

**POLI239: Introduction to European Government**  
Spring 2014  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Department of Political Science

**Instructor: Hanna Kleider**

E-Mail: hkleider@unc.edu

Class: Alumni – Room 207, Monday & Wednesday 9:30-10:45

Office hours: GEC Café, Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:30

**A) Course description:**

This course is designed to familiarize you with the politics of Western Europe. It introduces you to the political institutions and policies of European countries and to the European Union (EU).

The course is divided thematically into three sections: 1) domestic political institutions, 2) the political economy of Western Europe, and 3) the process and politics of European integration. In the first part of the course we will discuss different systems of government, electoral rules and the role of political parties. The second part of the course examines European countries' social and economic policies. The third part focuses on the history and the institutions of the European Union.

While we will focus on particular cases - France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom – this course is designed to help you think about European countries in a truly comparative way. You are encouraged to analyze both the causes and the consequences of institutional differences across European countries.

**B) Readings:**

The following textbook is required for this class. Readings for the first two weeks of class as well as all additional readings will be made available on Sakai or the UNC E-reserves system.

- Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, and Peter Mair. 2005. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0077129679 (abbreviated GLM)

Note: I will add short articles from The Economist and the New York Times to the class readings. I will inform you by email and expect you to check your emails regularly.

### **C) Course Requirements:**

1. attendance and participation: 10%
2. In-class presentation 10%
3. midterm and final exam: 50% (midterm: 20%, final: 30%)
4. paper: 30% (proposal: 5%, final paper: 25%)

**Participation** is a key component of the course. Lectures will include student presentations and classroom discussions, so please come prepared. Participation involves attending class, asking and answering questions and contributing to class discussions. There will be unannounced pop quizzes at the beginning of class in the event that students routinely come unprepared for class. The quizzes will be graded and will be part of your participation grade. Regular attendance is very important. You may miss two class sessions without penalty. Missing more than fifteen minutes of a third class session without a legitimate excuse will reduce your final grade.

**In-class presentation:** You have to prepare and present a topic in groups of two using a power point presentation (7-9 minutes per student). Dates and topics for presentations can be found in the syllabus below. Presentation grades will be based on the content of your presentation, the structure and accessibility of your slide show, and your presentation skills.

Two closed book **exams** will be given during the semester. They will test your understanding of key concepts covered in class and your ability to use those concepts to analyze current political issues. Exam questions will be based on the required readings and the lectures, so take notes on both! The final exam will be cumulative. You must bring a letter from the Dean's office to qualify for a make-up mid-term or final exam. There are no exceptions. If you bring a valid letter from the Dean's office, we can arrange a mutually acceptable time for a make-up exam. The final exam takes place on Friday, May 2 at 4 pm.

The **paper** is expected to be 10 pages long (double spaced, 12 point font). You will be able to choose from four different paper prompts. We will talk about the paper in class and I will upload a paper-writing guide on Sakai. I also encourage you to consult the UNC writing center (<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/>). Before the paper deadline, a 1-2 page paper proposal will be due. It constitutes five percent of your final grade. The proposal needs to include the topic that you want to discuss in your paper, your argument, a short paragraph on how you want to support this argument, and the sources that you are planning on using. You will receive feedback on this proposal. Deadlines for the proposal and the final paper will be announced in class. Late papers will be marked down one third of a letter grade per day.

## **D) GRADING POLICY**

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A 94 or greater	C 74-75.9
A- 90-93.9	C- 70-73.9
B+ 86-89.9	D+ 66-69.9
B 84-85.9	D 64-65.9
B- 80-83.9	D- 60-63.9
C+ 76-79.9	

Marginal course grades may be adjusted in rare cases when a student's performance has steadily improved during the semester. These changes will be made at the discretion of the instructor and will be increases of one-third of a letter grade (e.g. from B to B+). Grades will never be revised downwards. The intent is to reward improved performance by reasonably discounting bad evaluations early on in the course.

