

Oregon State University  
Department of Political Science  
Fall 2014

PS 341: Politics of Western Europe and the European Union  
4 Credits  
TR, 8:00-9:50  
BEXL 321

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 10-11

This course provides an overview of political processes in European countries and the European Union. Students will learn about political parties and the composition of political systems, electoral systems, and welfare states in various Western European countries and how they contrast from those in the United States. The second half of the course examines the European Union. Students will examine the history behind the EU's construction, theories of European integration, the EU's institutions and policy competencies, reoccurring problems with democratic representation in the EU (the democratic deficit), and the EU's political and economic influence over candidate countries via requirements for entry. The class will also discuss the creation of the European Monetary Union and the Euro currency, and challenges it faces amidst the current sovereign debt crisis, as well as the political crisis in Ukraine.

## 1. Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course you should:

1. Understand the processes behind party, economic and political systems in selective European countries, and how these processes may produce different political and policy outcomes compared to those in the United States
2. Understand the processes behind the EU's creation, different theoretical approaches to European integration, how the EU operates, and how the EU influences political and economic developments within its member-states and neighbors
3. Articulate a EU member-state's position on selective policy areas in a mock-EU setting and identify other countries which that member-state would align with to achieve its policy preferences
4. Identify key challenges to the European Union based upon its institutional and political design

## 2. Prerequisites

Students are required to take PS 204 (Introduction to Comparative Politics) prior to this course (this requirement can easily be waived by the course professor).

### 3. Core Texts

Bomberg, E., Peterson, J. and Stubb, A (eds.). (2008) *The European Union: How Does it Work?* Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Crepaz , M. and Steiner, J. (2013) *European Democracies*. Pearson Longman. Eight Edition

Dinan, D. (1999) *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration*. London, Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Lijphart, A. (1999) *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, Yale University Press

McCormick, J (2005) *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan.

Wallace, H., Wallace, W., and Pollack, M. (2005) *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

### 4. Assessment of Outcomes:

- First Midterm (20%)
- Second Midterm (20%)
- Comparative Response Paper (due Tuesday Week 4) (20%)
- Model EU Essay (due Thursday Week 8) (20%)
- Model EU Presentation (Thursday of Week 10) (20%)

*First and Second Midterm: The first midterm will be on October 28<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday of Week 5). The second midterm will be on November 25<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday of Week 9).* Exams will consist of short essay questions (students will have some choice in the selection of their questions). Exams are open book and open notes (no internet or access to laptops is permitted).

*Comparative Response Paper (due Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>):* Students will write a paper comparing political systems between a selected European country and the United States. In a 1,200 word (maximum) essay, you must provide the following: 1.) a summary of how the European country's political system differs from that in the US, and; 2.) an explanation for how these differences produce different (or similar) political and policy outcomes between the two countries. Students are expected to consult the class literature as well as outside literature. ***Bibliographies must include at least six references, NONE OF WHICH MAY BE WIKIPEDIA OR LECTURE SLIDES!***

*Model EU Essay (due Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>):* Students are responsible for writing a 1,200 word essay (maximum) in preparation of their final Model EU presentation. In the essay, students must 1.) briefly outline the policy under debate; 2.) explain the national preferences of their assigned member-state in regards to the policy (i.e. whether they would be in favor or against it and why); 3.) identify countries which whom they could ally with to politically enforce their preferences, and; 4.) identify countries which may have opposing preferences and how they would respond to these conflicting objectives in negotiation. Sources which students will find helpful to consult include:

- Eurobarometer: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)
- European Commission Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)
- European Council Website: <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/the-president>
- EurActive: <http://www.euractiv.com/>
- EU Observer: <http://euobserver.com/>

