

**EUROPEAN STUDIES 350 (#36535)**  
**GOVERNMENT 324L (#38665)**  
**GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE**  
**PAR 1, MWF 9-10**

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Office hours: MWF 10-11  
or by appointment

**TA: Victoria Jackson**

**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* (Fourth 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

**August 29**                      Course Introduction

**August 31**                      Course Introduction  
The Fall of the Berlin Wall

#### WEEK 2

**September 3**                    **Holiday**

**September 5**                    Course Introduction  
Current Events

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

**September 7**                    European Government  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 1

**Weekly assignment #2: Leaders in Europe**

#### WEEK 3

**September 10**                    Executives  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 2

**September 12**                    Parliaments  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 3

**Weekly assignment #3: Name that Legislature**

**September 14**                    Constitutions, Judges and Politics  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 4

**(Weekly assignment #2 due at beginning of class)**

#### WEEK 4

**September 17**                    Levels of Governance  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 6

**September 19**                    Party Politics  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 7

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

**September 21**                    Party Politics  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 8

**(Weekly assignment #3 due at beginning of class)**

## WEEK 5

**September 24**      Cleavages and Elections  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 9

**September 26**      Political Parties  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 10

**Weekly assignment #5: A recent election**

**September 28**      Elections and Electoral Systems  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 11  
**(Weekly assignment #4 due at beginning of class)**

## WEEK 6

**October 1**            Government Formation  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 12

**October 3**            Public Policy  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 13

**Weekly assignment #6: European Public Policy**

**October 5**            Politics Outside Parliament  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 14  
**(Weekly assignment #5 due at beginning of class)**

## WEEK 7

**October 8**            National Politics and the Economic Crisis  
Reading:            \*\*Current newspaper articles

**October 10**          Midterm Review  
**(Weekly assignment #6 due at beginning of class)**

**October 12**          Midterm

## PART II: CASE STUDIES

### WEEK 8

**October 15**          Britain  
Reading:            \*\*Economist, Britain Survey

**October 17**      The Politics of Immigration and Identity in Britain  
Reading:            \*\*Economist, "[Who Are We](#)"

**Weekly assignment #7: C'est la vie?**

**October 19**          The British Election 2010 & French Election 2012  
Reading:            \*\*Newspaper articles on British & French Elections

## WEEK 9

October 22            France  
Reading: \*\*Economist, France Survey

October 24            Movie  
“La Haine (Hate)” Part 1  
**Weekly assignment #8: Reaction to La Haine**

October 26            Movie  
“La Haine (Hate)” Part 2  
**(Weekly assignment #7 due at beginning of class)**

## WEEK 10

October 29            Discussion of La Haine  
**(Weekly assignment #8 due at beginning of class)**

October 31            Germany  
Reading: \*\*Economist, Germany Survey

November 2           Immigration Policy in Germany  
Reading: \*\*Givens and Martin, Immigration Policy in Germany

## PART III: THE EUROPEAN UNION

### WEEK 11

November 5           The European Union  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 5

November 7           The European Take on the U.S. Election  
**Weekly assignment #9: What is Europe, part 2**

November 9           The European Union  
Reading: EU Panorama Brochure

### WEEK 12

November 12          Euro Zone  
Reading: \*\*[Economist Survey of the Euro Area](#)

November 14          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**

**November 16**            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**

**November 19**            The EU and Immigration  
Reading: “EU Focus: The EU and Immigration: Opportunities and  
Challenges”

**November 21**            Movie

**November 23**            Thanksgiving Holiday

**WEEK 14**

**November 26**            Immigration and Antidiscrimination in the EU  
Reading: \*\*Givens, Luedtke, et. al., Introduction  
**(Weekly assignment #10 due at beginning of class)**

**November 28**            Xenophobia and Anti-Immigrant Movements  
Reading: \*\*Givens “The Radical Right” in Voting Radical Right in  
Western Europe, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

**November 30**            The EU and the Fiscal Crisis  
Reading: \*\*The latest from the Economist, BBC or Financial Times

**WEEK 15**

**December 3**            Foreign Affairs in Europe  
Reading: \*\*Financial Times or Economist Articles

**December 5**            Second Exam Review

**December 7**            **Second Exam**