

POLI 239
Introduction to European Government
Fall 2015

Instructor

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Meeting Times

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45
Alumni 207

Office hours: Tuesday 9-12 and by appointment, EspressoOasis Café (FedEx Global Ed Center)

Course Description and Objectives

The course aims to familiarize you with European politics and focuses on Western Europe since WWII. The fundamental goal is to introduce you to the political institutions and policies of the European countries and the European Union and to understand how institutions influence political outcomes and representation. The course is divided in the following sections:

- Part 1: European Political Systems (August 18 – October 13)
- Part 2: The European Union (October 20 – November 3)
- Part 3: Contemporary Issues in European Politics (November 5 – December 1)

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 will also explore some aspects of political behavior, including political participation, party choice, and election campaigns. While a few sections will be devoted to the in-depth analysis of four case studies (the UK, France, Germany, and Italy), examples will be drawn from several other countries. The second section focuses on the European Union and analyzes both the history and the institutions of the EU. In the end, the third section will address salient issues in contemporary European politics: the economic crisis in the Eurozone; immigration and the Mediterranean crisis; European radical right parties; and LGBT rights in Europe.

Readings

The book that we will use most, at least in the first part of the class, 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 are free to 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		
August 18 (T)	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Readings
August 20 (R)	What is Europe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 2 (23-44) • Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 1 (1-15)
August 25 (T)	Political Parties I: Ideologies and Party Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 8 (238-275) • The Economist (1-2)
August 27 (R)	Political Parties II: Social Cleavages and Electoral Behavior + Map Quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 9 (278-321) • Dalton, Ch. 8 (143-169)
September 1 (T)	Political Parties III: Party Systems and Party Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart, Ch. 5 (62-74 only) • GLM, Ch. 7 (195-235)
September 3 (R)	<i>No class – Meeting of the American Political Science Association</i>	
September 8 (T)	Electoral Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 11 (366-407)
September 10 (R)	Elections & Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green-Pedersen (607-626) • Kriesi (83-105) • Selection of election notes
September 15 (T)	Systems of Government I: The Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 2 (23-44)
September 17 (R)	Systems of Government II: The Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 3 (47-78)
September 22 (T)	Government Formation and Coalitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLM, Ch. 12 (412-455)
September 24 (R)	Case Study I: The UK + Paper topic proposal due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 2 (17-55)
September 29 (T)	Case Study II: France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 4 (94-133)
October 1 (R)	Case Study III: Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 3 (58-90)
October 6 (T)	Case Study IV: Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colomer eds., Ch. 5 (135-172)
October 8 (R)	<i>Catch-up Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No readings
October 13 (T)	Midterm	
October 15 (R)	<i>No class – Fall Break</i>	
Part 2: The European Union		
October 20 (T)	Introduction to the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 1 (1-22) • EU Guide for Americans (26-43)

October 22 (R)	EU History I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 3 (45-57 only) • Churchill (5-9) • Monnet (17-24)
October 27 (T)	EU History II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phinnemore (33-47) • Barnes & Barnes (419-434)
October 29 (R)	EU Institutions I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 4 (69-93) • Church & Phinnemore (48-66) • EurActiv (1-8)
November 3 (T)	EU Institutions II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verdun (324-339) • CRS – The EU Q&A
Part 3: Contemporary Issues in European Politics		
November 5 (R)	The Eurocrisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress Report (1-10) • Council on Foreign Relations (1-5) • Schwartz (701-708) • Glazer (305-326) • Selection of news articles
November 10 (T)	Immigration and the Mediterranean Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses (371-396) • Council of Foreign Relations (1-7) • Selection of news articles and IBT Photo Report
November 12 (R)	<i>Catch-up Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No readings
November 17 (T)	The Radical Right in Europe + Paper Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudde 2007, Ch. 1 (11-31); Ch. 2 (32-33; 41-59) • Mudde 2013 (1-16) • Selection of news articles
November 19 (R)	LGBT Rights in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayoub & Paternotte (1-21) • Selection of news articles
November 24 (T)	Poster Presentation I	
November 26 (R)	<i>No class – Thanksgiving</i>	
December 1 (T)	Poster Presentation II	
December 8, 12pm – Final Exam + poster presentation memo due		

Requirements

The course has the following requirements:

Map quiz (August 27): 5%

Midterm (October 13): 25%

Paper (paper topic proposal due: September 24; paper due: November 17): 25%

Poster presentation (poster presentation: November 24 & December 1; presentation memo: December 8): 10%

Final (December 8, 12 pm): 25%

Participation: 10%

Attendance is required. **Missing more than six (6) class meetings without a valid excuse will result in a failing grade (F) for the class.** See below for more information.

Please note that the deadlines listed above are strict: **late quizzes, midterms and finals will not be scheduled; late papers will not be accepted; and the poster presentation must occur on the day for which you have signed up.** Please talk to me as soon as possible prior to any due date if you anticipate any issues and you have a valid excuse.

Map Quiz

The map quiz takes place on August 27 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 to know their capitals. The map quiz counts for 5% of your final grade.

Midterm

The midterm exam takes place on October 13 and covers all of the topics of the first section of the course until October 8 (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 November 17 and counts for 25% of your final grade. A one-page paper topic proposal is due on September 24. The following week (September 29) everyone is expected to meet individually with me to receive feedback on their proposal. 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. Failing to meet to discuss your paper topic will result in an additional 5-point decrease in your paper grade. 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.

Poster Presentation

Everyone is expected to present the findings of their paper in a poster presentation. Participants will be divided in two groups: half of the class will present on November 24, the second half on December 1. On the date you choose, you will bring your poster to class and stand next to it to

present your findings and address questions that other students may have. After attending both poster presentations, you will write a one-page memo about the paper findings presented by two other students (one from November 24 and one from December 1). The one-page memo is due in class on December 8 at the beginning of the final exam. Sign-up sheets to choose the date and further information about the poster presentation will be provided during the semester.

Final

The final exam takes place on December 8 at 12 pm and counts for 25% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Attendance and Participation

Each student is allowed two (2) unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. For every following unexcused absence, your participation grade will be reduced by four (4) points. **Missing more than six (6) class meetings without a valid excuse will result in a failing grade (F) for the class**, regardless of your performance on the midterm exam, the final exam, or the paper. Furthermore, regular tardiness to class will negatively affect your participation grade.

Participation is an integral part of the class. While I understand that some students may not be comfortable with speaking up in class, everyone should make an effort to do it. I also do value other forms of participation, such as coming to office hours, asking questions at the end of class, and communicating via emails. 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 discussion in class, be always respectful of disagreeing opinions.

Additional information

Electronics policy

The use of laptops, tablets, and cell phones is not allowed. Laptops can be distracting for you and the class. Also, taking notes by hand helps remember better. Here is some scientific evidence: <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 students may have questions about their grades on exams or papers. I am happy to discuss any grading-related issue during office hours. However, 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/>.