

POLI/EURO 239 – Introduction to European Government

Zoom Meeting ID: 993 8709 9774

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:45-6:00pm

Instructor: Kaitlin Alper

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:15-4:45pm
Thursdays, 2:00-3:30pm
Or by Appointment

Course Description:

This course is intended to provide a solid foundation for understanding contemporary European politics. We will cover a large range of both historical and contemporary topics in the realm of European government, from the initial formation of the European nation states through the creation and challenges of European integration. By the end of this course, you will be able to look at current European political developments through a historical and theoretical lens. In addition, through written analysis and readings, you will learn to connect political decisions to social, political and economic outcomes. The readings, lectures and discussions will work together to solidify your understanding of key concepts, such as state building, party system formation and welfare state development in a European context. As such, you should come to all class sessions having read the material and prepare to actively engage in discussion and ask any clarifying questions.

Expectations:

- *Attend class regularly.* Your grade in this course is partly determined by your participation in our class discussions. If you do not attend class, you will be unable to participate and this will negatively affect your grade in this course. In addition, the readings, lectures and discussions are designed to complement one another. **You will not be able to do well in this class by either doing the readings or listening to the lecture alone.**
- *Come prepared to engage.* This means having read ALL material assigned. Coming to each class session having done the reading for the week will allow you to ask questions and actively participate in discussion. You should also have a copy of the readings available to you during class so that you can back up your arguments with the material directly.
- *Come to me if you have concerns or questions.* If at any point in the semester you feel that you are struggling with the material in any way, please let me know. It is my role as your instructor to help you understand the material so you can succeed in this course. The earlier you come to me, the more likely I am to be able to help you solve any problems. I am available both during my regular office hours, by appointment and via email. Please note that if you send me an email after 5:00pm I cannot guarantee that you will receive a response before the next day.

- *Grades.* I cannot share information about grades over regular email due to FERPA regulations. If you have a question about your grade, please come see me during my regular (virtual) office hours or contact me via email to set up another time to discuss this. I am happy to provide comments and strategies for how to improve. If you request that a grade be reevaluated, please be aware that your grade can either increase or decrease upon review. In return, I will make sure you receive your grades within a reasonable time frame.
- *Listen to and Respect your Classmates.* We will touch on topics about which some of you may have strong opinions. This course should be a safe and open environment for discussion. In order to maintain this environment, I ask that you respond to all comments, questions and arguments that your classmates choose to share in a thoughtful and respectful manner, whether or not you agree. Additionally, listening to dissenting opinions will help broaden your understanding of the material.

Accessibility Resources:

UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us> (source: Student Safety and Wellness Proposal for EPC, Sep 2018)

Additional Resources:

- *The Learning Center:* The UNC Learning Center is a great resource both for students who are struggling in their courses and for those who want to be proactive and develop sound study practices to prevent falling behind. They offer individual consultations, peer tutoring, academic coaching, test prep programming, study skills workshops, and peer study groups. If you think you might benefit from their services, please visit them in SASB North or visit their website to set up an appointment: <http://learningcenter.unc.edu>. (source: syllabus from section of ECON 486 offered in 2015)
- *The Writing Center:* The Writing Center is located in the Student and Academic Services Building and offers personalized writing consultations as well as a variety of other resources. This could be a wonderful resource to help with your writing assignments in this course (and any assignments in your other courses). You do not need a complete draft of your assignment to visit; they can help you at any stage! You can chat with someone in the writing center or set up an appointment on their website: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu>. (source: syllabus from section of ECON 486 offered in 2015)
- *Resources for Success in Writing:* UNC has a Writing Center that provides one-on-one assistance to students free of charge. To make an appointment, browse the Writing Center's online resources, or submit a draft online. They have additional useful information, such as handouts on how to cite online. (source: syllabus from section of PLCY 345 offered in 2015)

Course Requirements:

15%	Paper 1 (5% outline)
15%	Paper 2 (5% outline)
10%	Reading Summaries
25%	Midterm Exam
35%	Final Exam

Papers:

Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to write two 1500-word papers. Each week's topic has attached to it a paper prompt, which can be found on Sakai. At the start of the semester, you will sign up for two (2) weeks' topics. These papers will be due on the Thursday TWO WEEKS AFTER the week in which we cover that topic. That is, if you are writing on the prompt for Week 3, your paper will be due on the Thursday of Week 5.

In addition, you are expected to write a preliminary outline of your paper and *meet with me* to discuss it AT LEAST a week prior to final submission. For example, if you are writing on Week 3's prompt, you should meet with me about your outline ON OR BEFORE the Thursday of Week 4. In total, these papers are EACH worth 15% of your final grade. Of this, 5% is for EACH outline and 10% is for EACH paper's final draft.

Reading Summaries:

Before each class, you will be asked to write a summary of the readings or to reflect on how the readings relate to the week's lectures or key concepts (~120-150 words). The goal of this is to a) make sure that you are doing the assigned readings and b) get you thinking about the material prior to our discussion. These summaries should be posted to your Sakai Dropbox prior to the start of class, for a *completion grade* if it is evident that you have read the material. These summaries/reflections need not be totally correct, as they are not meant to gauge perfect understanding – that is what the discussion is for – but rather to show that you have done the required reading(s). Guided reading questions which may aid in your understanding of each readings can be found in the Resources section of Sakai.

Exams:

There will be two exams in this course – a midterm exam and a final. The midterm exam will take place on **Thursday, October 8**, and the final will be on **TBD by the University**. Both exams will be primarily multiple choice, though the final will also include a few short answer questions.

