

**Brock University Department of Political Science
POLI 3P94
European Politics
January 2022-April 2022**



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Plaza 325

Office Hours: I will announce office hours when we return to in-person instruction. Until then all inquiries will be answered wither by email or by requesting a meeting over Teams.

Lectures: T 10:00-12:00 STH 201

Seminar Schedule:

Sem 1 T	12:00-13:00	WH 8J	(Vandermeer)
Sem 2 F	9:00-10:00	MC C 304	(Vandermeer)
Sem 3 R	14:00-13:00	PLZ 308	(Hamilton)

NOTE: Seminars will be held online through MS Teams until at least January 31.

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 are one of the keys to success in any course.

Seminar Format

Seminars are graded out of 10 each week. 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 try to participate.

Important Dates

January 10	Undergraduate classes begin.
February 21-25	Reading week
March 4	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
April 8	Last undergraduate classes

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

Essay outline: 10% Due February 18, 2022

This outline should be written in essay format and should be between 750-1000 words in length. It should identify and describe the topic and lay out a clear tentative thesis statement. Your outline should also contain at least 5 scholarly sources (books, journal articles). You will upload this assignment to Sakai.

Research Paper: 35% Due Tuesday March 24, 2022

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 **10** 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. The essay will be uploaded to Sakai.

Take-home exam: 25%

April 8, 2022

This will consist of a single general essay question that invites you to reflect on course content. You will be given more specific instructions at the end of the course.

Seminar: 30%

There are no individual presentations. Seminar grades will be based on a combination of attendance, evident preparedness, and contributions to class discussion.

Lecture Schedule (subject to change)

		<u>Reading</u> (Bale)
Week one (January 11)	Introduction to course. What is Europe?	Ch. 1
Week two (January 18)	Nations, States, and the EU	Ch. 2
Week three (January 25)	Democratic consolidation	
Week four (February 1)	Constitutions and governance	Ch. 3
Week five (February 8)	Parliaments & political parties	Ch. 4-5
Week six (February 15)	Elections	Ch. 6
Week eight (February 21-25)	Reading week	
Week seven (March 1)	Civil society, NSMs, interest groups	Ch. 8
Week nine (March 8)	Politics of the welfare state.	Ch. 9
Week ten (March 15)	The Netherlands & Scandinavian Europe	
Week eleven (March 22)	Minorities, immigrants, and refugees	Ch. 10
Week twelve (March 29)	The future of the EU	
Week thirteen (April 5)	International relations .	Ch. 11

Seminar Schedule and Readings

All seminar readings available on Sakai.

January 17– 21 Introduction: Meet your TA and classmates

Your seminar leader will talk to you about expectations for seminar.

January 24-28 An Unlikely Hegemon

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

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

January 31-Feb. 4 Substate Nationalism in Europe

Reading: Mueller, Sean. 2019. “Catalonia: The Perils of Majoritarianism” *Journal of Democracy* 30:2, pp. 142-156.

Question(s): How has the Spanish state handled the question of Catalan independence? How could the Spanish constitution be changed to maintain the unity of the state while giving autonomy to the ACs? Is the disintegration of Spain inevitable?

February 7-11 Europe: An East-West Divide?

Reading: Rupnik, Jacques. 2021. “The East-West Divide Revisited 30 Years On” in *Europe’s Transformations: Essays in Honour of Loukas Tsoukalis* Ed. Helen Wallace, Nikos Koutsiaras and George Pagoulatos, Oxford U. Press.

Guiding questions: Is there a divide between Eastern and western Europe? What is the nature of this division? Can this apparent rift be resolved? Is European integration fatally flawed?

February 14-18 Indigenous People and the State

Reading(s): Lantto, Patrik. 2010. “Borders, Citizenship and Change: The Case of the Sami People, 1751-2008” *Citizenship Studies* 14:5, pp. 543-556.

Guiding Question(s): How have European states affected the lives of Indigenous communities? How has the liberal-democratic conception of citizenship conflicted with traditional ideas of Sami identity? What similarities can you see between Indigenous people in Nordic Europe and North America?

February 21-25 Reading Week

Feb. 28-March 4: European Political Parties

Reading: Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2019. "The Failure of Europe's Mainstream Parties" *Journal of Democracy* 30(4) pp. 35-47.

Guiding question: Why does the author believe that mainstream parties have failed? Is populism the answer to this failure? Are mainstream parties likely to fade away and be replaced by more radical alternatives? What role has the EU played in this apparent failure?

March 7-11 Immigration policy

Reading(s): Fernández, Christian. 2020. "Cosmopolitanism at the crossroads: Swedish immigration policy after the 2015 refugee crisis" in *Europe and the Refugee Response: A Crisis of Values* London: Routledge pp 220-235.

Guiding Questions: How would you describe Swedish immigration policy? Why does the author claim that this policy is at a crossroads? Are there limits to Kantian "hospitality"? Are you persuaded by the Swedish model's moral defense of cosmopolitanism?

March 14-18 The EU and Russia

Reading: Cristian Nitoiu. 2016. "Towards conflict or cooperation? The Ukraine crisis and EU-Russia relations" *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 16:3, 375-390.

Guiding questions: This article is from 2016 but provides an excellent overview of the tensions existing in EU-Russian relations. These are now at a crisis point over Russian aggression against Ukraine and Russian demands for a halt to the expansion of NATO. How will the European Union resolve this crisis?

March 21-25 Europe's Future

Reading: Lavery, S. and Davide Schmid. 2021. "European Integration and the New Global Disorder" *Journal of Common Market Studies* pp. 1322-38.

Guiding Question(s): Where does the European Union fit in the global system? What threats does the EU face to its ongoing integration process? How should the EU navigate the profound changes that the authors say characterize global politics today?

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