

**POLI 239**  
**INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT**

Fall 2018  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Instructor:** Jelle Koedam ([koedam@unc.edu](mailto:koedam@unc.edu))  
**Class times:** Tuesday & Thursday, 5:00-6:15pm  
**Room:** Gardner 307  
**Office hours:** Wednesday, 9:30am-12:30pm, Global Cup Café (GEC/FedEx)

**Course Description & Objectives**

The course aims to introduce students to the post-WWII politics of (Western) Europe. Over the course of the semester, we will examine Europe's political institutions, their origins, and how they interact with key political actors to shape contemporary, everyday politics. The course is divided into four parts:

- 1) Patterns of Democratization (August 28 – August 30)
- 2) Varieties of Democracy (September 4 – October 16)
- 3) The European Union (October 23 – November 1)
- 4) Contemporary Challenges (November 6 – November 29)

Part 1 examines how democracy developed in Europe. Why did some countries experience a gradual democratic transition while others underwent radical change, and what did this mean for democratic consolidation? Part 2 compares the vast differences that exist in democratic design across Europe, covering topics such as types of government, party systems, and electoral systems. This module ends with a simulation game that challenges students to design the optimal democratic institutions for a particular country themselves. Part 3 explores the European Union (EU), the most advanced and far-reaching experiment of political integration. Why was the EU created, what does it look like, and how does it function? Finally, Part 4 analyzes a number of challenges and crises that Europe currently faces, and how these have greatly come to affect political outcomes.

Besides educating students about an area of the world that they might be less familiar with, this course is intended to provide students with some of the historical knowledge necessary for understanding what *has* happened and *is* happening in the region, help them learn how to independently assess the merits of various political institutions, and allow them to practice analyzing politicians' actions and current events. Consequently, this course will consist primarily of interactive lectures, small group activities, and large group discussions.

## Readings

No books need to be purchased for this class (yay!). I will use a collection of different readings, and all will be made available online through the course Sakai website.

## Attendance

Attendance and participation are required, and I will take attendance. Excused absences are acceptable (medical, sports, etc.), but do notify me beforehand and provide the proper verification. You are allowed to have three unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Every additional absence will lead to 5-point deduction, or half a letter grade, in your participation grade.

## Classroom Policies

Tablets, laptops, and cell phones are *not* allowed during lecture. While I know that some of you might prefer to take notes on your computer, it is easy to get distracted, not least for your classmates. In addition, evidence suggests that students are better able to remember course material when taking handwritten notes, so all the more reason to go old school! On occasion you may need your laptops for in-class group assignments, however, so please do bring them along.

This next one should be pretty straightforward, but to be sure: *Please be respectful*. Different opinions are healthy and welcome in the classroom. Moreover, do not hesitate to ask questions, both in and outside of class. Questions are as important as general comments when it comes to participation, so ask away! I am always available to answer your questions over email, but I prefer that you come see me after class or during office hours. In most cases it is simply easier to help you when we sit down in person. Note that the primary way for me to communicate with you outside of class is through email, so please make sure you regularly check your UNC email.

Finally, every instructor has his/her pet peeves, and mine are 1) getting questions for which the answer is unmistakably in the syllabus, and 2) receiving emails that lack any sort of proper salutation and/or valediction (i.e. a “hello” or “bye”). I am always happy to answer your emails, and normally do so promptly, but please be professional when reaching out.

## Honor Code

As always, the University’s Honor Code applies to all course work. This means that all work must be original and completely your own – plagiarism, cheating, and related violations will not be tolerated. For more information on the honor code, please visit <http://honor.unc.edu/>. You might want to familiarize yourself with the concept and practice of plagiarism to make sure that you avoid it. Take a look at the library’s tutorial (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism/>) and do not hesitate to ask me if you have any questions.

## Course Requirements

Now, for the important part, the breakdown of your final grade for this class is as follows:

- Participation (15%)
- Final paper (20%)
- Short papers (10%)
- Midterm (25%)
- Final (30%)

As said, **attendance** and **participation** are required (15% of final grade). Participation, like the other components of your final grade, is evaluated comparatively. This means that ‘just’ showing up to class is by no means sufficient to receive an A. There are many ways to show you are an engaged student and to improve your participation grade, however, including coming to lecture prepared, asking questions in class, actively participating in group assignments, and stopping by during office hours. In an attempt to help you process the course material, you will be assigned a country that you will ‘represent’ during the semester. This means that, in preparation for lecture, you try to figure out how the topic of that day’s meeting relates to your country. So, if we talk about electoral systems, you will look into the type of system of your country; the same holds for type of government, party system, etc. You will be our very own country experts! Finally, your country assignment will also play a big role when writing your papers (see below).

To lessen the load of the writing requirement for this course (for both you and me!), you will write multiple papers over the course of the semester. A longer, 6-page **response paper** (20% of your final grade) is due towards the end of the semester, on Thursday, November 29. A short (½ page) paper proposal is due on Thursday, November 1. The prompt will be made available at a later date. I will spend some time in lecture going over how to write an academic paper.

