

POLS 3640-01
Politics of the European Union

Fall 2019

Tuesday and Thursday 2:40-4:10, St. Roberts Hall (STR) 366

Professor Gabriele Magni

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:20-12:20; 4:30-6:00; Thursday: 11:30-2:00

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Pronouns: he, him, his

Course Description

The course provides an overview of post-WWII European politics and of the politics of the European Union.

The course is divided into three sections:

- Part 1: European Political Systems and Institutions (August 27 – October 3)
- Part 2: The European Union: History, Institutions and Decision-Making (October 10 – November 12)
- Part 3: Politics and Society in the European Union (November 14 – December 5)

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 analyzes the history and the institutions of the European Union (EU), exploring how political decisions are made in the EU. It also discusses recent challenges faced by the EU such as the Eurocrisis and Brexit. The third segment of the course focuses on major political and social issues that affect the European Union, including the role of radical right parties, populism, immigration and refugee crisis, and minority rights.

Course objectives and student learning outcomes

- Develop tools to better examine a wide range of political outcomes in order to increase your understanding of European politics
- Gain a deeper substantive knowledge of the political systems and the recent political history of European countries and the European Union
- Critically analyze and discuss contemporary issues in European and EU politics

- Understand and discuss how political institutions influence policy outcomes and political representation
- Critically examine the course material presented, including academic readings, news articles, and lectures. Critical thought does not necessarily imply criticism, but a careful and creative consideration of the subject matter and a display of awareness of multiple viewpoints
- Improve writing skills and creative thinking through the research paper assignment, advancing logical arguments supported with evidence
- Develop public speaking skills through class presentations, communicating thoughts clearly and concisely

Course requirements

The course will meet twice a week. The requirements for the course are first and foremost regular class attendance, reading of the assigned materials, and active participation in class discussions.

Attendance is obligatory. 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. Further absences will be excused only in reasonable cases. However, you need to contact me ahead of the class session that you plan to miss. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered in class. Make sure you ask a colleague for class notes.

I expect everyone to **arrive on time**. Regular tardiness to class will negatively affect your participation grade. I understand that life is complicated but late arrivals are disruptive and distracting. I appreciate your cooperation.

Please come to **office hours** or contact me by e-mail if you have questions or concerns. If you have any kind of problem with the course or with life, please communicate with me (you do not need to give me any specific details regarding the personal situation you might be going through). Do not let missed classes and assignments get out of hand. I am willing to work with you to help you succeed, but I cannot do so retroactively at the end of the semester.

Students are expected to come to each session **ready for a lively discussion** that will help us all better understand historic and contemporary trends in European politics.

The following are some guidelines to help you get started:

- **Speak up**. Don't be afraid to ask a question or make a comment. I value class participation, and it is possible that other students have similar concerns
- **Respect** one another. Differences of opinion are likely and desirable. Listen to other students' questions, express your disagreements with respect, and always value and engage with your colleagues' opinions
- **Silence your cell-phones**. Should I notice that you are using your phone, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, **your participation grade will be reduced** by three (3 points) for each violation

- **Laptops are only allowed for note taking.** Violations of this policy will negatively affect your grade. Should I notice that you are on your laptop doing things unrelated to class, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, **your participation grade will be reduced** by three (3 points) for each violation

Course Readings

We will use the following books (both are available in the Campus Bookstore):

- *Bale, Tim. European Politics: A Comparative Introduction. 4th Edition. 2017. ISBN: 9781137581334*
- *McCormick, John. Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction. 7th Edition. 2017. ISBN: 9781137606259*

I will post the remaining required readings on Brightspace.

