POLI239: Introduction to European Government
Spring 2013
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Political Science

Instructor: Florian Stoeckel
E-Mail: fs@unc.edu
Website: http://stoeckel.web.unc.edu/
Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-12; GEC Café
Class location: Murray Hall – Room 201, Tu/Th 9-10:15AM

A) Course description:
This course provides an overview of politics in Western Europe. It introduces you to the political institutions of European democracies as well as to variation in political behavior and public opinion across Europe.

The class is divided into two parts. The first part is devoted to domestic institutions. We discuss different political and electoral systems, the role of parties, party cleavages, and welfare states. We focus in particular on France, the UK, Italy, and Germany. Today, 27 European countries are bound together by their membership in the European Union (EU). These countries gave up considerable policy authority to the EU level. Consequently, policy making in Europe happens as much in Brussels as in London, Paris, Berlin, or Rome. The second part of the course examines the EU. We cover the history of the EU and its institutions as well as theoretical accounts that explain the process of European integration. While many European citizens embrace European integration, a considerable share of citizens in numerous European countries perceives the process as a threat and opposes it. Thus, public opinion affects and constrains European integration. Our examination of the process of European integration ends with a focus on citizens’ attitudes and their loyalties to the nation state as well as to the community of Europeans. We relate this discussion to the steps undertaken by EU member states to tackle the Euro crisis.

B) Readings:
The following text book is required for this class. All other readings will be made available on Sakai or the UNC E-reserves system.


http://www.amazon.com/Representative-Government-In-Modern-Europe/dp/0077129679/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1357599063&s=8-1&keywords=Representative+Government+in+Modern+Europe

Note: I will sometimes add short articles from The Economist or other sources to the class readings. I will inform you by email and expect you to check your emails regularly.
C) Course Requirements:

1. attendance and participation: 10%
2. In-class presentation 10%
3. midterm and final exam: 50% (midterm: 20%, final: 30%)
4. paper: 30% (proposal: 5%, final paper: 25%)

**Participation** is a key component of the course. Lectures will be combined with discussions and presentations, so they require that you come prepared. Participation involves attending class, asking questions when you have them, answering questions, and contributing to the class discussion. There are no scheduled quizzes and I will only implement quizzes in the event that students begin to routinely miss class and/or come unprepared for discussions. In case I use quizzes, they will be unannounced, graded, and be part of the participation grade. Regular attendance is very important. You may miss two class sessions without penalty. Missing more than fifteen minutes of a third class session without a legitimate excuse will reduce your final grade.

**In-class presentation:** You have the option to a) prepare and present a topic in a group using a power point presentation (or other visual support, 5-6 minutes per student) or b) to lead a discussion with a group of students. Dates and topics for presentations and discussions can be found in the syllabus below.

Two timed, closed book exams will be given during the semester. They will test your understanding of the key concepts covered in the course and your ability to use those concepts to think critically about current political debates. Exam questions will come from the required readings and from issues discussed during the class lectures, so take notes on both! The final exam will be cumulative. You must bring a letter from the Dean’s office to qualify for a make-up mid-term or final exam. There are no exceptions. If you bring a valid letter from the Dean’s office, we can arrange a mutually acceptable time for a make-up exam. The final exam takes place on: Friday, May 3 at 4pm.

The paper is expected to be 10-12 pages (double spaced, 12 point font). Students will choose one of three questions to answer. The paper needs to be very well organized. To that end, they must have an introduction with a thesis statement/argument, which is persuasively discussed and supported throughout the text. We will talk about the paper in class and I am happy to discuss any questions you might have during office hours. I encourage you to see the UNC writing center, which offers resources on writing and consultation hours (http://writingcenter.unc.edu/). Before the deadline for the complete paper, there will be a deadline for a 1-2 page proposal for your paper. The proposal needs to include the topic that you want to discuss, your argument, a short text on how you want to support this argument, the structure of your paper, and sources you are planning on using. You will get feedback on this proposal. It is 5% of your course grade. The idea is that you start thinking about your final paper early. Deadlines for the proposal and the final paper will be announced in class. Late papers will be marked down one third of a letter grade per day.
D) GRADING POLICY
Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-85.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-75.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>84-93.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marginal course grades may be adjusted in rare cases when a student’s performance has steadily improved during the semester. These changes will be made at the discretion of the instructor and will be increases of one-third of a letter grade (e.g. from B to B+). Grades will never be revised downwards. The intent is to reward improved performance by reasonably discounting bad evaluations early on in the course.

E) Communication
I will use your registered UNC email address and cannot keep track of any other e-mail addresses that you might have. Please check your UNC email regularly.

F) Laptop Use
If you wish to use your laptop during class, please give me a short explanation for why this is necessary along with a pledge that you will not surf the web in class. Please print this out, sign it, and give me a hard copy by January 17. You must sit in the front row.

G) Disabilities
I am happy to make accommodations for students with disabilities who require them. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should, 1) contact the UNC Department of Disability Services http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/index.html and 2) Bring a letter to the instructor indicating the type of accommodation required. This should be done during the first week of school.

H) Honor Code
Full compliance with the University Honor Code is required on all assignments, discussion forums, exams, and papers.

