

EUROPEAN STUDIES 350 (#36640)
GOVERNMENT 324L (#38610)
GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE
MEZ B0.306, MWF 11-12

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Course Description

Europe has experienced major change since World War II, from the fall of the Berlin Wall to 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. The current fiscal crisis has complicated politics in the EU, and challenged the survival of both the Euro and the broader European project. 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%

Participation	10%
Total	100%

Plus-Minus grading will be used:

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C
70-72.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
63-66.9	D
60-62.9	D-
0-59.9	F

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

Gallagher, Laver and Mair (GLM), *Representative Government in Modern Europe* (Fifth Edition)

Various documents from the European Union

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

January 18 Course Introduction

January 20 Course Introduction
Background on the Euro Crisis

WEEK 2

January 23 Course Introduction
Background on the Euro Crisis

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

January 25 Introduction to European Government
Reading: GLM, Chapter 1

Weekly assignment #2: Leaders in Europe

January 27 Executives
Reading: GLM, Chapter 2

WEEK 3

January 30 Parliaments
Reading: GLM, Chapter 3

February 1 Constitutions, Judges and Politics
Reading: GLM, Chapter 4

Weekly assignment #3: Name that Legislature

February 3 Some History
Movie: The Fall of the Berlin Wall
(Weekly assignment #2 due at beginning of class)

WEEK 4

February 6 Levels of Governance
Reading: GLM, Chapter 6

February 8 Party Politics
Reading: GLM, Chapter 7

Weekly assignment #4: It's my party and I'll cry if I want to...

February 10 Party Politics
Reading: GLM, Chapter 8
(Weekly assignment #3 due at beginning of class)

WEEK 5

February 13 Cleavages and Elections

Reading: GLM, Chapter 9

February 15 Political Parties

Reading: GLM, Chapter 10

Weekly assignment #5: A recent election

February 17 Elections and Electoral Systems

Reading: GLM, Chapter 11

(Weekly assignment #4 due at beginning of class)

WEEK 6

February 20 Government Formation

Reading: GLM, Chapter 12

February 22 Politics Outside Parliament

Reading: GLM, Chapter 13

Weekly assignment #6: European Public Policy

February 24 Does Representative Government Matter?

Reading: GLM, Chapter 14

(Weekly assignment #5 due at beginning of class)

WEEK 7

February 27 Britain

Reading: **Economist articles

February 29 The Politics of Immigration and Identity in Britain

Reading: **Economist, [“Who Are We”](#)

Weekly assignment #7: Euroskepticism in Britain

March 2 Britain and the European Union

Reading: **Current newspaper articles

(Weekly assignment #6 due at beginning of class)

PART II: CASE STUDIES

WEEK 8

March 5 National Politics and the Economic Crisis

Reading: **Current newspaper articles

March 7 Midterm Review

(Weekly assignment #7 due at beginning of class)

March 9 Midterm

Spring Break: March 12-16

WEEK 9

March 19 **Immigration and Race in France**

Reading: **Gehring, “Riots and Rights: Comparing Racial Policy Making in France and the U.S.”

March 21 Movie

“La Haine (Hate)” Part 1

Weekly assignment #8: Reaction to La Haine

March 23 Movie

“La Haine (Hate)” Part 2

WEEK 10

March 26 Discussion of La Haine

(Weekly assignment #8 due at beginning of class)

March 28 Brussels Forum and the Eurozone

Reading: **Blog from Brussels

March 30 Immigration Policy in Germany

Reading: **Givens and Martin, Immigration Policy in Germany

PART III: THE EUROPEAN UNION

WEEK 11

April 2 Introduction to the European Union

April 4 The European Union

Reading: GLM, Chapter 5

Weekly assignment #9: What is Europe, part 2

April 6 The European Union

Reading: EU Panorama Brochure

WEEK 12

April 9 Euro Zone

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

April 11 The Treaty of Lisbon

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

Weekly assignment #10: The Euro vs. the Dollar

April 13 Enlargement of the EU
Reading: **Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010 (pages 1-20)
(Weekly assignment #9 due at beginning of class)

WEEK 13

April 16 The EU and Immigration
Reading: "EU Focus: The EU and Immigration: Opportunities and Challenges"

April 18 Immigration and Antidiscrimination in the EU
Reading: **Givens, Luedtke, et. al., Introduction

April 20 Xenophobia and Anti-Immigrant Movements
Reading: **Givens "The Radical Right" in Voting Radical Right in Western Europe, Cambridge University Press, 2005.
(Weekly assignment #10 due at beginning of class)

WEEK 14

April 23 The EU and the Fiscal Crisis
Reading: **The latest from the Economist, BBC or Financial Times

April 25 The EU and the Fiscal Crisis
Reading: **The latest from the Economist, BBC or Financial Times

April 27 Foreign Affairs in Europe
Reading: **Financial Times or Economist Articles

WEEK 15

April 30 Foreign Affairs in Europe
Reading: **Financial Times or Economist Articles

May 2 Second Exam Review

May 4 **Second Exam**