## **E) Communication**

I will use your registered UNC email address and cannot keep track of any other e-mail addresses that you might have. Please check your UNC email regularly.

## **F) Laptop Use**

If you wish to use your laptop during class, please give me a short explanation for why this is necessary along with a pledge that you will not surf the web in class. Please print this out, sign it, and give me a hard copy by January 17. You must sit in the front row.

## **G) Disabilities**

I am happy to make accommodations for students with disabilities who require them. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should, 1) contact the UNC Department of Disability Services <http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/index.html> and 2) Bring a letter to the instructor indicating the type of accommodation required. This should be done during the first week of school.

## **H) Honor Code**

Full compliance with the University Honor Code is required on all assignments, discussion forums, exams, and papers.

*"It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic process or University student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity."*

All suspected violations of the UNC Honor Code will, without exception, be reported to University authorities for purposes of investigation and possible prosecution. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Honor Code. Contact me if you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

## Jan 8: Organization

- Introduction to the class

## Jan 13: Welcome to Europe

- McCormick, John 2011. Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction [abbreviated as McC]. Chapter 2 “The Idea of Europe”

Get acquainted with Europe and the EU. Look at the resources below and look for answers to the following questions.

- [http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.economist.com/world/europe>
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/eu>
- <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe>

Which countries are members of the European Union?

Which languages are spoken in Europe?

Who are the heads of state of the largest European countries?

Which countries are the economically strongest countries in Europe?

What are important current issues in Europe right now?

## Jan 15: Political and Economic Diversity in Europe

- Steiner, Jürg and Markus M.L. Crepaz. 2006. Chapter 1 “Becoming Modern in Europe and America.” In *European Democracies*, 5th ed. New York: Longman.
- Schmitter, “What Democracy Is...and Is Not”, *Journal of Democracy* 3, 1991, pp. 75-88.
- EU Commission (2012): Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2012, pages 13-19

Presentation topic: The economy of Europe (rich countries, poor countries, unemployment rates, debt, inequality etc.)

(1).....

(2).....

## Jan 20: Holiday

## I. DOMESTIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

### Jan 22: Parliamentary versus Presidential Democracy I

- GLM, Chapter 2, The Executive

Presentation topic: The US presidential system versus the UK parliamentary system

(3).....

(4).....

Presentation topic: Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande

(5).....

(6) .....

### Jan 27: Parliamentary versus Presidential Democracy II

- GLM, Chapter 3, Parliaments

### Jan 29: Elections & Electoral Systems I

- GLM, Chapter 11, Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referendums

### Feb 3: Elections & Electoral Systems II

- Benoit, Kenneth. 2006. "Duverger's Law and the Study of Electoral Systems." *French Politics* 4: 69-83
- Steiner, Jürg. 2006. "Parliamentary Election Systems." In *European Democracies*, 5th ed. Longman. (only section on "Changing Electoral Systems")

### Feb 5: Government Formation

- GLM, Chapter 12, Building and Maintaining Government
- Steiner, Jürg and Markus M.L. Crepaz. 2006. "Cabinet Formation." In *European Democracies*, 4th ed. New York: Longman.

### Feb 10: European Parties as Organizations

- GLM, Chapter 10, Inside European Political Parties
- Katz, Richard S and Mair P (2009): *The Cartel Party Thesis: A Restatement*. In: *Perspectives on Politics*, 7: 753-766.

### Feb 12: Party Systems & Ideology in Western Europe I

- GLM, Chapter 7, Patterns in Party Politics and Party Systems

Presentation topic: Parties in Britain  
(7) .....  
(8).....

Presentation topic: Parties in Germany  
(9).....  
(10) .....

**Feb 17: Party Systems & Ideology in Western Europe II**

- GLM, Chapter 8, Party Families (pp. 230-262)
- Keating, Michael. 1999. *The Politics of Modern Europe*. Northampton MA: Edgar Elgar. (“Political Currents” pp. 49-72)

Presentation topic: Parties in France  
(11).....  
(12) .....

