

POLSCI 330 - European Politics
Spring 2019
MW 3:30-4:52

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Course Overview

This upper division course in European Politics presents an in-depth analysis of the political history, political culture, institutions of governance, and other manifestations of political organization in Europe. The emphasis here will be on *comparative* analysis of various European states. That is to say, rather than looking at one or more individual states within Europe, this course will focus on similarities and differences in the broad patterns of interaction across European states - aspects such as political parties, electoral systems, the nature of executives and legislatures, civil society, minority groups, etc. The first part of the course covers this broad, comparative material.

Part II of this course is an extensive examination of the European Union (EU). Today, it makes less sense in a study of European politics to only consider nations of Europe individually and much more sense to include a study of the policies and politics of the EU. Today, it is the EU which sets the lead in most economic and social questions which concern states within the EU. Enormous questions and controversies have appeared, however, as the EU has evolved from a smaller economic association into a real (and rapidly expanding) political union, so much so that one can hardly speak of “Europe” without meaning “the EU.” Our discussions of the historical evolution, institutional organization, and policy-making powers of the EU will serve as a prelude to a final examination of the major issues and challenges in Europe’s future.

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation (10%)

Attendance in class is necessary in order to fully comprehend the material and develop the critical thinking skills that accompany class discussion for the in-person portion of the class. I will pass around a sheet everyday that you must sign to register your attendance in class. If I don’t see your face (or, for that matter, if you come to class but I notice you sleeping, text messaging in class, carrying on a conversation or otherwise not paying attention and/or being disruptive) I will mark you absent. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, I will mark you absent; it is disrespectful to me and your classmates. Moreover, must you be absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered in class and to

get notes from another student.

In order to receive any attendance/participation points, **you must complete a quiz dealing with the content of this syllabus**. The quiz can be attempted an unlimited number of times, cannot hurt your grade, and must be completed with a 100%. No content on D2L will unlock until the quiz is completed. The point of the quiz is to ensure that you understand the guidelines and requirements for the class so that there is no possibility for complaints later.

I will allow two unexcused absences for the in-person portion of the class (**two weeks!**). **After two absences, your grade will decrease five percentage points for every class you miss (up to 10%)**. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. In addition, I will assign everyone a participation grade at the end of the semester. If you do not regularly speak in class you will lose points off of this grade. Further, if a class is held online, I expect you to participate in order to receive points (more on this later).

I expect that class reading will be done **prior to class**, and that students will come to class prepared with notes on the readings so that they can engage in discussion. If at any point during the semester it is clear that students are not reading prior to class, I will mandate that each student hand in at the start of class one page of typed, single-spaced notes on the readings. If this situation arises, **the page of notes will count for the 2% of the daily attendance/participation grade (up to 10%)**.

Throughout the semester you are asked to become an expert on one country. What the task involves is learning about the structure of your country's government and keeping up-to-date on politics in the country. I will regularly ask for updates on your country and you will be expected to inform the class of any current events going on as part of your class participation.

Policy Paper = 10%

Consistent with your role as our country team's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, EU Commission member, etc. you will be expected to produce 1 short (4-5 page) paper on an aspect of EU policy that concerns your country and policy area. For example, if you are the agricultural minister for Denmark you will be expected to write on an area of EU agricultural policy (for example, pesticides in the EU, Reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP], and ramifications of Turkey's membership on CAP policy) that impact the EU and your country.

Quiz on States of the EU and Rules of Order for Model EU - 5%

There will be a very short quiz in March covering the States of the EU and rules of order for the Model EU. The quiz will help prepare you for the simulation.

Statement for Opening meeting of your Model EU session = 5%

Your opening statement for the Midwest Model EU will be due before we leave for the trip. Details will be explained in class...

Midwest Model European Union Participation = 20%

Those of you who are able to participate have an excellent opportunity to learn about the workings of the European Union firsthand by participating in the Midwest Model European Union held in Bloomington, Indiana from March 28th - March 30th. I have explained a bit about this above and we will talk about it in class. In order to receive full class credit for the simulation, you will need to actively prepare for the simulation. This will involve, among other things, actively researching our country's position on various EU issues, other countries' positions on these issues, the biography of the particular "role" you will be playing at the conference, and much more. In addition to all of this, of course, to get full credit, you will need to attend ALL sessions at the conference, and then write a two-page "letter to my successor" on what the experience was like, what you got out of it and learned from it, and what any future student playing the role should know. You should be prepared to talk in class about the experience (note: attendance the class day after the simulation is mandatory, so that we can discuss and "break down" the experience. A large portion of the expenses for the experience will be covered by a grant from the (conference fee, lodging, transportation, and food) associated with the conference. Thus money should not be an obstacle for those of you wanting to attend.

Exams (2 X 25% = 50%)

There will be two examinations during the course of the semester, listed in the course schedule. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. The exam will include a combination of multiple choice questions and shorter "conceptual" based identification questions. Each section (i.e. multiple choice & identification) will count for half of the overall exam grade. Due to time constraints before the Midwest Model EU. Exams will be conducted online. The Midterm Exam is available from Feb. 20th at 4:52pm until Feb. 25th at 3:30pm. The Final Exam is available on D2L from April 8th at 4:52 until April 15th at 3:30pm.

If you cannot attend the Model EU, the course requirements are not too different:

Exam 1 = 25%

Exam 2 = 25%

Participation = 10%

Final paper /Journal article = 40%

The final paper is designed to sharpen your research and writing skills. You will be expected to write a 20 page research paper (in the form of an article that might appear in a scholarly journal in political science) on a policy area with the European Union. Here are

some examples: the attempt by the EU to set up a Common Foreign and Security Policy; the Common Agricultural Policy; Germany's position towards new voting weights in the Council of Ministers; Denmark's position towards the EU; conflicts between new and old members in the EU. There are lots of others; you get to pick. Above all, your paper should include a thesis statement (what you are arguing in the paper) as well as facts and logical arguments designed to demonstrate the validity of your thesis. We will discuss elements of a good paper further in class.

