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


4. Assessment of Outcomes:

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

*First and Second Midterm*: The first midterm will be on October 28th (Tuesday of Week 5). The second midterm will be on November 25th (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 21st)*: 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 20th)*: 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:
**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](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](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 30th: An Introduction to Europe


Oct 2nd: Mainstream political parties in Europe


Oct 7th: The far right, nationalism and secessionist movements


Oct 9th: Systems of Government in Europe


Oct 14th: Electoral Systems in Europe

Oct 16th: Welfare States in Europe


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

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


Oct 23rd: Theories of EU Integration


Oct 28th: MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 30th: EU Institutions and Competencies


Nov 4th: The Single Market and Migration and Asylum Policy

Nov 6th: Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Funds


Nov 11th: EU Expansion and Conditionality


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


Nov 18th: Representation in the EU and the Democratic Deficit


Nov 20th: The Creation of EMU (*MODEL EU ESSAY DUE*)

- De Grauwe, P. (2007) *Economics of Monetary Union*. Chapter 1

Nov 25th: SECOND MIDTERM

Nov 27th: THANKSGIVING, CLASS CANCELLED

Dec 2nd: EMU in Crisis

Dec 4th: MODEL EU PRESENTATIONS