*Model EU Presentations (Thursday, Week 10 of term):* On Thursday of the final week of term, students will enact a Model EU simulation. Students will play the roles of representatives of EU member state delegations and the European Commission, and will be graded on the following criteria: 1.) effectiveness at articulating the member-state's preferences; 2.) effectiveness at coalition building and negotiating with other member-states, and; 3.) effectiveness at imposing their national preferences within the final agreement. ***Students that write the best Model EU essay and best convey the policy preferences and negotiating tactics of the member-state that they represent in the simulation will be qualified for a trip to Seattle (travel and lodging paid) to represent Oregon State University at the 2015 West Coast Model EU.***

**Plagiarism:** Academic work must be your own. It is plagiarism to claim work (such as writing, exams or projects) done by anyone other than the author(s) named. Plagiarism also includes cutting and pasting information from websites without attribution of ***AND*** paraphrasing someone else's ideas or writing. It is not sufficient to re-arrange or re-state someone else's writing or ideas. A zero tolerance policy will be applied towards plagiarism and any work which is plagiarized will automatically result in a ***COURSE GRADE OF F***. For more information on how the university handles academic misconduct, go to <http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>.

**Disrespectful behavior:** Disrespectful behavior towards students on grounds of race, gender, economic background, age, sexual orientation, religion, or any other factors which individuals have no choice or are irrelevant to the class will not be tolerated. ***Disrespectful behavior can result in course expulsion.*** For more information on the university's policy regarding academic conduct go to <http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>.

**Disabilities:** Students with accommodations approved through the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

### **Grading Scale:**

- 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%

## Part I: Political Parties and Political Systems in Europe

Sept 30<sup>th</sup>: An Introduction to Europe

- McCormick, J (2005) *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 2
- Crepaz , M. and Steiner, J. (2013) *European Democracies*. Pearson Longman. Chapter 1.

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mainstream political parties in Europe

- Ladrech, R. (2007) “European Parties and Party Systems” in Hay and Menon eds. *European Politics*. Oxford University Press.
- Crepaz , M. and Steiner, J. (2013) *European Democracies*. Pearson Longman. Chapter 2

Oct 7<sup>th</sup>: The far right, nationalism and secessionist movements

- “Europe’s far right: Culture Matters More” *The Economist*. August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Bale, T., Green-Pedersen, C., Krouwel, A., Luther, K.R., Sitter, N. (2010) “If you can’t beat them, join them? Explaining Social Democratic Responses to the Challenge from the Populist Radical Right in Western Europe”, *Political Studies*. 58: 410-426.
- Crepaz , M. and Steiner, J. (2013) *European Democracies*. Pearson Longman. Chapter 12
- “Europe: Stretched at the seams”, *The Financial Times*. November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Green, E. (2014) “Scottish nationalism stands apart from other secessionist movements for being civic in origin, rather than ethnic”, LSE British Politics and Society Blog.  
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/scottish-nationalism-stands-apart-from-other-secessionist-movements-for-being-civic-in-origin-rather-than-ethnic/>

Oct 9<sup>th</sup>: Systems of Government in Europe:

- Lijphart, A. (1999) *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, Yale University Press. Chapters 2, 3, and 16
- Crepaz , M. and Steiner, J. (2013) *European Democracies*. Pearson Longman. Chapter 4
- Dickey, C. (2011) “Can Monti Save Italy?: The Trouble with Technocrats”. Nov 21, 2011. *Newsweek*. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2011/11/20/can-monti-save-italy-the-trouble-with-technocrats.html>

Oct 14<sup>th</sup>: Electoral Systems in Europe

- Lijphart, A. (1999) *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, Yale University Press. Chapter 8.
- Crepaz , M. and Steiner, J. (2013) *European Democracies*. Pearson Longman. Chapter 3

Oct 16<sup>th</sup>: Welfare States in Europe

- Hantrais, L (2007) “Welfare Policy” in Hay, C. and Menon, A. eds *European Politics*. Oxford University Press.
- Esping Andersen, G. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton, Princeton University Press. Chapter 1

## Part II: The European Union and its history, institutions, policies and current challenges

Oct 21<sup>st</sup>: The History of the European Union (**COMPARATIVE RESPONSE PAPER DUE**)

- Dinan, D. (1999) *Ever Closer Union*. London, Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapters 1, 2
- McCormick, J. (2005) *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 3.

