

Intro to European Government, POLI 239.001

Fall 2017

Dey 305—M, W 2:30-3:45pm

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:20-2:20pm in the Global Cup Café, or by appointment

Course Content and Goals

This course is designed to introduce students to the post-WWII politics of Europe, particularly Western Europe. Instead of looking at Europe one country at a time, we will be examining Europe's political institutions, discussing how these institutions were shaped by political considerations, and looking at how these institutions shape politics today. Throughout the course, we will be analyzing current events to see the contemporary interplay between political institutions and European politics. Besides educating students about an area of the world that they may not be familiar with, this course is intended to provide students with some of the historical knowledge necessary for understanding what has happened and is happening in the region, help them learn how to independently assess the merits of various political institutions, and allow them to practice analyzing politicians' actions and current events. Consequently, this course will consist primarily of interactive lectures, short small group activities, and large group discussions.

Books

Crepaz & Steiner, *European Democracies*, 8th ed.

Readings + Other Assignments

While the only book you need to own is the Crepaz & Steiner book mentioned above, I will be assigning news articles and additional readings. These will be posted on Sakai. Because we will be discussing current events, which (for obvious reasons) cannot be listed on the syllabus in advance, it is your responsibility to check Sakai to make sure you have read everything assigned for a given class period.

While there may be occasional homework assignments besides the assigned readings, the bulk of your homework in this class consists of reading things and then thinking about what you've read. Consequently, I expect you to actually do the readings. Lectures are designed with the expectation that you have read the assigned material before class begins. *You will not do well in this course unless you do the readings.* I also reserve the right to give you pop quizzes if I feel it is necessary.

You are responsible for being in class, checking your UNC email, and learning about any homework assignments from a fellow student if you miss class. I may assign readings that are not on this syllabus; you are expected to keep track of and read those assignments, as well.

I will not accept late assignments, with the exception of the final draft of the final paper. For that assignment, if you turn it in late, then you will be docked 5 points from your paper grade for every day the paper is late, and I will not accept the final paper after the scheduled final exam scheduled

for our class (4pm on Friday, December 8). The final paper will be due in class on the last day of class (Wednesday, December 6); handing it to me after class on the last day of our course counts as being a day late and will result in a 5 point deduction. If you find yourself in a position where you are sending me an assignment via email, it is your responsibility to make sure you correctly attach a readable version of your assignment. Forgetting to attach a document or attaching an unreadable or incomplete version of your assignment does not count as having turned in your work, and all late work policies will apply.

Course Requirements

1. Participation (10%). This consists of attendance, class conduct, homework, and regular participation. **If you receive an F for participation, you will fail the class.**

Attendance and participation are required. I will take attendance every day. If you are going to miss a class and want that absence to be excused, *you must contact me before class with a valid excuse and then provide written verification for your excuse (ie a doctor's note)*. I will **not** remind you to bring in the verification for your excuse; that is your responsibility. Even if you contact me before class with an excuse that I approve as valid, your absence will not be marked as excused until you present the necessary verification. After the first week of class, you are allowed 4 unexcused absences; every unexcused absence after that will automatically cause your participation grade to drop by ½ a letter grade (5 points).

As mentioned in the “readings and homework” section of the syllabus, students are expected to come to class prepared (ie having read and thought about the readings & homework) and ready to actively participate. I will reiterate that in order to do this, you must read before class starts.

Do not expect an A just for showing up—regular attendance denotes average performance, which equates to a grade of 75% (C). Raising this grade hinges on demonstrating that you have both read and thought about the reading. The only way for you to do this is to actively participate. An easy way to do this is to come to class with prepared comments and/or questions relating to the week’s readings, the lectures, or to how current events reflect what we are studying in class. I will give you ample opportunities to participate in class. If you receive an F for participation, you will fail the class.

One of the goals of this class is to give you a safe environment in which to speak so that you can practice analyzing political events and applying the theories we learn in class to real-world events. To this end, we will frequently engage in discussion. Guidelines we will follow to help foster meaningful discussion:

- Be respectful. Different opinions are healthy and welcome in the classroom. However, it is essential that we treat one another with respect. You do not have to agree with someone’s view, but you do have to be respectful. Disrespectful students may be asked to leave the classroom. Please take a look at UNC’s harassment policy if you have questions (<http://www.unc.edu/campus/policies/harassanddiscrim.pdf>)

- Speaking in front of groups can be intimidating to some students; it is my goal to ensure that this class is a comfortable space where everyone can participate. Our discussions will be most successful when all voices are heard. If speaking in front of the class makes you nervous, *come talk to me* as soon as possible so that we can figure out some strategies you are comfortable with to help you earn points towards your participation grade. I cannot give you full credit if you do not speak in front of the full class.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions! Everyone has different areas of expertise, and I don't expect you to understand or remember everything immediately, so don't demand that of yourself, either. I will be of limited help to you if you don't speak up when you need clarification, and the discussion portions of the class will not work unless you participate.