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		
August 27 (T)	What is Europe?	• Bale, Ch. 1 (skim)
August 29 (R)	Ideologies and Party Families I	• The Economist (1-2) • Bale, Ch. 5 (131-150)
September 3 (T)	Ideologies and Party Families II	• Bale, Ch. 9
September 5 (R)	Party Systems + Map Quiz	• Bale, Ch. 5 (150-166) • Lijphart, Ch. 5 (62-74)
September 10 (T)	Social Cleavages and Party Support	• Gallagher, Laver, Mair (278-298) • Dalton (143-169)
September 12 (R)	Electoral Systems I	• Bale, Ch. 6 (190-204) • Lijphart (143-170)
September 17 (T)	Electoral Systems II	• Bale, Ch. 6 (204-226)
September 19 (R)	Elections & Campaigns	• Green-Pedersen (607-626) • Kriesi (83-105)
September 24 (T)	Systems of Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential I	• Bale, Ch. 4 (112-130)

September 26 (R)	Systems of Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart (90-108; 116-139)
October 1 (T)	Parliaments and Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bale, Ch. 4 (130-148)
October 3 (R)	<i>Team game: Institutional Design</i>	
October 8 (T)	*Midterm*	
Part 2: The European Union: History, Institutions and Decision-Making		
October 10 (R)	Introduction to the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 1 and 2
October 15 (T)	EU History I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 3 (48-59) • Churchill 1946 • Monnet 1962
October 17 (R)	EU History II <i>Paper abstract due</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 3 (59-71)
October 22 (T)	EU Institutions I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 4
October 24 (R)	EU Institutions II <i>Paper comments due</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 5
October 29 (T)	EU Institutions III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 6
October 31 (R)	The Euro and the Eurocrisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormick, Ch. 7 • Congress Report 2012
November 5 (T)	Brexit I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYT 2019 • Gilmore 2017 (skim) • Menon and Salter 2016
November 7 (R)	Brexit II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodwin and Heath 2016 • Ford and Goodwin 2017
November 12 (T)	<i>Class activity</i>	
Part 3: Politics and Society in the European Union		
November 14 (R)	The Radical Right *Research paper due*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudde 2007 (Chapter 1) • Golder 2016 • BBC 2019
November 19 (T)	Populism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barr 2009 • Urbinati 2019
November 21 (R)	Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bale, Chapter 10

November 26 (T)	The refugee crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bansak, Hainmueller, Hangartner 2016 • The New Yorker 2015: A Syrian Refugee’s Epic Escape
November 28 (R)	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
December 3 (T)	<i>Refugee crisis: Policy Simulation</i>	
December 5 (R)	LGBT politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magni 2019
December 10 (T)	*Final exam, 2 pm*	

During the semester, there will be three events that you are strongly encouraged to attend. If you attend, you will receive extra credit (if you have a schedule conflict and cannot attend, come see me for alternative extra-credit opportunities). Further information will be provided during the semester, but please mark your calendars with the following dates:

1. **September 3: Ben Rhodes**, former United States Deputy National Security Advisor under President Obama
2. **October 3: Leta Hong**, scholar and author of “Betraying Big Brother: the Feminist Awakening in China” and “The Leftover Women: Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China”
3. **October 17: Steven Levitsky**, Harvard Professor and author of “How Democracies Die”

Course evaluation

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 (September 5): 5%
- Midterm exam (October 8): 25%
- Research paper (November 14): 25%
- Final exam (December 10): 30%
- Participation (including attendance, in-class discussion, current events presentation, team game, policy simulation, and other class activities): 15%

The deadlines listed above are strict: **late midterms and finals will not be scheduled; late papers will not be accepted.** Paper abstracts 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	60-69	F	<60		

Midterm exam

The midterm exam takes place on October 8 and tests all of the material covered until October 3 (included). The midterm counts for 25% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Research paper

There is a 10-page research paper, which counts for 25% of the final grade. The final paper is due on November 14. The paper should not be a literature review or summary of the readings. You will be evaluated based on the clarity of your question, the organization and clarity of your argument, the supporting evidence that you provide, and the quality of your writing. The paper must be 10 pages, Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1-inch margins, double-spaced. Further information on the paper topic will be provided during the semester. The paper must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted.