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>: Theories of EU Integration

- Pollack, M. (2005) “Theorizing EU Policy-Making” in Wallace, Wallace and Pollack eds. *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup>: MIDTERM EXAM**

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: EU Institutions and Competencies

- Alesina, A., Angeloni, I., and Schuknecht, L. (2005) “What Does the European Union Do?”. *Public Choice*, Vol. 123, No. 3-4: 275-319
- Bomberg, E. and Stubb, A. (2008) “The EU’s Institutions” in Bomberg, Peterson and Stubb eds. *The European Union: How Does it Work?*. Oxford, Oxford University Press

Nov 4<sup>th</sup>: The Single Market and Migration and Asylum Policy

- Young, A. (2005) “The Single Market: A New Approach to Policy” in Wallace, Wallace and Pollack eds. *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press
- Occhipinti, J. (2008) “A Secure Europe?: Internal Security Policies”, in Bomberg, Peterson and Stubb eds. *The European Union: How Does it Work?* Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>: Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Funds

- Rieger, E. (2005) “Agricultural Policy: Constrained Reforms” in Wallace, Wallace and Pollack eds. *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press
- Allen, D. (2005) “Cohesion and Structural Funds: Competing Pressures for Reform?” in Wallace, Wallace and Pollack eds. *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press

Nov 11<sup>th</sup>: EU Expansion and Conditionality

- Avery, G. (2008) “EU Expansion and Wider Europe” in Bomberg, Peterson and Stubb eds. *The European Union: How Does it Work?*. Oxford, Oxford University Press
- Anna Vachudova, M. (2009) “Corruption and Compliance in the EU’s Post-Communist Members and Candidates”, *Journal of Common Market Studies*. Vol 47, No. 1: 43-62

Nov 13<sup>th</sup>: The EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Crisis in Ukraine

- Dower, R. (2013) “The European Union’s Foreign, Security and Defense Policies”, in Cini and Borragán eds. *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press.
- Blockmans, S. (2014) “Ukraine, Russia and the need for more flexibility in EU foreign policy-making”, Centre for European Policy Studies Policy Brief, No. 320, 25 July.
- McNamara, K. (2014) “The EU After Ukraine”, *Foreign Affairs*. March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Nov 18<sup>th</sup>: Representation in the EU and the Democratic Deficit

- MacCormick, N (2008) “Constitutionalism and Democracy in the EU” in Bomberg, Peterson and Stubb eds. *The European Union: How Does it Work?*. Oxford, Oxford University Press
- Follesdal, A. and Hix, S. (2006) “Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik”. *Journal of Common Market Studies*. Vol. 44, No. 3: 533-562.

Nov 20<sup>th</sup>: The Creation of EMU (**MODEL EU ESSAY DUE**)

- De Grauwe, P. (2007) *Economics of Monetary Union*. Chapter 1
- McNamara, K. (2005) “Economic and Monetary Union: Innovation and Challenges for the Euro” in Wallace, Wallace and Pollack eds. *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>: SECOND MIDTERM**

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>: THANKSGIVING, CLASS CANCELLED**

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>: EMU in Crisis

- Wihlborg, C., Willet, T., and Zhang, N. (2010) “The Euro Crisis: It isn’t just fiscal and it doesn’t just involve Greece”. Robert Day School Working Paper No. 2011-03.
- “Breaking up the euro area: The Merkel memorandum” (2012) *The Economist*. August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Buiters, W. and Rahbari, E. (2010) “Greece and the fiscal crisis in the Euro-zone” Centre for Economic Policy Research. Policy Insight No. 51 (October)

***Dec 4<sup>th</sup>: MODEL EU PRESENTATIONS***