

**POLI 239 / EURO 239**  
**Introduction to European Government**

Spring 2017

**Instructor**

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**Meeting Times**

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45  
Dey Hall 206

**Office hours:** Tuesday 9:15-12:15, EspressoOasis Café (FedEx Global Ed Center)

**Course Description and Objectives**

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

- Part 1: European Political Systems (January 12 – February 21)
- Part 2: European Politics: Countries and Issues (February 23 – March 30)
- Part 3: The European Union (April 4 – April 27)

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 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, populism, 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 systems of Western European countries and the European Union. By the end of the course, you are expected to:

- Possess a good overview of the political systems and the 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**

In the first part of the course, we will mostly use: *Gallagher, M., M. Laver, and P. Mair (GLM). Representative Government in Modern Europe. 2011. 5th Edition.* All of the readings, including chapters from GLM and readings for the second and the third part of the course, are available on Sakai. 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.*

<b>Part 1: European Political Systems and Institutions</b>		
January 12 (R)	What is Europe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crepaz &amp; Steiner, Ch. 1 (1-13)</li> </ul>
January 17 (T)	Ideologies and Party Families I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Economist (1-2)</li> <li>• GLM, Ch. 8 (238-252; 270-275)</li> </ul>
January 19 (R)	Ideologies and Party Families II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 8 (253-270)</li> </ul>
January 24 (T)	Party Systems + <b>Map Quiz</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lijphart, Ch. 5 (62-74 only)</li> <li>• GLM, Ch. 7 (195-235)</li> </ul>
January 26 (R)	Social Cleavages and Party Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 9 (278-321)</li> <li>• Dalton, Ch. 8 (143-169)</li> </ul>
January 31 (T)	Electoral Systems I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 11 (366-380)</li> </ul>
February 2 (R)	Electoral Systems II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 11 (380-398)</li> </ul>
February 7 (T)	Elections & Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green-Pedersen (607-626)</li> <li>• Kriesi (83-105)</li> </ul>
February 9 (R)	Systems of Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 2 (23-44)</li> </ul>
February 14 (T)	Systems of Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 3 (47-78)</li> </ul>
February 16 (R)	Parliaments and Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLM, Ch. 12 (412-455)</li> </ul>
February 21 (T)	<i>Team game: Institutional Design</i> + <b>Paper topic proposal due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Readings</li> <li>• Roles TBD</li> </ul>
<b>Part 2: European Politics: Countries and Issues</b>		
February 23 (R)	The UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colomer eds., Ch. 2 (17-55)</li> </ul>
February 28 (T)	Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colomer eds., Ch. 3 (58-90)</li> </ul>
March 2 (R)	<b>Midterm</b>	
March 7 (T)	France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colomer eds., Ch. 4 (94-133)</li> </ul>
March 9 (R)	Italy + <b>1<sup>st</sup> Paper due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colomer eds., Ch. 5 (135-172)</li> </ul>

March 14, 16	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
March 21 (T)	Radical Right Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudde 2007, Ch. 1 (11-31); Ch.2 (32-33; 41-59)</li> <li>• Mudde 2013 (1-16)</li> </ul>
March 23 (R)	The Rise of Populism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pappas 2016 (22-35)</li> <li>• Abedi &amp; Lundberg (72-77)</li> <li>• Reynié (47-56)</li> </ul>
March 28 (T)	The Refugee Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council of Foreign Relations (1-9)</li> <li>• European Council of Foreign Relations (1-10)</li> <li>• The New Yorker: A Syrian Refugee's Epic Escape</li> </ul>
March 30 (R)	<i>Policy Simulation: Dealing with the Refugee Crisis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended readings TBA</li> <li>• Roles TBD</li> </ul>
<b>Part 3: The European Union</b>		
April 4 (T)	Introduction to the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, Ch. 1 (1-22)</li> <li>• EU Guide for Americans (26-43)</li> </ul>
April 6 (R)	<i>No Class – Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association</i>	
April 11 (T)	EU History I + <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Paper due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, Ch. 3 (45-60 only)</li> <li>• Phinnemore (33-47)</li> </ul>
April 13 (R)	EU History II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church &amp; Phinnemore (48-66)</li> <li>• Verdun (324-339)</li> </ul>
April 18 (T)	EU Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, Ch. 4 (69-93)</li> </ul>
April 20 (R)	The Euro and the Eurocrisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress Report (1-10)</li> <li>• Glazer (305-326)</li> <li>• Pappas (31-45)</li> </ul>
April 25 (T)	European Foreign Policy: Between the US and Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bindi (13-38; 209-219)</li> </ul>
April 27 (R)	European Foreign Policy: What's Next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bindi (119-128)</li> <li>• LSE Ideas (3-5; 8-13)</li> </ul>
May 5, 12 PM	<b>Final Exam</b>	

