

**Brock University Department of Political Science
POLI 3P94
European Politics
September 2017-December 2017**



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Plaza 451
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00
Friday 1:00-3:00

Lectures: W 8:00-10:00

Location: AS 216

Seminar Schedule:

Sem 1 TH	9:00-10:00	IC 113 (Vandermeer)
Sem 2 F	4:00-5:00	IC 112 (Vandermeer)
Sem 3 T	2:00-3:00	MC C304 (Hamilton)

Course Description

Survey of the governments and politics of selected European states and the European Union. Topics include political institutions, parties and elections, multi-level governance, EU-member state relations, and relations with the global community.

Learning objectives: By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the interrelationships of multiple levels of governance in Europe.
- Critically assess competing theories of broad political phenomena in the European context.
- Participate and effectively communicate in seminars.
- Conduct research and analysis of European political phenomena.

Required Text

Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction* (4th edition) New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Lecture Format

There is one two-hour lecture a week in this course (with a break in the middle!). I will follow the layout of the textbook but not simply reproduce what is found there. Regular attendance and reading along with the text is one of the keys to success in any course.

Seminar Format

Students will pair up and choose a seminar to lead in the first introductory seminar. This is part of your overall seminar grade. If you are absent from seminar you will receive a zero without a Brock medical certificate explaining your absence. If you must miss seminar you may attend another scheduled seminar during that week. You will find that you are much more successful in a class when you attend seminars, read assigned materials and make an effort to participate.

Important Dates

October 10-13 – Fall break (no lecture/seminars)

November 6– Last day for withdrawal without academic penalty.

December 5– Last day of term

December 7-9 Exams

Academic Policies

Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulations and University Policies" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

Plagiarism software:

This course uses Turnitin.com, phrase-matching software. If you object to uploading your assignments to Turnitin.com for any reason, please notify the instructor to discuss alternative submissions.

Intellectual Property Notice:

All slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other course materials created by the instructor in this course are the intellectual property of the instructor. A student who publicly posts or sells an instructor's work, without the instructor's express consent, may be charged with misconduct under Brock's Academic Integrity Policy and/or Code of Conduct, and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

Academic Accommodation:

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services in the Student Development Centre (4th floor Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

Academic Accommodation due to Religious Obligations:

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.

Medical Exemption Policy:

The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. The Medical Certificate can be found at:

<http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>

Policy on Deadlines

Late penalties will accrue at a rate of 2% per day (5% on weekends). No work will be accepted two weeks after the deadline. To be considered on time, an assignment must be submitted in class (or to the departmental essay box) and uploaded to Sakai under the appropriate heading before 4:00pm on the due date.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

- Research Paper: 30% Due Wednesday November 15, 2017

The paper will be 3,000 words in length. You may choose a suggested topic from the outline, or develop a topic and have it approved by your TA. Papers must be based on at least 8 scholarly sources (books, journal articles, legitimate websites, primary documents). You must use a standard style guide for citations. I recommend Turabian, but you may use another if you prefer. **TIP: Almost all word processing programs have a bibliographic management system that you can use to enter your sources for a perfect bibliography when you're finished.**

- Quiz: 15% October 4, 2017
This will be written in class. Details will be discussed in class.
- Seminar: 30%
Seminar grades will be based on a combination of attendance, evident preparedness, and contributions to class discussion.
- Final exam 25%: The exam will cover the entire course.

Lecture Schedule

Week one (September 6) Introduction to course. Distribution of syllabus.

Reading (Bale)

Week two (September 13)	What is Europe?	Ch. 1
Week three (September 20)	Nations, States and the EU	Ch. 2
Week four (September 20)	Constitutions and governance	Ch. 3
Week five (September 27)	Parliaments & Political parties	Ch. 4-5
Week six (October 4)	Quiz	
Week seven	Reading week	
Week eight (October 18)	Elections	Ch. 6
Week nine (October 25)	Civil society, NSMs, interest groups	Ch. 8
Week nine (November 1)	Politics of the welfare state, Scandinavian Europe	Ch. 9
Week ten (November 8)	The Netherlands	
Week eleven (November 15)	Minorities and immigrants	Ch. 10
Week twelve (November 22)	International relations	Ch. 11
Week thirteen (November 29)	Exam review, course evaluations.	

Seminar Schedule and Readings

All seminar readings available on Sakai.

September 11-15– *Introduction: Meet your TA and classmates*

Your seminar leader will talk to you generally about the content of the course and allocate presentation dates. It is also a chance to ask questions about presentation expectations and anything else about the course.

September 18–22 **An unlikely hegemon**

Reading: Hoffman, Philip T. (2015). *Why did Europe Conquer the World?* “Introduction” Princeton U. Press: Princeton pp 1-18.

Guiding Question(s): Is Hoffman’s argument persuasive? What other variables might explain European dominance of the world from 1500-1945?

