points, you must be present, alert, and active in class discussion. Please note that the quality of participation, and not just the quantity, will affect the overall participation grade. During in-class discussion, be always respectful of disagreeing opinions.

More specifically, your participation grade will be determined by: (i) attendance; (ii) participation in in-class discussion; (iii) current events presentation; (iv) participation in the team game on institutional design and the policy simulation.

Attendance

You are allowed three (3) unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. For every following unexcused absence, your participation grade will be reduced by four (4) points. Regular tardiness to class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

Current events presentation

Each student is expected to deliver a presentation on current events related to European politics. A sign-up sheet for presentations, which will take place during each class, will be circulated on the first day. Presentations should be informal (no power point) and last no longer than 3 minutes. Possible sources of articles include: BBC, The Guardian, France 24 (English version), Spiegel Online (International version), Politico (European version), El País (English version), Financial Times, The Economist, and The New York Times (International version). If possible, try to choose an article related to the lecture or readings of the day. Please send me the link to the article that you are presenting by 9 am on the day of your presentation. Pay attention to the presentations of your classmates and keep up with the news because questions on current events are likely to appear on the midterm and the final.

Team-game institutional design and policy simulation

Two simulations will take place at the end of the first and second session of the course. On February 18, the class will be divided into groups for a team game. Each team will be in charge of crafting a new set of political institutions for a European country in order to improve its political functioning. On March 31, we will have a policy simulation on one of the most pressing crises in Europe: the refugee crisis. In this role play, you will represent one of the many actors involved in the crisis. Further directions on how to prepare for these two simulations will be provided during the semester.

Additional information

Electronics policy

The use of laptops, tablets, and cell phones is not allowed. Laptops can be distracting for you and your classmates. Furthermore, as scientific evidence shows, taking notes by hand helps remember better. The following article describes the experiment producing this finding: <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>.

Email policy

While I am always happy to communicate via email, emails are not the best way to discuss substantive questions concerning course material. I encourage you to come to office hours if you would like me to clarify concepts or discuss issues in depth. Please be professional when you write emails: include proper greetings and salutations and check your spelling and grammar.

Grade questions

At times you may have questions about your grades on exams or papers. I am happy to discuss any grading-related issue during office hours. In order for me to re-grade any assignment, you need to provide me with a written note (hard copy or email) explaining in detail why the grade should be changed. I will then re-grade the entire assignment and I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade accordingly.

Honor code

The honor code applies to the course. Plagiarism, cheating and other violations will not be tolerated. For more information on the honor code, please visit the following page: <http://instrument.unc.edu/>. To familiarize yourself with the concept of plagiarism, you may want to take the library tutorial: <http://www2.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism/>.