

**EUROPEAN POLITICS**  
**PSCI 4700**  
**University of North Texas • Spring 2016**

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2-3:30 pm or by appointment in 136 WH

**Course Description**

You can't pick up a newspaper today without reading about something going in Europe—rise of the far right, regions wanting to secede, elections, economic and migration crises, European integration, etc. The goal of this course is to provide you with the tools to better understand the political culture and institutions of the states that make-up this fascinating region. We'll take a comparative approach to studying the political systems of Europe (primarily Western Europe) and the European Union and current issues facing both European governments and their citizens.

**Course Materials**

The following books are required reading. They are available at the UNT bookstore and on-line. If you decide to purchase the books on-line, make sure to get the right editions.

Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Berkshire, UK: McGraw Hill. [Denoted as GLM]

John McCormick. 2014. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. [Denoted as McCormick]

Ian Buruma. 2006. *Murder in Amsterdam: Liberal Europe, Islam, and the Limits of Tolerance*. New York: Penguin Books. [Denoted as Buruma]

You will also be required to read articles, other book chapters, and news articles throughout the semester, which are all available on Blackboard. [Denoted as BB]

**Current Events**

In addition to academic readings, you will be required to follow current events in Europe. We will discuss current events in class and they will be covered on the unannounced quizzes and on the exams. One of the best sources for international news is *The Economist*. The Europe and Britain sections are especially relevant to our class. You can access this through UNT. You can access up

to 3 free articles/week on *The Economist* website. If you'd like to access all of the articles, you can purchase a 12-week digital subscription for \$12—<https://subscriptions.economist.com>. I would strongly encourage you to consider this. Other media sources that provide good coverage of European politics are: *The New York Times*, BBC, CNN, *Der Spiegel* (international version in English), and Al-Jazeera. National Public Radio (NPR) is another good source for information. You can read stories and stream programs on-line. The local station is KERA (90.1).

### **Evaluation**

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F (89.5-100=A; 79.5-89.4=B; 69.5-79.4=C; 59.5-69.4=D; below 59.5=F).

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Paper	30%
Presentation	10%
Map quiz	5%
Participation	10%

\*\*All work will be weighed according to the break-down above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

### **Details**

**1) Exams.** There will be 2 exams. Exams will cover both readings and lectures. The midterm will cover all of the material to that point in the semester. The final exam will be cumulative, but will concentrate on material covered during the second half of the semester. Exams will consist of IDs, short answer, and essay. The midterm will be on March 10th and the final will be on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**2) Paper and Presentation.** You will select from among 3 topics and write an individual 10 pg. research paper. Topic proposals are due on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, drafts (if you chose) are due on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and the paper is due on April 21<sup>st</sup>. You will then work with 3-5 other students on a unified presentation on the topic. Presentations will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. More information TBA.

**3) Map Quiz.** On Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a map quiz. You will be responsible for locating the 28 member states of the EU (plus Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland) on a map and knowing their capitals.

**4) Participation.** In-class participation will include both oral and written evaluations. Just coming to class is not participating! I want you to actively participate in class (ask and answer questions, participate in discussions, etc.). Part of your participation grade will also include

several unannounced quizzes based on readings and relevant current events. These will typically be at the beginning of class and cannot be made-up if you are absent.

### **Class Policies and Important Information**

**Attendance.** I will take attendance. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. After this, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. Remember that your final grade is out of 100 points. If you know you will be missing class beyond the 3 allowed, please provide me with documentation as soon as you can. Should you miss class for a medical emergency, you will need to provide documentation from your medical provider.

**In-Class Expectations.** You are required to come to class prepared and to participate in discussions. This means that you should read the assigned readings before class. Please bring all readings to class. You may bring hard copies or have them on your laptop, tablet, etc. You will not do well in the course if you attend class, but do not complete the readings. Likewise, if you complete the readings, but do not come to class, you are also not likely to do well. Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement the readings and will not just review them. When you're in class, I expect you to be fully engaged. This means no texting, Facebook, Twitter, surfing the web, etc. You may use your laptop, but if you are using it for something other than taking notes, I may not allow you to continue using it. If you are distracting other students, I may ask you to sit in the back row. Most importantly, if you plan to come to class to do something else, I suggest that you not come.

**Email.** Please make sure you check your **UNT email** regularly. If you do not use your UNT account, make sure you link your UNT account to whichever email address you do use. I will send email messages to the class periodically and will use your official UNT email address. If you want to contact me, please use my UNT address above and do not email me through BB. When sending me an email, please address me as 'Dr.' or 'Professor', include your full name (at least the first time), and do not write as you would in a text message to your friends. For more information on email etiquette, see the link on Blackboard.

**Blackboard (BB).** All materials handed out in lecture will be posted here (syllabus, in-class worksheets, assignments, etc.) I will also post announcements, links, graphs/tables shown in class, and other useful information. So, check BB often!

**Extensions and Alternate Dates.** In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments or alternate exam dates. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time or be present for an exam, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and not the day the assignment is due or the day of the exam or afterwards. We will work together to come up with a solution.

**Late policy.** A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, I will no longer accept it.

**Grade Appeals.** Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received.

**Academic Integrity.** The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Sec. 18.1.16), located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_AffairsAcademic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_AffairsAcademic_Integrity.pdf). Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. If you have questions about what constitutes any of these, please ask.

**Accommodations.** The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Further information can be found at [www.unt.edu/oda/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html). Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second week of classes).