2. Midterm (20%). The midterm will be on **Wednesday, October 11**, and it will consist mainly of short answer questions. It will be closed book, and it will take place in class.

3. Simulation (25%). We will have a weeklong simulation of the European Council on **November 27 and 29**. Students will spend several weeks preparing for this simulation—after the midterm, students will sign up to be either the executive of a particular EU member state or the President of the European Commission. Students will then need to use the blog function on Sakai to start a blog in which they, in the character of their chosen EU executive, discuss their chosen executive's opinions on different issues/current events and, staying in character, respond to other students' blog posts. Students must post *at least* 1 post a week and must make 3 comments on posts (responses to other students' posts or comments) each week. This level of contribution will denote an average performance, or a grade of 75%. All of these blog posts will help students prepare for the paper assignment and the weeklong simulation. During the simulation students will, in character as their chosen EU leader, present their views on what actions the EU should take next and, as the European Council, students will attempt to come to an agreement on specific steps for future EU policy. We will spend the first day of the simulation discussing issues in regional groups, and on the second day the whole European Council will meet together to debate and finalize policies.

4. Final (45%). The final will be on **Friday, December 8, at 4pm**. It will consist mainly of short answer questions and essay questions. One of the essay questions will be a take-home question on a country of your choice, and it will be due the last day of class (**Wednesday, December 6**). For the take-home essay question you will need to write approximately 10 pages, and this portion of the exam will count for slightly less than half of the final exam (ie 20% of your overall grade in the course). There will be periodic due dates throughout the semester for different parts of your paper, and meeting these due dates counts for part of your paper grade. These due dates exist to help you write a strong paper that addresses the prompt and is finished on time. Details about the paper will be given on the simulation sign-up date. The rest of the final will take place during the regularly scheduled time for finals for this class period (12/8 at 4pm).

Honor Code

It is expected that all work you do in this course will be original work not previously or simultaneously handed in for credit in another course. All work for this course falls under the University's Honor Code; the student's signature on her/his work confirms that the Code rules

were respected. All work must be your own – plagiarism, cheating, and related violations will not be tolerated. For more information on the honor code, please visit <http://instrument.unc.edu/>.

Familiarize yourself with the concept and practice of plagiarism in order to make sure that you avoid it. Plagiarism is defined as deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise. Take the library's tutorial at <http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism/> and ask me if you have any questions.

Questions

If you have questions about the course, please come see me after class or during office hours. Please email me if you absolutely cannot come to office hours. Some questions cannot be easily resolved by email, so we can set up another time to meet if necessary. Please do communicate with me early if you have any challenges that you expect to impact your performance in this course; I will not be able to help you if you do not ask for help.

Rescheduling Exams

*If you have to miss class on the day of an exam or wish to reschedule an exam, then you must write and explain **beforehand** in all but the most unusual circumstances.* If you are going to miss an exam for an event you know about well in advance, please come speak to me early in the semester (ie in first week or two of class) so that we can make appropriate arrangements. Please note that I cannot allow you to take the final on a different day or at a different time without the Dean's approval; therefore, contact the Dean if you have a conflict with the time of the final and need to change it.

Conduct in Class + Additional Info

Feel free to bring your laptops to class—if you do, however, I expect you to use them for activity related to this course. Playing on the Internet during class is highly disrespectful to people who are trying to pay attention. I may not call you out for being on Twitter during class, but I will notice, and it will affect your final grade. **You may not have your laptops open during any sort of student presentation.** If, during the course of the semester, I see that the laptops are acting as more of a distraction than a help, I reserve the right to restrict their usage.

Do not use your cell phone during class. I can tell when you're using it. Don't do it.

If you are going to spend class time playing on your computer or your phone, then please respect your classmates, use one of your unexcused absences, and do not come to class.

I will not respond to emails asking questions whose answers are on this syllabus. This saves both my time and yours; it is quicker for you to read a syllabus than it is for you to write me an email and wait for my reply.