"It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic process or University student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity."

All suspected violations of the UNC Honor Code will, without exception, be reported to University authorities for purposes of investigation and possible prosecution. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Honor Code. Contact me if you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism.
Jan 10: Organization

- Introduction to the class

Get acquainted with Europe and the EU. Look at the following sources:

- http://www.economist.com/world/europe
- http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/eu
- http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/EN/Homepage/_node.html

- What are the largest and smallest countries in Europe
- Which countries are members of the European Union
- Which languages are spoken in Europe
- Who are the heads of state of the largest European countries & which parties are they affiliated with
- Which countries are the economically weakest in Europe, which are the economically strongest ones
- Which countries are running larger debts than others
- Is there variation in unemployment levels across Europe
- Where are unemployment levels higher, where are they low
- What are important issues in the political news in Europe right now

Jan 15: Welcome to Europe

- Delanty, Gerard and Chris Rumford. 2005. Rethinking Europe: Social Theory and the Implications of Europeanization New York: Routledge, Chapter 4 (What does it mean to be a European?)

Jan 17: Political and Economic Diversity in Europe

# Presentation topic: The economy of Europe (rich countries, poor countries, unemployment rates, debt, inequality etc.)
(2 students:)
- a)
- b)

I Domestic Institutions

Jan 22: Parliamentary versus Presidential Democracy I
- GLM, Chapter 2, The Executive (pp. 24-56)

Jan 24: Parliamentary versus Presidential Democracy II
- GLM, Chapter 3, Parliaments (pp. 57-85)

Jan 29: European Parties as Organizations
- GLM, Chapter 10, Inside European Political Parties (pp.307-339)

Jan 31 + Feb 5: Party Systems & Ideology in Western Europe
- GLM, Chapter 7, Patterns in Party Politics and Party Systems (pp.187-229)
- GLM, Chapter 8, Party Families (pp. 230-262)

# Presentation topic on Jan 31: Parties in Britain
- a)
- b)

# Presentation topic on Jan 31: Parties in Germany
- a)
- b)

# Presentation topic Feb 5: Parties in France
- a)
- b)
# Presentation topic on Feb 5: Parties in Italy

- a)
- b)

Feb 7: Party Cleavages

- GLM, Chapter 9, Cleavage Structures and Electoral Change (pp. 263-306)

# Presentation topic: Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande

- a)
- b)

Feb 12: Social Base of Party Support


Feb 14: Elections & Electoral Systems

- GLM, Chapter 11, Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referendums (pp.340-380)

Feb 19: Electoral Behavior

- Keman, (2002) “Comparative Democratic Politics”: Voters, Elections, and Ideology in European Democracies (Ch. 5) & In the Aggregate: Mass Electoral Behavior in Western Europe (Ch.6)

Feb 21: Government Formation

- GLM, Chapter 12, Building and Maintaining Government (pp. 381-421)

*** Elections in Italy on Feb 24 & 25***

Feb 26: The European welfare states

# Presentation topic: The Swedish welfare state

- a)
- b)

# Presentation topic: The British welfare state

- a)
- b)

Feb 28: Welfare state retrenchment


# Presentation topic: The British welfare state

- a)
- b)

Mar 5: Current events & Exam review

- Elections in Italy on February 24: discussion on results. Follow the news on the elections!
- Exam recap

# Discussion topic: Elections in Italy

- a)
- b)

Mar 7: Midterm

*** Spring break***

II The European Union

Mar 19: Introduction to the EU

- McC, Chapter 1, What is the European Union?
  o Winston S. Churchill. “The Tragedy of Europe.” (pp. 7-12)
  o Jean Monnet. “A Ferment of Change.” (pp. 19-26)
Mar 21 & 26: History of the EU and its institutions

- McC, Chapter 3, The Evolution of the EU
- McC, Chapter 4, The Institutions of the EU (pp. 79-107)
- Hix 2008, Chapter 4: What’s wrong with the EU and how to fix it

# Presentation topic Mar 21: Barroso, Van Rompuy
- a)
- b)

# Discussion topic Mar 26: Is there a democratic deficit?
- a)
- b)

Mar 28: Single Market and EMU

- McC, Chapter 7, Economic Policy (pp. 157-180)

April 2: Breakdown of Communism, German reunification, and Germany’s new role in the EU

- Conradt, David, 2009. The German Polity Putting Germany back together again: unification and its aftermath

# Discussion topic: Unified Germany’s role in Europe: paymaster and scapegoat?
- a)
- b)

April 9: Breakdown of Communism II: Eastern Europe and Enlargement

April 11: Theories of European Integration I: Intergovernmentalism and Neofunctionalism

- Pollack 2005: Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?

April 16: Theories of European Integration II: Multilevel Governance


April 18: Public Opinion on European integration

- Hobolt, Sara, Oxford handbook of the EU, Chapter 50: “Public Opinion and Integration”
- Got to: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm and explore issues that Europeans have been surveyed about recently

April 23: National identities: obstacle to European integration?


April 23: The Euro crisis and the future of Europe

# Presentation and discussion topic: The Euro crisis and the future of Europe:


- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

April 25: Exam review