

**EUROPEAN STUDIES 350 (#36580)**  
**GOVERNMENT 324L (#38765)**  
**GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE**  
**MEZ B0.306**

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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* (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 14**            Course Introduction

**January 16**            Course Introduction  
A little history

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

**January 18**            Euro Crisis

#### WEEK 2

**January 21**            **Holiday**

**January 23**            Euro Crisis

**January 25**            European Government  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 1

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

#### WEEK 3

**January 28**            Executives  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 2

**January 30**            Parliaments  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 3

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

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

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

#### WEEK 4

**February 4**            Levels of Governance  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 6

**February 6**            Party Politics  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 7

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

**February 8**            Party Politics  
Reading: GLM, Chapter 8

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

## WEEK 5

**February 11**            Cleavages and Elections  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 9

**February 13**            Political Parties  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 10

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

**February 15**            Elections and Electoral Systems  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 11

**(Weekly assignment #4 due at beginning of class)**

## WEEK 6

**February 18**            Government Formation  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 12

**February 20**            Public Policy  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 13

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

**February 22**            Politics Outside Parliament  
Reading:            GLM, Chapter 14

**(Weekly assignment #5 due at beginning of class)**

## PART II: CASE STUDIES

### WEEK 7

**February 25**            Britain  
Reading:            \*\*Economist, Britain Survey

**February 27**            The Politics of Immigration and Identity in Britain  
Reading:            \*\*Economist, "[Who Are We](#)"

**March 1**                The British Election 2010 & French Election 2012  
Reading:            \*\*Newspaper articles on British & French Elections  
**(Weekly assignment #6 due at beginning of class)**

### WEEK 8

**March 4**                National Politics and the Economic Crisis  
Reading:            \*\*Current newspaper articles

**March 6**                Midterm Review

**March 8**                Midterm

## Spring Break: March 11-15

### WEEK 9

- March 18**     Movie  
                  “La Haine (Hate)” Part 1  
**Weekly assignment #7: Reaction to La Haine**
- March 20**     Movie  
                  “La Haine (Hate)” Part 2
- March 22**     Discussion of La Haine  
**(Weekly assignment #7 due at beginning of class)**

### WEEK 10

- March 25**     France  
                  Reading: \*\*Economist, France Survey
- March 27**     Germany  
                  Reading: \*\*Economist, Germany Survey
- March 29**     Update on national politics

## PART III: THE EUROPEAN UNION

### WEEK 11

- April 1**        Immigration Policy in Germany  
                  Reading: \*\*Givens and Martin, Immigration Policy in Germany
- April 3**        The European Union  
                  Reading: GLM, Chapter 5  
**Weekly assignment #8: What is Europe, part 2**
- April 5**        The European Union  
                  Reading: EU Panorama Brochure

### WEEK 12

- April 8**        Euro Zone  
                  Reading: \*\*[Economist Survey of the Euro Area](#)
- April 10**      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 #9: The Euro vs. the Dollar**
- April 12**      Enlargement of the EU

Reading: \*\*Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010 (pages 1-20)

**(Weekly assignment #8 due at beginning of class)**

### **WEEK 13**

**April 15**      The EU and Immigration

Reading: “EU Focus: The EU and Immigration: Opportunities and Challenges”

**April 17**      Immigration and Antidiscrimination in the EU

Reading: \*\*Givens, Luedtke, et. al., Introduction

**Weekly Assignment #10: The Euro Crisis at the National Level**

**April 19**      Update on the Euro Crisis

**(Weekly assignment #9 due at beginning of class)**

### **WEEK 14**

**April 22**      Xenophobia and Anti-Immigrant Movements

Reading: \*\*Givens “The Radical Right”

**April 24**      The EU and the Fiscal Crisis

Reading: \*\*The latest from the Economist, BBC or Financial Times

**(Weekly assignment #10 due at beginning of class)**

**April 26**      Foreign Affairs in Europe

Reading: \*\*Financial Times or Economist Articles

### **WEEK 15**

**April 29**      Foreign Affairs in Europe

Reading: \*\*Financial Times or Economist Articles

**May 1**          Second Exam Review

**May 3**          Second Exam