If you email me after 8pm on the day before an exam, I might not see it in time to respond.

As a general rule, I will not email you your grades, nor will I discuss your grades with you within 24 hours of handing graded assignments back. That being said, if you have questions about my comments on your assignments, I am happy to talk to you. *If you want me to regrade*

something, you will need to write a few (at least 3) paragraphs responding specifically to my written comments and explaining why you feel you deserve a higher grade.

Course Schedule

August 23—Go over syllabus, introductions

Political Parties

August 28 Have read: Crepez & Steiner, Chs. 1 & 2 (63pp)

August 30 Have read: News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

Sept 4— *No class; Labor Day*

Electoral Systems

Sept 6 Have read: Crepez & Steiner, Ch. 3 (27pp)

Helpful (but optional): FPTP Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7tWHJfhiyo>

Alternative Vote Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y3jE3B8HsE>

MMP Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT0I-sdoSXU>

STV Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8XOZJkozfl>

Sept 11—***Map Quiz***

Have read: News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

Parliamentary Systems—Executive and Parliament

Sept 13—Executive

Have read: GLM, Ch. 2 (on Sakai), 21pp

Sept 18—Parliament

Have read: GLM, Ch. 3 (on Sakai), 31pp

Coalition Theory

Sept 20 Have read: Crepez & Steiner, Ch. 4 (44pp)

Sept 25 Have read: News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

Nationalism & Ethnicity + Power Sharing

Sept 27— Begin discussing nationalism and ethnicity

Have read: Crepez & Steiner Ch. 12 (21pp)

Oct 2— Finish discussing nationalism and ethnicity, also discuss power sharing

Have read: Crepez & Steiner Ch. 13 (33pp)

Oct 4 Have read: News articles, TBA

Homework: email in review questions—if you email them by 5pm, Saturday, October 7, I'll make sure we talk about them on the 9th

Oct 9— Review for Midterm
Come with questions!

Oct 11—*****MIDTERM*****

The EU—History & Evolution

Oct 16—Go over the midterm, sign up for European Council role, begin discussion boards, discuss the paper, start with EU History & Evolution

Have listened to: Planet Money: “France and Germany, A Love Story” Accessible at:

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/10/18/141478551/the-tuesday-podcast-france-and-germany-a-love-story> (23min)

Have read: McCormick, Ch. 1 (on Sakai) (17pp)

Oct 18— *No class; Fall Break*

Oct 23— Evolution

Have read: 1. McCormick, Ch. 4 (on Sakai) (19pp)

2. News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

The EU—Institutions & Policies

Oct 25— Have read: Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 14 (25pp)

Oct 30— Have read: News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

The EU—Expansion and Identity

Nov 1—Expansion

Have read: 1. Second Thoughts About EU Enlargement:

<http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1895238,00.html>

2. EU Eastern Enlargement, 10 Years Later: <http://www.dw.de/eu-eastern-enlargement-10-years-later/a-17605432>

3. Still Believing in the EU: <http://www.dw.de/still-believing-in-the-eu/a-17604178>

4. Q&A: EU Enlargement: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/2266385.stm>

Nov 6—Identity

Have read:

1. Risse: <http://en.theeuropean.eu/thomas-rissen/7985-european-identity-already-exists>

2. Bauböck: <http://en.theeuropean.eu/rainer-bauboeck/7857-why-europes-collective-identities-are-plural>

3. Fligstein: <http://en.theeuropean.eu/neil-fligstein/7903-the-future-of-europe-and-the-european-identity>

4. European Identity: Does Europe Exist?, Edgar Bellows:

http://www.fh-dortmund.de/de/fb/9/publikationen/impect/i5_art2_bellow.pdf (12pp)

The EU—Eurocrisis

Nov 8—***Turn in Paper Intro***

Have read: Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 9 (25pp)

Paper Intro Due

Nov 13— Have read: News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

The EU—Brexit

Nov 15—Have read: TBA

Nov 20—***Turn in Paper Outline***

Have read: News articles, TBA (see Sakai)

Paper Outline Due

Nov 22—*No class, Thanksgiving Break*

Simulation

Nov 27-29—*****European Council Simulation*****

Homework: Come prepared for the simulation!

Policy Outcomes

Dec 4—Have read: Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 10 (23pp)

Dec 6—*Last Day!* *****Paper Due***** Course Evaluations; Review

FINAL EXAM: *****Friday, December 8, 4pm*****