

EUROPEAN STUDIES 350 (#36380)
GOVERNMENT 324L (#38665)
GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE
PAR 1, MWF 9-10

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Course Description

Europe has experienced major change over the last 25 years, from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the recent European enlargement, with Bulgaria and Romania increasing the size of the EU to 27 member states. Enlargements of Europe, European integration, and ethnic conflict have presented major challenges for the governments of Western Europe. This course will introduce the governments and politics of countries in Western Europe and a comparative politics approach will be used.

What is comparative politics?

Comparative politics is the field within political science that tries to explain why countries vary in their domestic political institutions, their level of political and economic development, and their public policies. Other fields in political science include international relations, political theory and American politics.

Course Requirements

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the political institutions of European governments and the European Union. By the end of the course students will be expected to be able to describe the different types of government institutions and how they impact politics and policy making in Europe. They will also be expected to describe some of the important issues facing European governments, including issues related to immigration, the financial crisis and European enlargement. Student achievement of these goals will be assessed through exams and written assignments as described below.

To receive credit for the course, students are required to complete all assigned readings and to attend lecture (the TA will be taking attendance after the first week of class). Any assignments not completed within a week of the due date will be given a zero. There will be two exams and weekly assignments. The overall grading breakdown is as follows:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	30%
Weekly assignments	40%

In-class assignments & Participation	10%
Total	100%

Plus-Minus grading will be used.

The 10 weekly assignments will be short – at the most you will be asked to write a page. The assignments will be given out at the end of class each Wednesday (also available on the blackboard website) and are due at the beginning of class the following Friday. Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class. You will be allowed to get up to 2 points of extra credit which will be added to your final grade.

Readings

European Politics: A Comparative Introduction, 2nd edition by Tim Bale

Documents from the European Union

Items from the *Economist*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times* and online sources

(On-line readings available on Blackboard marked ** below)

You are also expected to keep up with current events. There are a variety of sources available on the internet or through the library including the *Economist*, *Financial Times*, or the *International Herald Tribune*.

Make-up Examinations

Make-up examinations will only be given in the case of a legitimate absence – documentation of an illness or other conflict must be provided to the instructor. If you are unable to take an exam, you **MUST** provide a legitimate excuse ASAP (at least within 3 days) or you will be given an F.

Late assignments

Assignments not turned in at the beginning of lecture on the due date will be penalized. Any assignments not completed within a week of the due date will be given a zero.

Incompletes

An incomplete is given only when the student has been in attendance and has done satisfactory work until within two weeks of the end of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control.

In general, if you are having any difficulties over the course of the semester, contact the professor as soon as possible and accommodations can be made. Don't wait until you get your final grade to let us know about any problems or illness you are having.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Documented Disability Statement

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>

Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading

PART I: INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 1

August 24 Course Introduction

August 26 Course Introduction
News from and about Europe

WEEK 2

August 29 The European Fiscal Crisis: Introduction

Weekly assignment #1: What is Europe? (To be done in class)

August 31 The European Fiscal Crisis: Summer 2011

September 2 The Fall of the Berlin Wall
Movie

WEEK 3

September 7 European Governments: Introduction, part 1
Reading: Bale, Chapter 1

Weekly assignment #2:

September 9 European Governments: Introduction, part 2
Reading: Bale, Chapter 1

WEEK 4

September 12 The Nation State
Reading: Bale, Chapter 2

September 14 Germany
Reading: Bale, Chapter 2

Weekly assignment #4:

September 16 The EU and National Governments
Reading: Bale, Chapter 2

(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

WEEK 5

September 19 Governance
Reading: Bale, Chapter 3

September 21 France
Reading: Bale, Chapter 3

Weekly assignment #5: A recent election

September 23 Governments and Parliaments
Reading: Bale, Chapter 4
(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

WEEK 6

September 26 Governments and Parliaments
Reading: Bale, Chapter 4

September 28 United Kingdom
Reading: Bale, Chapter 4

Weekly assignment #6: European Public Policy

September 30 Political Parties
Reading: Bale, Chapter 5
(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

WEEK 7

October 3 Political Parties and the Radical Right
Reading: Bale, Chapter 5

October 5 Midterm Review
(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

October 7 Midterm

WEEK 8

October 10 Elections
Reading: Bale, Chapter 6

October 12 Elections
Reading: Bale, Chapter 6

Weekly assignment #7: C'est la vie?

October 14 Media
Reading: Bale, Chapter 7

WEEK 9

October 17 Participation and pressure politics

Reading: Bale, Chapter 8

October 19 Politics over markets

Reading: Bale, Chapter 9

October 21 Immigrants and Minorities

Reading: Bale, Chapter 10

(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

PART III: THE EUROPEAN UNION

WEEK 10

October 24 Immigrants and Minorities

Reading: Bale, Chapter 10

October 26 International Politics

Reading: Bale, Chapter 11

Weekly assignment #8: What is Europe, part 2

October 28 The European Union

Reading: EU Panorama Brochure

WEEK 11

October 31 The Treaty of Lisbon

Reading: “EU Insight: Treaty of Lisbon Clears the Way for a More Efficient, More Democratic, and More Secure European Union”

November 2 Euro Zone

Reading: **[Economist Survey of the Euro Area](#)

Weekly assignment #9: The Euro vs. the Dollar

November 4 The EU and Immigration

Reading: “EU Focus: The EU and Immigration: Opportunities and Challenges”

(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

WEEK 12

November 7 Immigration and Antidiscrimination in the EU

Reading: **Givens, Luedtke, et. al., Introduction

November 9 Enlargement of the EU

Reading: **Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010 (pages 1-20)

Weekly assignment #10: The Euro vs. the Dollar

November 11 Immigration and Race in France
Reading: **Gehring, "Riots and Rights: Comparing Racial Policy Making in France and the U.S."
(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

WEEK 13

November 14 Movie
"La Haine (Hate)" Part 1

November 16 Movie
"La Haine (Hate)" Part 2

November 18 Discussion
(Weekly assignment due at beginning of class)

WEEK 14

November 21 The European Fiscal Crisis (the latest)
Reading: **Financial Times or other articles

November 23 The European Fiscal Crisis (the latest)

WEEK 15

November 28 Foreign Affairs in Europe
Reading: **Financial Times or other articles

November 30 Exam Review

December 2 Exam #2