

European Politics  
PS 341  
10:15-11:30, T/Th  
G109 Caldwell

Instructor: Prof. Mark Nance  
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Office Hours: Monday, 1-3pm  
Book appointments [here](#).

### Course Description

Analysis of political institutions and processes in selected European states and the European Union and of major social, economic and political issues confronting European societies.

### Course Aims & Design

This course has three primary goals. The first is to provide you with a solid foundational knowledge of the structures and functioning of governments in Europe, including the advantages and disadvantages of each. The second is to introduce you to important areas of inquiry in comparative political science, such as nationalism, political culture, and immigration. Finally, I hope the course encourages you to think about what the European experience can teach us about politics in other places. What lessons can we draw that help us understand the rest of the world?

By the end of the course, you should be able to: discuss the major intellectual movements in European history; identify the countries of Europe on a map; consider how political institutions affect democratic accountability and stability; compare European models of social policy; and discuss the history, institutions, and modes of governance with the European Union.

While not a requirement, I encourage you to stop by my office at least once during the semester. I'd like to know a bit more about you, your interests, and your plans. So please stop by. If you cannot make it during my office hours, please let me know and we'll arrange another meeting time. Also, if you have any problems at all with the coursework, it will be much easier for me to help you if you contact me earlier rather than later with your concerns. That's why I'm here, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

### Required Texts

- Costello, Rory and Neil Robinson (eds.). 2024. *Comparative European Politics: Distinctive Democracies, Common Challenges*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-286644-8. eBook ISBN 978-0-19-269152-1

- Required supplemental readings are available on Moodle: <https://wolfware.ncsu.edu/login/>.

### Course Assignments

- *Map quiz (5%)* – We will have a map quiz on **Tuesday, January 21st**. This will be a quick, 10-minute test that requires you to label the countries of Europe on map. You can practice [here](#).
- *Quizzes (10%)* – You will have weekly quizzes, accessible via Moodle. These are designed to reward you for reading and to point you to some of the important concepts that the readings cover. They are due by noon on Friday of each week.
- *Participation (15%)* – This course will be better if everyone participates. I generally will lecture a little to ensure that we cover the key concepts. The rest of the class will be a discussion. This means, first, that you must be here. Any absence without a valid excuse will count against your grade. To do well in participation you must participate regularly, in a way that shows you have read and considered the assigned readings, and that you are taking your colleagues’ comments seriously. You also should keep up with international political economic news. Simply showing up will gain you a C for participation.
- *Research project and report (20%)* - You are expected to write a roughly 3000-word research paper. The research project as a whole will be judged by its success in:
  - demonstrating command of the applicable scholarly literature (including analysis and critique);
  - positing an argument of your own;
  - supporting that argument with evidence; and
  - conveying all of this in a clearly, concisely written paper.
 There are multiple stages to the paper. You can read more about the project [HERE](#). Different stages will be due via Moodle on: **Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and April 14<sup>th</sup> (all Mondays)**.
- *Exam 1 (25%)* – The mid-term will consist of fill-in-the-blank questions, identification of major terms and concepts, and an essay. I will provide you with more information as the date nears. The mid-term is scheduled for **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**.
- *Exam 2 (25%)* – The final exam will be in the same format as the mid-term. It is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-11:00am**.

Grade Breakdown							
A+	98-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	94-97%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
						F	Below 60%

### Recommended News Services:

- *Newspapers and Magazines* – Most major newspapers are accessible on-line. It would be particularly good if you were able to read a paper in a language other than English. The New York Times is the best source for European news in the US, while the Financial Times is available in the NCSU library system. Perhaps the most comprehensive coverage, albeit with an obvious editorial slant, is provided by *The Economist*.
- *E-mail services* – You should subscribe to the EU Observer. Visit their site at: EUObserver.com. You will receive daily news briefs on the happenings in and around Europe. This focuses primarily on news within the European Union.
- *Television* – The BBC news is the best English-language source of European news. CNN also has Europe-specific shows. Check your local listings. The websites of both the BBC (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm>) and CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/>) are good sources, although the BBC's is considerably better.

### Academic Integrity:

For University policies regarding academic dishonesty, please review the following link: [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student\\_services/student\\_discipline/POL11.35.1.php#AI](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php#AI)

I take academic dishonesty very seriously. It robs you and your colleagues of a good education and makes my work worthless. If anyone is caught cheating in this course, I will lobby hard for a strict but fair penalty, potentially including expulsion. This is a very unpleasant task, but I have done it in the past. If you feel pressured for any reason to cheat, please contact me to discuss your options. Receiving a low grade or even failing a course is better than being expelled. Note that plagiarism includes using work of your own that you have turned in, or plan to turn in, for another class. You may not use the same work for more than one class without all relevant professors' permission.