In addition to the final paper, you will write four, 1-page **short papers**. Each of these four papers is meant to critically discuss (i.e. not just summarize) the reading material for a particular lecture and how it pertains to ‘your’ country, and needs to be submitted hard copy at the start of class. For what lectures you write these papers is all up to you, but you should have finished two short papers by the end of September. All four reflection papers should be on four different lectures, with the last possible date to submit being Thursday, November 29. Combined, they account for 10% of your final grade.

The **midterm** will take place on Thursday, October 4, and covers all course material up to September 27. The midterm counts for 25% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Your **final exam** is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, and makes up 30% of your final grade. As always, the final exam is cumulative and covers all course material, but the emphasis will be on the second half of the class. As with the midterm, more information will be provided in time.

As a general rule, I cannot discuss grades over email, so please come see me during office hours if you have any questions. If you want me to regrade an assignment or answer, you will need to provide me with a written request (hard copy or email) with a detailed justification.

I use the following grading scale:

A	94 – 100	B-	80 – 83	D+	67 – 69
A-	90 – 93	C+	77 – 79	D	60 – 66
B+	87 – 89	C	74 – 76	F	0 – 59
B	84 – 86	C-	70 – 73		

### Important Dates

- Midterm: Thursday, October 4
- Paper proposal: Thursday, November 1
- Final paper: Thursday, November 29
- Final exam: Tuesday, December 11

### Course Schedule

*Please note that I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule.*

**Tue 21 August** Introduction

**Thu 23 August** What is Europe?

- Crepaz & Steiner (2012) “Chapter 1”

#### Patterns of Democratization

**Tue 28 August** Path I: Gradualism

- Wilson (1999) “Social Change and Tradition in Britain”
- Geddes (2009) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, “What Causes Democratization?” [skim]

**Thu 30 August** Path II: Revolution

- Wilson (1999) “Democracy in a Hostile Setting? German History and Society”
- Geddes (2009) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, “What Causes Democratization?” [skim]

#### Varieties of Democracy

**Tue 4 September** Types of Democracy I: Presidentialism

- Lijphart (1999) “Chapter 1 & Chapter 7”

**Thu 6 September** Types of Democracy II: Parliamentarism

- Gallagher, Laver & Mair (2011) “Chapter 2”

**Tue 11 September** Legislatures & Federalism

- Lijphart (1999) “Chapter 10 & Chapter 11”

**Thu 13 September** Political Parties

- Crepaz & Steiner (2012) “Chapter 2” (17-21)
- Boix (2009) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, “The Emergence of Parties and Party Systems” [skim]

**Tue 18 September** Electoral Systems I: Winner-takes-all

- Gallagher, Laver & Mair (2011) “Chapter 11” (366-376)

**Thu 20 September** Electoral Systems II: Proportional representation

- Gallagher, Laver & Mair (2011) “Chapter 11” (376-406)

**Tue 25 September** Ideologies

- Keating (1999) “Political Currents”
- Crepaz & Steiner (2012) “Chapter 2” (21-61)

**Thu 27 September** Government Formation

- Crepaz & Steiner (2012) “Chapter 4”

**Tue 2 October** Review

**Thu 4 October** \*\*\* MIDTERM (in class) \*\*\*

**Tue 9 October** Political economy

- Emmenegger et al. (2015) “Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism” (1-7)

**Thu 11 October** Political diversity

- Htun (2004) “Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups”

**Tue 16 October** *Simulation*: Democratic design (instructions to follow)

**Thu 18 October** \* No lecture, Fall Break

### The European Union

**Tue 23 October** What is the EU?

- McCormick (2008) “Chapter 1”

**Thu 25 October** History of European Integration

- McCormick (2008) “Chapter 3”

**Tue 30 October** EU Institutions

- Bache, George, & Bulmer (2011) “Chapter 19”

**Thu 1 November** Public Opinion

- Hooghe & Marks (2006) “Europe’s Blues”
- \*\*\* PAPER PROPOSAL DUE (in class) \*\*\*

### Contemporary Challenges

**Tue 6 November** Populism & Political Disaffection

- Mair (2006) “Ruling the void? The hollowing of Western Democracy”

**Thu 8 November** The Populist Radical Right

- Mudde (2013) “Three decades of populist radical right parties in Western Europe”

**Tue 13 November** Authoritarianism

- Rupnik (2016) “Surging Illiberalism in the East”

**Thu 15 November** Alternatives to Representative Democracy

- ACE Project on referendums:  
(<http://aceproject.org/ace-en/focus/direct-democracy/referendums>)

**Tue 20 November**    *Simulation*: European Decision-Making (instructions to follow)

**Thu 22 November**    \* No lecture, Thanksgiving Break

**Tue 27 November**    Eurocrisis

- Offe (2015) “Juncture interview”

**Thu 29 November**    Refugee Crisis

- Readings TBD
- \*\*\* FINAL PAPER DUE (in class) \*\*\*

**Tue 4 December**     Review

**Tue 11 December**    \*\*\* FINAL EXAM (4:00pm, Gardner 307) \*\*\*