September 25-29 **Challenges for the EU**

Reading(s): Oliver, Tim. 2016. “Good Bye Britannia? The International Implications of Britain’s Vote to Leave the EU” *Geopolitics, History, and International Relations* 8(2) pp. 214–233.

Goodwin, Matthew. “What Brexit means for Britain” *Current History* (March 2017) p. 107-111.

Guiding Question(s): What led Britons to vote to leave the EU? What are the long-term domestic and international implications of this? Do you think the UK will regret leaving in the long run?

October 2-6 **Substate nationalism in Europe**

Reading: Lineira, R. and Daniel Cetra. 2015 “The Independence Case in Comparative Perspective” *The Political Quarterly*, Vol. 86, No. 2.

Guiding questions: Why are political actors in regions of Europe seeking autonomy or independence? How do the arguments for independence differ from place to place?

October 9-13 **Fall break—no seminar**

October 16-20 **Gender and legislative representation**

Reading(s): Murray, Rainbow. 2012. “French Lesson: What the United Kingdom can learn from the French Experiment with Gender Parity” *The Political Quarterly* 83:4 pp. 735-741.

Guiding Question(s): Why is gender equality a priority for democracies? What are the best ways to achieve parity?

October 23-27 The Far-Right

Reading(s): Mudde, Cas. 2013. “Three decades of populist radical right parties in Western Europe: So what?” *European Journal of Political Research* 52: 1–19

Guiding question(s): Is the European far-right likely to be successful in the future?

October 30-Nov. 3 Democracy in post-1989 Europe

Reading(s): Rupnik, Jacques. 2016. “Surging Illiberalism in the East” *Journal of Democracy* 27:4 pp. 77-87.

Guiding question(s): Why, almost 30 years after the revolutions of 1989, are we seeing the regression of democracy in Eastern Europe?

November 6-10 Social citizenship

Reading(s): Panican, Alexandru and Rickard Ulmestig. 2016. “Social rights in the shadow of poor relief – social assistance in the universal Swedish welfare state” *Citizenship Studies*, VOL. 20, Nos. 3–4, 475–489.

Guiding Question(s): What is meant by the term “social exclusion”? How do welfare states try to prevent/remedy this? What is ‘social citizenship’? Is the Swedish welfare state a model for the EU?

November 13-17 No seminar this week. Get your paper in!

November 20-24 Islam in Europe

Reading(s): Joppke, Christian. 2014. “Europe and Islam: Alarmists, Victimists, and Integration by Law” *West European Politics* 1314-1335.

Guiding question(s): Are views of Islam in Europe either hysterically alarmist or “victimist”? Why does Europe seem to have much more difficulty with the integration of cultural minorities than North America?

November 27-Dec. 1 EU-Turkey relations

Reading: Phinnemore, David and Erhan Icener. 2016. “Holding the door half (?) open: the EU and Turkey 10 years on” *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 24:4 pp. 446-462.

Guiding Question(s): Should Turkey be allowed to join the European Union? Why has Turkish accession been such a contentious topic? Do recent events doom Turkish membership?

Essay topics: These are just suggestions. You may also approach your TA or me and develop your own topic.

1. What factors have driven European integration? Are these factors still driving the European project?
2. Do you think that the EU can manage the various challenges that face it today?
3. Can the EU ever be truly democratic?
4. How well have the 2004 entrants to the EU adapted to EU norms?
5. Why is Hungary having trouble consolidating democracy compared with, say, Poland (or any other 2004 entrant)?
6. Will there ever be a single European political identity?
7. How do you account for the rise of substate nationalism in Belgium, Spain and the UK?
8. How has Europeanization affected national governance in one or more states?
9. Why have some European states adopted federalism while others have opted for unitary organization?
10. Compare the legislative institutions of two countries (upper houses, lower houses, etc.).
11. Compare and explain the differences between different European party systems.
12. Explain the rise of the far right in European politics.
13. Compare two similar parties in different states and their relative success (E.g. Greens in Germany and France).
14. Compare efforts to reform electoral rules in two states.
15. Why are farmers such a powerful political force in European politics?
16. Are European trade unions still relevant?
17. Compare the activities of new social movements in a couple of European countries?
18. How are European welfare states evolving? Is the welfare state under threat?
19. Compare how two states have managed the diversity that comes with immigration (multiculturalism, assimilation, etc.)
20. Why is immigration such a politically delicate subject in Europe compared with North America?
21. Should the EU continue to expand? What states should be admitted?
22. Will the EU ever be a federal superstate or has it reached the limits of interstate integration?
23. Compare the treatment of Roma people in two states (say, France and Spain).
24. Can there ever be a common EU foreign policy?
25. The relationship of the EU with Russia or the USA.
26. Is Turkey prepared to join the European Union?