**Note:** The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted in this class and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about any related tool that you plan to use in class, you should discuss that with me beforehand.

### Classroom Rules

*Technology use:* Cell phones are not allowed in class. They should be turned off and left out of sight. If I see you with them, even looking briefly at them, it will count strongly against your participation grade. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. You may not use them for any other purpose. If you are seen using your laptop for any purpose other than taking notes, you may be banned from further use and it will count strongly against your participation grade. I reserve the right to ban all laptop use in class, should it become a problem.

*Open Learning Environment:* I expect students to treat me and one another with respect and to make this a classroom in which everyone can feel comfortable sharing their opinions. Furthermore, during class discussions, students should not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. If you have a concern in this regard, please contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 5-3148, or

contact me. Please see NC State's policy, available at: [http://www.nsu.edu/policies/campus\\_environment/nondiscrimination/REG04.25.4.php](http://www.nsu.edu/policies/campus_environment/nondiscrimination/REG04.25.4.php)

*Physical or Learning Disabilities:* I am happy to accommodate students with disabilities. Students must register with Disability Services for Students (1900 Health Center, Campus Box 7509; 515-7563) and present me with a letter indicating what types of accommodation will be required. Please consult: [http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm\\_action/dss](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss)  
For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see: [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php)

*Recording in-class instruction:* Unless you have my express permission in writing (or email), you are not allowed to record classroom lectures or discussions. The only exceptions to this rule will be for documented disabilities that make recording necessary. Any recorded classroom activity may only be used for the person to whom permission is granted. You may not share the recording with anyone else.

Subject schedule	
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup>	Syllabus, What is comparative politics?
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>	What is Europe? <b>In-class map quiz (16<sup>th</sup>)</b>
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Electoral systems; ???
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup>	Pol. Parties, realignment, populism
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>	Voting behavior; Brexit
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wellness day; On research
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parliamentary governance & accountability
<b>Mon. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Research proposal due (see template)</b>
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>	In-class simulation
March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> – no class; 6 <sup>th</sup> – Exam 1
March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup>	Spring break
March 18 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	Political Participation & Civil Society
<b>Mon. Mar. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>DUE: Intro, Alternative explanations, Methods</b>
March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>	Politics & Markets – VoC
Apr 1 <sup>st</sup> , Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Welfare State
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>	Migration
Mon. Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Final paper due
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	EU
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	EU LDOC
Apr. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam

## Reading Assignments

Tues. Jan. 7th	Syllabus and introductions
Add a slide about yourself to the course roster <a href="#">here</a> .	
Thurs. Jan. 9th	European Politics as Comparative Political Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lim, Timothy C. 2016. "Doing Comparative Politics" in <i>Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues</i>. Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, CO. Pp. 1-24.</li> </ul> <p>In-class: Learning to solve the problems we care about.</p>	
Tues. Jan. 14th	(De)Constructing Europe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kubicek, Paul. 2017. "What is Europe?" Ch. 1 in <i>European Politics</i>.</li> <li>CEP, Robinson and Costello. Ch. 1. "Introduction."</li> </ul>	
Thurs Jan. 16th	Map quiz! (10 mins at the beginning of class) Europe's Long-term Political Economic Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice the map quiz <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>Kubicek, Paul. 2017. "Political and Economic Development in Western and Eastern Europe." Ch. 2 in <i>European Politics</i>.</li> </ul>	
Tues. Jan. 21st	Electoral Systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEP ch. 2</li> <li>Article on gerrymandering in NC? Or David Daley?</li> <li></li> </ul>	
Thurs. Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernauer, J., Giger, N., and Rosset, J. (2015), 'Mind the gap: Do proportional electoral systems foster a more equal representation of women and men, poor and rich?' <i>International Political Science Review</i>, 36(1): 78–98.</li> <li></li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colomer, J. M. (ed.) (2004), <i>Handbook of Electoral System Choice</i> (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).</li> <li>• Renwick, A. (2010), <i>The Politics of Electoral Reform: Changing the Rules of Democracy</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).</li> <li>• Ferland, B. (2021), 'Electoral systems and policy congruence', <i>Political Studies</i>, 69(2): 344–65.</li> <li>• Lublin, D. and Bowler, S. (2018), 'Electoral systems and ethnic minority representation', in E. S. Herron, R. J. Pekkanen, and M. S. Shugart (eds.) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 159–74.</li> </ul>	
<b>Tues. Jan. 28th</b>	<b>Political Parties</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>CEP</i> ch. 3, Political Parties</li> <li>• <i>CEP</i> ch. 8, Parties in Government</li> <li>• Drutman, Lee. <a href="#">"If America Had Six Political Parties, Which Would You Belong To?"</a> <i>New York Times</i>. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.</li> <li>• Complete the political ideology quiz included in the essay above.</li> </ul>	
<b>Thurs. Jan. 30th</b>	<b>Populism and Political Realignment in Europe</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>CEP</i>, Ch. 18</li> <li>• Hutter, S. and Kriesi, H. (eds.) (2019), <i>European Party Politics in Times of Crisis</i>. (Cambridge University Press). This edited collection includes case-studies from around Europe,</li> <li>• Hopkin, J. and Blyth, M. (2019), 'The global economics of European populism: Growth regimes and party system change in Europe', <i>Government and Opposition</i>, 54(2): 193–225.</li> <li>• Kriesi, H., Grande, E. et al. (2006), 'Globalization and the transformation of the national political space: Six European countries compared', <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>, 45(6): 921–56.</li> <li>• Krouwel, A. (2012), <i>Party Transformations in European Democracies</i> (New York: State University of New York Press).</li> </ul>	
<b>Tues. Feb. 4th</b>	<b>Voting Behavior</b>
<i>CEP</i> , ch. 4.	
<b>Thurs. Feb. 6th</b>	<b>Voting Behavior and Brexit</b>

Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. 2017. "Trump and the Populist Authoritarian Parties: The Silent Revolution in Reverse." *Perspectives on Politics* 15(2): 443–54.

Hellwig, T. (2014), *Globalization and Mass Politics: Retaining the Room to Manoeuvre* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Hellwig argues that globalization is constraining elected governments, as they must balance between the wishes of their voters and the demands of international market forces. This book examines how parties and voters respond to these growing constraints.

Inglehart, R. (2018), *Cultural Evolution: People’s Motivations Are Changing and Reshaping the World* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Kriesi, H., Grande, E. et al. (2008), *West European Politics in the Age of Globalization* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

In a book that mixes theory with in-depth empirical analyses, Kriesi et al. examine the extent to which globalization is creating a new political cleavage in West European societies.

<b>Tues. Feb. 11th</b>	<b>Wellness day - no class</b>
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<b>Thurs. Feb. 13th</b>	<b>On research</b>
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- Review pp. 9-10 in *CEP* ch. 1
- Lin, Timothy C. 2016. "Comparing to Learn, Learning to Compare" in *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues*. Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, CO. Pp. 27-59.

<b>Tues. Feb. 18th</b>	<b>Parliamentary Governance</b>
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- *CEP*, Ch. 9
- Strom, Kaare. 2000. "Delegation and accountability in parliamentary democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 37: 261-289.

<b>Thurs. Feb. 20th</b>	<b>Accountability in parliamentary democracy</b>
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- Strom, Kaare. 2000. "Delegation and accountability in parliamentary democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 37: 261-289.

Mon. Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Phase I of the research project (the proposal template) is due at 12pm via Moodle.
Tues. Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	In-class simulation
Thurs. Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Simulation de-briefing; mid-semester review
Tues. Mar. 4 <sup>th</sup>	ISA - no class
Thurs. Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Exam 1
Tues. Mar. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break - no class
Thurs. Mar. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Spring break - no class
Tues. Mar. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Exam review; Political participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEP, ch. 5</li> </ul>	
Thurs. Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Civil Society and "Making Democracy Work"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putnam</li> <li>• Berman</li> </ul>	
Mon. Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Phase II of the research project is due at 12pm via Moodle.
Tues. Mar. 25 <sup>th</sup>	
Thurs. Mar. 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Tues. Apr. 1 <sup>st</sup>	

Thurs. Apr. 3rd	
Tues. Apr. 8th	
Thurs. Apr. 10th	
Mon. Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup>	The final draft of the paper is due at 12pm on Monday, April 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Tues. Apr. 15th	
Thurs. Apr. 17th	
Tues. Apr. 22nd	LDOC
Thurs. Apr. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Final exam – 8:30-11am

Day 1: Google slides that they all fill out and can access, picture optional. Use similar questions:

1. Year
2. Major
3. Hometown, State/Country
4. What's something you want to learn in this class?

5. Something interesting about you.