The first draft of the paper is due on April 10th. I will make comments on your paper and return it on April 15th. After reviewing my comments you will do a rewrite of the paper, due on the last day of class (May 17th). The expected final result is a professionally crafted research paper.

Your paper may, if you so desire, incorporate quantitative analysis you have learned in POLS 200, but it need not do so. However, all paper must be typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point fonts, with footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. I take proper grammar, styles, and citation very seriously, so you will need to check with me on the style of your paper.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted. All of the assignment due dates, criteria for completion, and full explanation are provided well ahead of time. In addition, all of the assignments can be turned in electronically on D2L without physically being in class. Therefore, there is no excuse for late work. Finally, there are two options for the exam, and one of the options does not require you to be in class. Therefore, makeup exams will not be allowed except for extreme circumstances.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	= 92% - 100%
A-	= 90% - 91%
B+	= 88% - 89%
B	= 82% - 87%
B-	= 80% - 81%
C+	= 78% - 79%
C	= 72% - 77%
C-	= 70% - 71%
D+	= 68% - 69%
D	= 62% - 67%
D-	= 60% - 61%
F	= below 60%

NOTE: In cases in which a student is on the borderline between grades (e.g., 91.5), I will always round up to the higher grade, provided that you have attended class regularly and engaged in regular and active participation in class.

If you have any questions about grading policy in general, or any questions about any particular grade you received, please come see me in my office. I will be more than happy to discuss your grade with you and find ways in which your work can be improved and your grade raised.

Academic Dishonesty

I take plagiarism extremely seriously. Let it be noted for the record that cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on an examination will be punished according to University guidelines. In addition, if a paper is handed in without any citations, improper citations, or plagiarized material the paper will receive a zero, and you will be referred to the university for disciplinary action. I will assume that you either copied the material or did not complete the assignment as was required. Please consult the section on student academic dishonesty in the Student Guidebook for a listing of the practices that may be considered cheating.

It is the University's policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services for a letter of verification to provide to their instructors. Disability Services is located in WYLL D175 and can be reached at 595-2372 or dss@uwp.edu

Required Reading

Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*. Fourth Edition. Palgrave Macmillan Publishing.

McCormick, John and Jonathan Olsen. 2016. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. Sixth Edition. Westview Press.

Reid, T.R. 2004. *The United States of Europe: The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy*. Penguin Press. (Chapter will be posted on D2L.)

Zuckerman, Phil. 2008. *Society without God: What the Least Religious Nations Can Tell Us about Contentment*. New York University Press. (Chapters will be posted on D2L.)

Class Schedule

NOTE: Reading for a particular day should be done before attending class on that particular day. I have been known to randomly call on students and ask them questions from the reading. Therefore, it is in your interest to be prepared in order to receive attendance points. In addition, the schedule is subject to change based on the flow of class discussion.

Feb. 4

Syllabus

Student Introductions

Topic: *Where is Europe? What is Europe?*

Part I: Institutions and Political Patterns in Europe

Feb. 6

Topic: *The Historical Development of Europe; Economy and Safety; Comparing the US and Europe; Political Culture in Europe*

Read: Bale (2013), Introduction and Ch. 1; Reid (2004), Ch. 6; Zuckerman (2008), Intro, Ch 1, 8 and 9

Feb. 11

Topic: *The Structure of European States: Unitary States, Federalism and Hybrids; Devolution*

Read: Bale (2013), Ch. 2

Feb. 13

Topic: *Constitutions and the Judiciary: Policy Making; Executives, Parliaments, Government Formation and Dissolution*

Read: Bale (2013), Ch. 3-4

Feb. 18

Topic: *Political Parties, Party Systems and Party Families; Elections and Electoral Systems*

Read: Bale (2013), Ch. 5-6

Feb. 20

Topic: *The Media and Civil Society in Europe; The Multicultural Europe: Migrants and Minorities*

Read: Bale (2013), Ch. 7-8, 10

Feb. 20 to Feb 25

MIDTERM EXAM - ONLINE

Part II: The European Union

Feb 25

Topic: *History of the EU*

Read: McCormick and Olsen (2016), Ch 1-4

Feb. 27

Topic: *EU Institutions: The European Commission*

Read: McCormick and Olsen (2016), Ch. 5

Mar. 4

Topic: *EU Institutions: The European Council and the Council of Ministers*

Read: McCormick and Olsen (2016), Ch 6 & 9

Mar. 6

Topic: *Policy Processes and the Budget; Economic Policy*

Read: McCormick and Olsen (2016), Ch 11-12

Mar. 11

Topic: *EU Institutions: The European Parliament*

Read: McCormick and Olsen (2016), Ch. 7 & 10

Mar. 13

Topic: Preparation for the Midwest Model EU - discussion of EU Policy-Making
“Simulation of the Simulation”

Quiz: States of the EU and Rules of Order (from Model EU Book)

Due: Opening Statement and Policy Paper

March 25 - March 26 - Spring Break

Midwest Model European Union March 28th - March 30th

April 1

Topic: Break down of the Model EU

April 3

Topic: *EU Institutions: The Court of Justice & Other Institutions*

Read: Bale (2013), Ch. 11; McCormick and Olsen (2016) Ch. 8

Due: Letter to Successor

April 8

Topic: *EU's International Relationships; Future of the EU*

Read: McCormick and Olsen (2016), Ch. 15-16, Conclusions; Reid Chapters 8 & 9

April 8 - April 15th

FINAL EXAM - ONLINE