

# **POSC3612 European Politics**

**Mon 1-4 pm**

**FALL 2015**

**Instructor:** Dr. Carla Xena

**Location:** tbc

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**Office Hours:** Mon 4:00-6:00pm, tbc

## **Overview**

This course focuses on the main features of contemporary political systems in Europe, with special emphasis on Western Europe. The course provides an introduction to European electoral and party politics, political behaviour, and the theoretical foundations of different types of government. Case studies will be used to highlight the functioning of different political systems across the continent such as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Southern Europe and France.

Students are not expected to read everything on this list. However, they are expected to read at least one of the required readings for each topic and contribute, accordingly, to the class discussion and/or group activity that will take place at the end of each session (last hour). The reading list is not exhaustive, but provides the basis from which students can pursue further independent reading. Please contact me if you encounter any problems in accessing the required or additional readings.

## **Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand of the historical foundations of current issues in European politics
- Identify the main differences across political systems and its consequences for democratic functioning
- Ability to apply theoretical approaches to political 'practice'
- Critical understanding of the literature
- Develop skills to conduct research and produce written scholarly material

## Assessment & Key dates

- *Participation* 10%: students are expected to read the compulsory readings weekly and to contribute actively to class discussions / exercises.
- *Midterm exam* 25%, (Oct 19th). Guidance / practical examples will be provided prior to the exam date.

The *midterm* and *final* exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The exams will cover the course material, including assigned readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. A make-up exam will be administered only in case of a medical emergency.

- *Research paper* 25% (Nov 9th): titles will be made available by the course supervisor. Research papers should be 3000 words long (10% above/below tolerance policy). Students are allowed to choose their own topic according to their research interests - prior discussion with the course supervisor.

*Late Penalty:* You are responsible for submitting a hard copy of the policy brief at the beginning of the class on November 9. Email submissions will not be accepted. The paper handed in after the last class will be considered late. The late assignment will receive a ten percent penalty per each day of lateness.

*Academic Integrity:* Failure to properly acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others constitutes plagiarism and is a very serious academic offence. Please consult the Fordham University Undergraduate Policy on Academic Integrity to get familiar with the standards of academic integrity.

- *Final exam* 40%, Exam week (Dec 7th - 11th). Guidance / practical examples will be provided prior to the exam date.

## Outline

### 1 Sept 7h: The Study of Political Science

Required readings:

Kellstedt P.M. & G.D. Whitten (2013) *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. N.Y.: Cambridge University Press. Ch1

Shively, W. Phillips. 2009. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. Ch 1.

Additional readings:

Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press. Ch 1.

## **2 Sept 14th: What is the European Union?**

Required readings:

McCormick, John (2014) *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*, 6th ed. (Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan). Chapters 1-3.

Tsebelis, G. and G. Garrett, (2001) The institutional foundations of intergovernmentalism and supranationalism in the European Union, *International Organization*, 55: 357-390.

Additional readings:

Crum, B. (2003) 'Legislative-executive relations in the EU', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 41, 2003, 375- 395

Delanty, Gerald. 2005. 'What Does It Mean to be a 'European'?' *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Sciences* 18(1): 11-22

Hix, Simon and Bjørn Hyland (2011) *The Political System of the European Union*, 3rd edn. (Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan). Chapters 5-7

König, T. and Potter, M. (2001) 'Examining the EU Legislative Process: The Relative Importance of Agenda and Veto Power?', *European Union Politics* 2(3): 329-51

## **3 Sept 21st: Public Opinion, Elections and Democratic Deficit in the European Union**

Required readings:

McCormick, John (2014) *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*, 6th ed. (Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan). Chapter 5.

Karp, Jeffrey A., Susan A. Banducci, and Shaun Bowler, 'To Know It is to Love It?' Satisfaction With Democracy in the European Union', *Comparative Political Studies* 36(3), 2003

Additional readings:

Friedrich, Dawid (2011) *Democratic Participation and Civil Society in the European Union* (Manchester: Manchester University Press)

Kohler-Koch, Beate and Berthold Rittberger, eds. (2007) *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield)

Schmitt, Hermann, ed. (2010) *European Parliament Elections after Eastern Enlargement* (London: Routledge). *Note*: also published as special issue of the *Journal of European Integration* 31(5).

## 4 Sept 28th: The Westminster Model of Democracy

*Note*: exam preparation/mock exam.