## **SYLLABUS**

### **Week 1. Introduction and Preliminaries: What is Europe? (Jan. 19 & 21)**

GLM, ch. 1

McCormick, ch. 2

<b>Part 1: Domestic Political Institutions and Actors</b>
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Arend Lijphart. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in 36 Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 1-3. [BB]

\*We will use this as a framework for understanding institutions in Europe. Please read this if you are unfamiliar with Lijphart or need a refresher. It will be most useful if you have it read by 1/26.

### **Week 2. Multilevel Governance (and Secession?) (Jan. 26 & 28)**

GLM, pgs. 172-181, 188-189

Catalonia:

- “Catalonia’s Future: Voting in their Hearts.” *The Economist*. Nov. 15, 2014. [BB]
- Xavier Solano. 2013. “A Scottish Referendum for Catalonia.” In *What’s Up with Catalonia*, Liz Castro, ed. Pgs. 167-172. [BB]

Scotland:

- “Scottish Independence: The Essential Guide.” *The Guardian*. April, 23, 2013 [BB]
- “Britain Survives.” *The Economist*. Sept. 19, 2014. [BB]
- Yes/No campaign ads [BB]

### **Week 3. Executives (Feb. 2 & 4)**

GLM, ch. 2

Ashifa Kassam. “Juan Carlos Abdication Sparks Call for Referendum on Spain’s Monarchy.” *The Guardian*. June 2, 2014. [BB]

Evening showing of *The Queen*. Details TBA.

**\*Extra credit assignment on *The Queen*—due 2/9**

### **Week 4. Parliaments (Feb. 9 & 11)**

GLM, ch. 3

Quotas for Women in Parliament—<http://www.quotaproject.org/aboutquotas.cfm> [BB]

Watch British Prime Minister’s Question Time in class

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/parliament-government-and-politics/parliament/prime-ministers-questions>

### **Week 5. Party Systems, Political Cleavages, and Party System Change (Feb. 16 & 18)**

GLM, ch. 8-9

Rachel Donadio. “The Rise of a Protest Movement Shows Depth of Italy’s Disillusionment.” *New York Times*. Feb. 21, 2013. [BB]

“The Snail Loses Pace.” *The Economist*. August 1, 2015. [BB]

“Verdant Pastures.” *The Economist*. May 23, 2015. [BB]

“The March of Europe’s Little Trumps.” *The Economist*. Dec. 12, 2015. [BB]

### **Week 6. Electoral Rules and their Effects (Feb. 23 & 25)**

GLM, ch. 11 (skip pgs. 400-top 406)

Case Study: Electoral Reform in the United Kingdom:

-<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/alternative-vote> [BB]

-[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/election\\_2010/8644480.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/election_2010/8644480.stm) [BB]

-Yes/No to AV Campaign Ads [BB]

### **Week 7. Government Formation (March 1 & 3)**

GLM, ch. 12

Lanny Martin and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. “Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 45.1: 33-50. [BB]

Articles on recent elections/government formation—Finland, Denmark, Spain. TBA.

### **Week 8. Review and Midterm**

March 8—Do Institutions and Parties Matter?

GLM, ch. 14

March 10—Midterm Exam

**March 15 & 17. Spring Break**

<b>Part 2: European Union and European Integration</b>
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### **Week 9. What is the European Union? Origins and Integration (March 22 & 24)**

McCormick, ch. 1 & 3

## **Week 10. EU Institutions (March 29 & 31)**

McCormick, ch. 4

GLM, pgs. 116-139

## **Week 11. Economic Policy & the Euro Crisis (April 5)**

McCormick, ch. 7

Peter Hall. 2012. "The Economics and Politics of the Euro Crisis." *German Politics*. 21.4: 355-371. [BB]

**April 7<sup>th</sup>. No class. Prof. Spoon at conference.**

## **Week 12. Public Opinion, Voting, and the Democratic Deficit (April 12 & 14)**

McCormick, ch. 5

GLM, pgs. 151-159

Sara B. Hobolt, Jae-Jae Spoon and James Tilley. 2009. "A Vote Against Europe? Explaining Defection at the 1999 and 2004 European Parliament Elections." *British Journal of Political Science*. 39: 93-115.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/election-results-2014.html> [BB]

"The Eurosceptic Union." *The Economist*. May 26, 2014. [BB]

**\*Research Project drafts due April 12<sup>th</sup>\***

<b>Part 3: Identity, Citizenship, and Immigration</b>
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## **Week 13. April 19 & 21: Immigration, Islam and Multiculturalism I**

William Hitchcock. 2003. *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent, 1945-2002*. New York: Anchor Books. Ch. 15. Pgs. 410-435 [BB]

Christopher Caldwell. 2009. *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: Immigration, Islam, and the West*. New York: Anchor Books. Ch. 2-3. Pgs.23-67. [BB]

“The Uprising of the Decent.” *The Economist*. Jan. 10, 2015. [BB]

Adam Nossiter. 2015. “Marine Le Pen’s Anti-Islam Message Gains Influence in France.” *New York Times*. Nov. 17. [BB]

**\*Research Projects due April 21<sup>st</sup>\***

**Week 14. April 26 & 28: Immigration, Islam and Multiculturalism II**

Buruma. *Murder in Amsterdam*. Entire.

Mark Lilla. March 5, 2015. “France on Fire.” *New York Review of Books*. [BB]

**Week 15. May 3 & 5: Group Presentations**

**Final Exam—May 12 @ 10:30am**