Paper abstract and outline: An abstract (one or two paragraphs stating the research question you will pursue and how you will do it) and an outline of the paper will be due on October 17. You will also send a copy to a classmate who will provide comments on your progress. I will return your abstract and outline with comments. You should incorporate this feedback into your paper. While the abstract and outline are not graded, being late with the abstract submission will result in a 3-point decrease (out of 100) per day in your paper grade.

Peer-review: You will give comments to a classmate on their abstract and outline by October 24 (and you will also provide me with a copy of the comments). You will bring your comments to class and will share them directly with that classmate. While your comments are not graded, if you fail to provide this feedback by the deadline, your own paper grade will drop by 10 points (out of 100).

Final exam

The final exam takes place on December 10 at 2 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 20% of your final grade. While I understand that some students 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: attendance, participation in in-class discussion, current events presentation, participation in the team game and in the policy simulation, and participation in class and group activities.

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 the class topics. A presentation sign-up sheet will be circulated the first week of class. Presentations will take place during each class, will be informal (no power point), and should last no longer than 3-5 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, The New York Times (International version). Please send the link to the article to me and all of your classmates via Brightspace by 11:59pm on the day before your presentation.

Team-game institutional design and policy simulation

At least two simulations will take place during the semester. On October 3, 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 December 3 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.

Important dates

September 5	Map quiz
October 8	Midterm exam
October 17	Paper abstract and outline
October 24	Peer-review
November 14	Final paper
December 10	Final exam

Additional information

Electronics policy

The use of phones is not allowed. Should I notice that you are using your phone, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, your participation grade will be reduced by three (3 points) for each violation.

Laptops can be used only for note taking. Violations of this policy will negatively affect your grade. Should I notice that you are on your laptop doing things unrelated to class, I will call you

out. Starting with the second violation, your participation grade will be reduced by three (3 points) for each violation.

You may also want to consider taking notes by hand. Scientific evidence shows that writing notes by hand helps remember better. The following article describes the experiment producing this finding: *To Remember a Lecture Better, Take Notes by Hand*

(<https://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 will 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. I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade accordingly.

Diversity and safe environment

Diverse perspectives and backgrounds enhance our community. As engaged citizens in a global and diverse society, we seek to advance a positive learning and working environment for all through open and substantive dialogue. Accordingly, 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 in a civil way, even when we disagree with each other. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. If there is anything you would like to communicate to me privately about your involvement in class, please do not hesitate to do so.

Pronouns and LGBTI services

Please let me know (in whatever way you wish) what you like to be known as/introduced as. I use the following pronouns: he / him / his.

LGBT Student Services at LMU provides educational and support services to students that identify as LGBT+ and allies. The LGBT Student Services Office at LMU focuses on promoting equality, visibility and inclusion of LGBT students within the LMU community. Please visit their website for more information:

<https://studentaffairs.lmu.edu/community/ethnicandinterculturalservices/lgbtstudentservices/>.

Disability accommodations

Disability Support Services (DSS) at LMU assists students with physical, learning, and/or psychological disabilities by offering resources to enable them to achieve maximum independence while pursuing their educational goals. Their objective is to ensure that every

student seeking DSS services receives university experiences and opportunities that are identical to those of any other student. They arrange accommodations and services for students with special needs. Please visit the DSS website for more information: <https://academics.lmu.edu/dss/>.

Academic honesty

The academic honesty policy applies to this course. Plagiarism, cheating and other violations will not be tolerated. If you are unsure on whether something constitutes plagiarism, come see me before you submitting your assignments. For more information on the academic honesty policy, please visit the following page: <https://academics.lmu.edu/honesty/>.

The Writing Center at LMU

An important part of improving your writing is getting feedback and revision suggestions on your writing projects in progress. The Writing Center offers free tutoring sessions (online or face-to-face) in which you can get feedback from a peer writer on your digital and print texts for any class at any stage in your process. To make an appointment with a tutor, follow the “Writing Center Schedule” link in myLMU.

academics.lmu.edu/arc/writingcenter | writing@lmu.edu | 310-338-2847 | Daum Hall, 2nd floor