Required readings:

M. Flinders, 'Majoritarian Democracy in Britain?', *West European Politics* 28:1 (2005): 62-94

A. Gamble, 'Theories of British Politics', *Political Studies* 38:3 (1990): 404-20

A. Lijphart, *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*, 1999. Ch 2-3.

Additional readings:

M. Flinders & D. Curry, 'Bi-constitutionality: Unravelling New Labour's Constitutional Orientations', *Parliamentary Affairs* 61:1 (2008): 99-121

A. King, *The British Constitution* (2007), ch. 14

*Note*: There will be no lecture on Oct 12th.

## 5 Oct 5th: Consociational Democracy

Required readings:

Anderson, C.J., & Guillory, C.A. (1997) *Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Consensus and Majoritarian Systems*, *American Political Science Review* 91(1):66-81.

Lijphart, A. *The politics of accommodation; pluralism and democracy in the Netherlands*, 1968. Ch 6 - 7.

Additional readings:

Matthijs Bogaards and Markus M.L. Crepaz. Consociational Interpretations of the European Union, *European Union Politics* Sept 2002 3: 357-381

Daalder, H. (1996) The Netherlands: Still a Consociational Democracy? *IHS Political Science Series* No. 33, April 1996. [Policy Paper]

Lijphart, A. *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*, 1999. Ch 2-3.

Lehmbruch, G. (1993) Consociational Democracy and Corporatism in Switzerland, *Publius* 23(2): 43-60

Schmidt, M.G. 'Political Performance and types of democracy: Findings from comparative studies', *European Journal of Political Research* 41(1) (2002).

## 6 Oct 19th: Social Cleavages, Parties and Electoral Systems in Europe

*Note:* Midterm exam will take place at the beginning of the lecture.

Required readings:

Neto, O.A. and Cox, GW. 'Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties' *American Journal of Political Science*, 41(1) 1997

Additional readings:

Boix, C., 'Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies', *American Political Science Review* 93/ 3, 1999

Lijphart, A. 'The Political Consequences of Electoral Laws, 1945-1985'. *American Political Science Review* 84(2) 1990

Lipset and Rokkan. 1967. Party systems and voter alignments: Cross-national perspectives. Toronto: The Free Press

Taagepera, Rein, and Matthew Soberg Shugart, Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems (New Haven: Yale UP, 1989)

Warwick, Paul V., 'Toward a Common Dimensionality in West European Policy Spaces', *Party Politics* 8:1, 2002, 101-22

## 7 Oct 26th: Comparative Welfare States in Europe

*Note:* In this session we will also cover how to approach the research paper to be submitted on Nov the 9th.

Required readings:

Baldwin, P. (1990) *The Politics of Social Solidarity-Class Bases of European Welfare States 1875-1975*

Esping-Andersen, G. 'The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State', *International Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 20, No. 3, The Study of Welfare State Regimes (Fall, 1990), pp. 92-123

Additional readings:

Bornschier, V.P. Ziltener 'The Revitalization of Western Europe and the Politics of the 'Social Dimension''. In Thomas P. Boje et al. (eds.) *European Societies: Fusion or Fission?* 1999

Corrado L. & Londonoo D.A. & Mennini F.S & Trovato G. 2003. 'The Welfare States in a United Europe', *European Political Economy Review*, vol. 1(Spring), pages 40-55

Esping-Andersen, G et al. *Why we Need a New Welfare State*, 2002

Hage J and Hannemann R A 'The Growth of the Welfare State in Britain, France, Germany and Italy: a Comparison of Three Paradigms'. In Tomasson R F (ed) *Comparative Social Research* Vol 3, 1980

## 8 Nov 2nd: Southern European Democracies

Required readings:

Fishman, R.M. (1990) Review: Rethinking State and Regime: Southern Europe's Transition to Democracy, *World Politics*, 42(3):422-440.

Lijphart, A., Bruneau, T.C., Diamandouros, P.N., & Gunther, D. (1988) 'A mediterranean model of democracy? The Southern European democracies in comparative perspective'

tive', *West European Politics*, 11(1):7-25

Additional readings:

Bruneau, T. C. et al., (2001) 'Democracy, Southern European Style?' in Diamandouros P.N. and Gunther, R. (eds.), *Parties, Politics, and Democracy in the New Southern Europe*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Pridham, G. (1984) Comparative perspectives on the new Mediterranean democracies: A model of regime transition?, *West European Politics*, (7)2: 1-29.