## 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 24): 5%
- Midterm (March 2): 25%
- Paper I (paper topic proposal due February 21; paper due March 9): 10%
- Paper II (April 11): 15%
- Final (May 5, 12 pm): 30%
- Participation (including attendance, in-class discussion, current events presentation, team game, policy simulation, and forum posts): 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 papers 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 24 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 these 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 2 and tests all of the material covered until February 28 (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

There are two 5-page papers, which cumulatively counts for 25% of your final grade. The first 5-page paper counts for 10% of your final grade and is due on March 9 at the beginning of class. The second 5-page paper is due on April 11 at the beginning of class and counts for 15% of your final grade. A one-page paper topic proposal is due on February 21. 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 first paper grade. The aim of the papers is to compare a specific public policy in

two western European countries of your choice. The papers must be 5 pages each, Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1-inch margins, double-spaced. Further information about the topic proposal and the papers will be provided during the semester. The papers must be submitted at the beginning of class on their due dates; late papers will not be accepted.

### Final

The final exam takes place on May 5 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 and contribute to the discussion. To receive full participation points, you must be present, alert, and active in class. Please note that the quality of participation, and not just the quantity, will affect the overall participation grade. 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; (v) participation in the policy simulation; (vi) forum posts.

### *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 presentation sign-up sheet will be circulated on the first day of class. Presentations will take place during each class, will be informal (no power point), and should last no longer than 3 minutes. You are expected to summarize the content of a news article and come up with a discussion question at the end of your presentation. If possible, choose an article related to the lecture or readings of the day. Potential sources of articles include (but are not limited to): 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). Please send the link to the article to me and all of your classmates via Sakai by 11:59pm on the day before your presentation. Pay attention to the presentations 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 section of the course. On February 21, the class will be divided into groups for a team game. Each team will be in charge of crafting new political institutions for a specific European country in order to improve its political functioning. On March 30 we will have a policy simulation on one of the most pressing European crises: the refugee crisis. In this role play, each student will represent one of the many actors involved in the crisis. Further information on how to prepare for these simulations will be provided during the semester.

*Special project: The 2017 French Presidential Election*

The next French presidential election will take place in the spring: the first round will be held on April 23, the second one on May 7. We will follow the election campaign and discuss related political events. The French Presidential election gives us the opportunity to apply what we learn theoretically to a real-world case study. Not only is France one of the few European countries in which the president is directly elected by the people, but is also one of the most important members of the European Union. This election is a perfect “laboratory” to study the influence of political institutions such as the electoral system and the party system on political outcomes, and to delve into some of the most pressing political issues, including the growth of far-right and populist parties and the political consequences of immigration and terrorist attacks, of which France has been a repeated target in the past few years.

For this project, you are expected to write at least two 125-word forum posts on Sakai with your comments on the development of the election campaign. The first post must be written before spring break, the second one after spring break. While this is the only requirement, you are encouraged to write as many posts as you want (additional posts have no minimal required length) and to post links to relevant articles. You are also encouraged to engage with your classmates’ posts, discuss their comments, and share your opinions. The forum posts are not graded, but the quality of your contribution will count toward your participation grade.

Therefore, this is an especially useful way to boost the participation grade for those of you who do not feel too comfortable speaking up in class. We will also have several opportunities to discuss the developments of the French presidential campaign throughout the semester. Further information will be provided in class.

### **Additional information**

#### Electronics policy

The use of laptops, tablets, smartphones, 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.

### Safe Environment

We will strive to make this class a safe, happy and welcoming environment for all. When we talk about political and social issues, different opinions are likely to emerge. A discussion with diverse perspectives can be enriching, but only as far as we are always respectful of different points of view. Let's always engage civilly, even when we disagree with others' positions.

### Pronouns

Please let me know (in whatever way you wish) what you like to be known as/introduced as. If there are any other things you would like to communicate to me privately about your involvement in class, please do not hesitate to do so.

### Honor code

The honor code applies to this 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/>.