Grading Scale:

> 92: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D
90-92: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	< 63: F
87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	

Important Dates:

Thursday, October 7 (*Midterm Exam*)
 TBD by University (*Final Exam*)

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates (excluding the officially scheduled final examination), when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes, should they occur, will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

Course Themes and Reading Schedule

Note that all reading materials will be provided via Sakai.

Week 1: Introductions & Building the European State, Pt. 1

Tue. August 11

No readings, introductions

Thu. August 13

Tilly, C. (1985). "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In *Bringing the State Back in*; pp. 169-186.

Week 2: Building the European State, Pt. 2

Tue. August 18

Darden, K. (2014). *Resisting Occupation: Mass Schooling and the Creation of Durable National Loyalties*; Chapter 3, pp. 83-109

Thu. August 20

Darden, K. (2014). *Resisting Occupation: Mass Schooling and the Creation of Durable National Loyalties*; Chapter 3, pp. 110-135.

Week 3: Democratization and Development in Western Europe

Tue. August 25

Reuschmeyer, D., E. Huber Stephens and J.D. Stephens (1992). *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. In Chapter 3, pp. 57-75.

Thu. August 27

Frederick, C. and A.L. Stoler (1997). *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*. "Knowledge and Rule" and "Colonial States: Political Economy and Imperial Culture" in Chapter 1, pp. 11-24.

Week 4: Party System Development

Tue. September 1

Bornschier, S. (2009). "Cleavage Politics in Old and New Democracies". *Living Reviews in Democracy*, pp. 1-10.

Thu. September 3

Kriesi, H. (1997). "The Transformation of Cleavage Politics". 1997 Stein Rokkan Lecture, pp. 165-182.

Week 5: Welfare State Development

Tue. September 8

Huber, E. & J. D. Stephens (2001). *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State*. "Theoretical Framework" in Chapter 2, pp. 14-32.

Thu. September 10

Immergut, E. (1990). "Institutions, Veto Points, and Policy Results: A Comparative Analysis of Health Care." *Journal of Public Policy*, 10(4), pp. 391-416.

Week 6: Welfare State Retrenchment

Tue. September 15

Pierson, P. (1996). "The New Politics of the Welfare State." *World Politics*, 48(2), pp. 143-179.

Thu. September 17

Allan, J. P. and L. Scruggs (2004). "Political Partisanship and Welfare State Reform in Advanced Industrial Societies." *American Journal of Political Science*, 48(3), pp. 496-512.

Week 7: Gender and the Welfare State

Tue. September 22

Orloff, A. S. (1993). "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship." *American Sociological Review*, 58(3), pp. 303-328.

Thu. September 24

Duvander, A. and M. Johansson (2019). "Does Fathers' Care Spill Over? Evaluating Reforms in the Swedish Parental Leave Program." *Feminist Economics*, 25(2), pp. 67-84.

Week 8: Political Economy

Tue. September 29

Hall, P. and D. Soskice (2001). *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. In Chapter 1, "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism" section 1.2, pp. 6-21.

Thu. October 1

Hall, P. and D. Soskice (2001). *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. In Chapter 1, "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism" sections 1.3-1.6, pp. 22-40.

Week 9: Midterm Exam*Tue. October 6*

No readings, midterm exam review

*Thu. October 8***MIDTERM EXAM****Week 10: European Integration***Tue. October 13*

Pollack, M. (2005). In "Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 8, 'Theories of European Integration' pp. 358-368 and 'The Governance Approach: The EU as a Polity' pp. 379-390.

Thu. October 15

Hooghe, L. and G. Marks (2009). "A Postfunctionalist Theory of European Integration: From Permissive Consensus to Constraining Dissensus." *British Journal of Political Science*, 39(1), pp. 1-23.

Week 11: Challenges to the EU*Tue. October 20*

Kelemen, R. D. (2020). "The European Union's Authoritarian Equilibrium." *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(3), pp. 481-499.

Thu. October 22

Hall, P. (2017). "Varieties of Capitalism in Light of the Eurocrisis." *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(1), pp. 7-30.

Week 12: Contemporary Political Parties*Tue. October 27*

Kitschelt, H. and P. Rehm (2015). "Party Alignments: Change and Continuity." In ed. Beramendi, P. et al., *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*, pp. 179-201.

Thu. October 29

Hooghe, L. and G. Marks (2016). "Europe's Crises and Political Contestation." Paper prepared for *Journal of European Public Policy*, special issue, pp. 1-21.

Week 13: Ethnicity, Immigration and Populism*Tue. November 3*

Golder, M. (2016). "Far Right parties in Europe." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 19, pp. 477-493.

Thu. November 5

de Noronha, L. (2019). "Deportation, Racism and Multi-status Britain: Immigration control and the Production of Race in the Present." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42(14), pp. 2413-2430.

Week 14: Subnational Politics and Secession

Tue. November 10

Fitjar, R.D. (2010). "Explaining Variation in Sub-state Regional Identities in Western Europe." *European Journal of Political Research*, 49(4), pp.522-544.

Thu. November 12

Kleider, H. (2018). "Redistributive Policies in Decentralized System: The Effect of Decentralization on Subnational Social Spending." *European Journal of Political Research*, 57(2), pp. 355-377.

Week 15: COVID-19 and the European Union

Tue. November 17

To be determined based on current state of research

Note: I will be holding an optional final exam review this week as well, time TBD