Torcal, M. (2006). 'Political disaffection and democratisation history in new democracies', in Torcal, M. and Montero, J.R (eds.), *Political disaffection in contemporary Democracies. Social Capital, Institutions, and Politics*. London: Routledge

Torcal, M. & Magalhaes, P. (2009) Political Culture in Southern Europe: Searching for Exceptionalism, [Working Paper]

Torcal, M., Gunther, R. and Montero, J.R. (2002). 'Anti-Party Sentiments in Southern Europe', in Gunther, R., Montero, J.R., and Linz, J. (eds.), *Political Parties: Old Concepts and New Challenges*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Van Deth, J.W. and Elff, M. (2000) 'Political Involvement and Apathy in Europe 1973-1998', *MZES* [Working Paper], 33. Mannheim: MZES.

## 9 Nov 9th: Semi-presidentialism in Europe

*Note:* deadline to submit research paper.

Required readings:

Duverger, M (1980). 'A new political system model: semi-presidential government', *European Journal of Political Research*, 8, 165-87

Elgie, R. (1999). 'The politics of semi-presidentialism', in Elgie, R. (ed.), *Semi-presidentialism in Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-21

Additional readings:

Elgie, R. and Moestrup, S. (2008). 'The impact of semi-presidentialism on the performance of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe', in Elgie, R. and Moestrup, S. (eds.), *Semi-presidentialism in Central and Eastern Europe*. Manchester: Manchester University Press

Martins, A. (2006). 'The Portuguese Semi-Presidential System. About Law in the Books and Law in Action', *European Constitutional Law Review*, 2: 81-100

Neto, O.A., and Strom, K. (2006). 'Breaking the Parliamentary Chain of Delegation: Presidents and Non-partisan Cabinet Members in European Democracies', *British Journal of Political Science*, 36: 619-643

Protsyk, O. (2006). 'Intra-Executive Competition between President and Prime Minister: Patterns of Institutional Conflict and Cooperation under SemiPresidentialism', *Political Studies*, 54: 219-244

## **10 Nov 16th: Economic Crisis and European Integration**

Required readings:

Chang, M. 'The birth of the euro and the Eurozone' Ch. 3 in M. Chang, *Monetary Integration in the European Union* (Palgrave, 2009), pp. 45-70.

McNamara, K.N, 'Economic and Monetary Union: Innovation and Challenges for the Euro', Ch. 6 in William Wallace, Helen Wallace, Mark Pollack, eds. *Policy-Making in the European Union*, 5th ed. (Oxford UP, 2005), pp 141-160.

Additional readings:

Feldstein, M. 'The Euro and European Economic Conditions', *NBER Working Paper Series*, Working Paper 17617, November 2011.

Eichengreen, B. 'The Breakup of the Euro Area', *NBER Working Paper Series*, Working Paper 13393, September 2007.

Taylor, J.B. 'The Financial Crisis and the Policy Responses: An Empirical Analysis of What Went Wrong', *NBER Working Paper Series*, Working Paper 14631, January 2009.

## **11 Nov 23rd: Social Movements and the Emergence of New Parties in Europe**

Required readings:

Ivarsflazen, E. (2008) 'What Unites Right-Wing Populists in Western Europe? Re-Examining Grievance Mobilisation Models in Seven Successful Cases', *Comparative Political Studies*, 41(1):3-23.



Koopmans, R. (2006) 'Explaining the rise of racist and extreme right violence in Western Europe: Grievances or opportunities?', *European Journal of Political Research*, 30(2):185-216.

Additional readings:

Bozkurt-Gngen, S. 'Crisis and search for political alternatives in Southern Europe: SYRIZA, Indignados and Five Stars Movement' *METU Studies in Development* 41.3 (Dec 2014): 483-504

Flesher Fominaya, C. and Cox, L. (eds.) (2013) *Understanding European Movements. New social movements, global justice struggles, anti-austerity protest*. Routledge.

Hudson, K. 'The Left Unity Project of Britain', *New Politics* 15.2 (Winter 2015): 37-41.

Kriesi, H. (2012) 'The Political Consequences of the Financial and Economic Crisis in Europe: Electoral Punishment and Popular Protest', *Swiss Political Science Review*, 18(4):518-522

Lubbers, M., Gijsberts, M. and Scheepers, P. (2003) 'Extreme right-wing voting in Western Europe', *European Journal of Political Research*, 41(3): 345-378.

## **12 Nov 30th: Recap. Reviewing Exam topics**

No compulsory readings this week.