Presentation topic: Parties in Italy  
(13).....  
(14) .....

**Feb 19: Party Cleavages**

- GLM, Chapter 9, Cleavage Structures and Electoral Change (pp. 263-306)

Presentation topic: Changes in the party cleavage structure  
(15).....  
(16) .....

**Feb 24: Social Base of Party Support**

- Dalton, Russell J. 2005. *Citizen Politics*. 4th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. (Chapter 8 “The Social Bases of Party Support” and Chapter 9 “Partisanship and Electoral Behavior”)

**Feb 26: Electoral Behavior**

- Keman, (2002) “Comparative Democratic Politics”: Voters, Elections, and Ideology in European Democracies (Ch. 5) & In the Aggregate: Mass Electoral Behavior in Western Europe (Ch.6)

**Mar 3: Current events & Exam review**

**Mar 5: Midterm**

## II. POLITICAL ECONOMY

### March 17: Social classes, democracy, and the politics of distribution in Europe

- Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 6:142-143; Chapter 7: 151-61, 163-64

### March 19: The European welfare states

- Esping-Anderson, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 9-34

Presentation topic: The Swedish welfare state

(17).....

(18) .....

Presentation topic: The German welfare state

(19).....

(20) .....

### March 24 : Welfare state retrenchment

- Ferrera, Maurizio, Anton Hemerijck, and Martin Rhodes. 2003. "Recasting European Welfare States." In *Governing Europe*, eds. Jack Hayward and Anand Menon. New York: Oxford UP, 346-366.

Presentation topic: The British welfare state

(21).....

(22) .....

## III. THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Mar 26: Introduction to the EU

- McC, Chapter 1, What is the European Union?
- Selections from Nelson, Brent F. and Alexander Stubb, eds. 2003. *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*. 3rd ed. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
  - Winston S. Churchill. "The Tragedy of Europe." (pp. 7-12)
  - Jean Monnet. "A Ferment of Change." (pp. 19-26)

**Mar 31: History of the EU**

- McC, Chapter 3, The Evolution of the EU

**April 2 & 7: History of the EU: Breakdown of Communism (German reunification)**

- Conradt, David, 2009. The German Polity Putting Germany back together again : unification and its aftermath
- Katzenstein, Peter J. 1997. United Germany in an Integrated Europe. *Current History*, 96: 116-123
- Screening of “ The Lives of Others”

Presentation topic: Unified Germany’s role in Europe: paymaster and scapegoat?

(23).....

(24) .....

**April 9: History of the EU: Breakdown of Communism (EU Enlargement)**

- Moravcsik, Andrew and Milada Vachudova. 2003. “National Interests, State Power, and EU Enlargement,” *East European Politics and Societies*, 17(1).
- Nugent, Neil. *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. 5th ed. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 494-509. (Chapter 21 “Enlargement”)
- *The Economist* (2008). "Special Report on EU enlargement: In the Nick of Time"

**April 14: Theories of European Integration**

- Pollack 2005: Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?

Presentation topic: Debate leading up to the European Parliament elections

(25).....

(26) .....

**April 16: EU institutions**

- McC, Chapter 4, The Institutions of the EU (pp. 79-107)
- Hix 2008, Chapter 4: What’s wrong with the EU and how to fix it

Presentation topic: Barroso, Van Rompuy

(27).....

(28) .....

Presentation topic: Is there a democratic deficit?

(29).....

(30) .....



**April 21: Single Market and EMU**

- McC, Chapter 7, Economic Policy (pp. 157-180)
- Tsoukalis, Loukas. 2003. "Monetary Policy and the Euro." In *Governing Europe*, eds. Jack Hayward and Anand Menon. New York: Oxford UP, 330-345.

**April 23: Exam review**