

**POLI 239 / EURO 239**  
**Introduction to European Government**

Fall 2019

**Instructor**

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**Meeting times**

Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15  
Lecture hall: Global Education Center 222  
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 4:00-5:15

Course website: [https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/euro239\\_fa19](https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/euro239_fa19)

**Course description and aim**

The course aims to provide students with an overview of the most important issues and institutions in contemporary Europe. The course is divided into four parts:

- (1) Comparative political institutions
- (2) Country cases
- (3) The European Union
- (4) Current issues

The first part provides a comparative perspective on some of the core actors and institutions in the European democracies. Following the institution-centered introduction to the European political systems, the second part explores three countries in greater detail to understand these institutions in context. The third part turns to the European Union. After a brief introduction to the milestones in European integration and an overview of some theoretical frameworks for explaining these processes, the course takes in-depth look at the current institutional structure of the EU to discuss some of the challenges that the European Union currently faces.

After attending the course, students should...

- ... have a firm grasp of the most important concepts and theories currently employed in comparative political research to classify actors and institutions.
- ... have a sense of the core features of the most important European political systems.
- ... be aware of the institutional structure of the European Union.
- ... understand some of Europe's most important problems and challenges.

## Course requirements

Short paper 1 (Due October 1): 20%  
Short paper 2 (Due November 27): 20%  
Midterm exam (October 10): 20%  
Final exam (December 10): 20%  
Short presentation: 10%  
Participation: 10%

### Short papers (40%)

For the two short papers (five pages each), you are expected to expand on a topic or research question that is addressed in the basic readings. The first paper should address a research problem from the course section on “Comparative political institutions”, the second paper should cover a question from the materials on “The European Union”. Details of the writing assignments are discussed in class.

Please format the papers as follows: Arial font, 12 pt., double-spaced, 1-inch margins, no color. Please ensure that your name is on the cover page of your paper and that the pages are numbered.

### Exams (40%)

The midterm exam is scheduled for October 10. The exam will cover materials from the course sections “Comparative political institutions” and “Country cases”. The final exam takes place on December 10. It will only focus on materials from the sections “The European Union” and “Current issues”. Please prepare the course readings and the content of the course slides for the exams. Further information about the exams is provided in class.

You are expected to be present for both exams. The only exception is a documented emergency. If you miss a scheduled exam without cause, you may be allowed to take a make-up test at my discretion, with a substantial penalty. If you think you will have to miss an exam, please contact me as soon as possible.

### Short presentation (10%)

At the start of each class, one or two students will give a very short presentation (no more than three minutes; preparing one or two slides to help with your presentation is optional) on a news report covering a European issue. The dates for your presentation are assigned in the first week of class. Please be sure to send the news report and, if applicable, the slides for your presentation to me no later than 48 hours before class.

### Attendance and participation (10%)

I will take attendance before each class. You are allowed three unexcused absences before missing class starts to affect your grade. Every additional absence will automatically cause your grade to drop four points. Regular tardiness will also negatively affect your participation grade.

I will excuse absences due to illness with documentation from a doctor or Campus Health Services or due to University-sanctioned events with documentation. In case of other personal obligations that will prevent you from attending class, please discuss them with me in advance if you would like me to consider excusing the absence.

### Grading scale

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

### **Course materials**

All readings are made available on the course website, where I will also upload any additional course materials and slides that we will be using throughout the course.

### **Important dates**

- Due date short paper 1: October 1
- Due date short paper 2: November 26
- Midterm exam: October 10
- Final exam: December 10

### **Expectations**

#### Weekly readings and electronic devices

Please turn your phones to silent mode and do not use them during class. I allow the use of laptops for class purposes, but I expect to you to bring a printed copy of the readings. Engaging with a text is much simpler when you have access to a printed copy.

#### Office hours

Everyone is welcome to come see me during office hours. You can email me too, especially if the matter is urgent and cannot wait for office hours. If you are experiencing an issue that will interfere with your attendance, especially on an exam day, let me know as soon as possible.

#### Honor code

The Honor Code is in effect in this class. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Code's application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.

## Course schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Aug. 20	Introduction	–
<b><u>Comparative political institutions</u></b>		
Aug. 22	Democratic institutions and executive power	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 2)
Aug. 27	Legislatures	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 3)
Aug. 29	Constitutions and constitutional courts	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 4)
Sept. 3	Varieties of federalism	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 6)
Sept. 5	Party families and party ideology	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 8)
Sept. 10	Party organization	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 10)
Sept. 12	Elections and electoral systems	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 11)
Sept. 17	Civil society and interest intermediation	(Gallagher et al., 2011, chap. 13)
<b><u>Country cases</u></b>		
Sept. 19	Western Europe: Germany	(Schmidt, 2008)
Sept. 24	Southern Europe: Italy	(Pasquino, 2008)
Sept. 26	Northern Europe	(Lane and Ersson, 2008)
<b><u>The European Union</u></b>		
Oct. 1	The European Union: Overview and historical background	(McCormick, 2014, chap. 1/3)
Oct. 3	Independent study: Theoretical perspectives on European integration	(Cini, 2010) (Jensen, 2010) (Rosamond, 2010)
Oct. 8	Review and current issues	–
Oct. 10	Midterm exam	–
Oct. 15	The European Commission	(Egeberg, 2010) (Cini, 2015)
Oct. 17	Fall break	–
Oct. 22	The European Parliament	(Scully, 2010) (Raunio, 2015)

Oct. 24	European Council/ Council of the European Union	(Lewis, 2010) (Lewis, 2015)
Oct. 29	The European Courts	(Kapsis, 2010) (Harmsen and McAuliffe, 2015)
Oct. 31	The democratic quality of the EU	(Chrysochoou, 2010) (Schmidt, 2015)
Nov. 5	European identity and public opinion	(McLaren, 2010) (McCormick, 2014, chap. 5)
Nov. 7	European foreign and security policy	(Smith, 2010) (Dover, 2010)
Nov. 12	Brexit and its consequences	(Menon and Salter, 2016) (Hobolt, 2016)
Nov. 14	The future of the EU	(Hix, 2008, chap. 6/8)
<b><u>Current issues</u></b>		
Nov. 19	Migration policy and the refugee crisis	(Goodman, 2015) (Buonanno, 2017)
Nov. 21	Right-wing populism	(Kriesi, 2014)
Nov. 26	Democratic backsliding	(Rupnik, 2016)
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	–
Dec. 3	Review and current issues	–
Dec. 10	Final exam	–

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## Literature

- Buonanno, L., 2017. The European migration crisis, in: Dinan, D., Nugent, N., Paterson, W.E. (Eds.), *The European Union in Crisis*. Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- Chrysochoou, D.N., 2010. Europe's contested democracy, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 377–89.
- Cini, M., 2015. The European Commission after the Reform, in: Magone, J.M. (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge, London, pp. 235–47.
- Cini, M., 2010. Intergovernmentalism, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 86–103.
- Dover, R., 2010. From CFSP to ESDP: The EU's Foreign, Security, and Defense Policies, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 239–57.
- Egeberg, M., 2010. The European Commission, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 125–40.
- Gallagher, M., Laver, M., Mair, P., 2011. *Representative government in modern Europe*. McGraw-Hill, London.
- Goodman, S.W., 2015. Immigration policy-making in Europe, in: Magone, J.M. (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge, London, pp. 809–25.
- Harmsen, R., McAuliffe, K., 2015. The European courts, in: Magone, J.M. (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge, London, pp. 263–79.
- Hix, S., 2008. *What's wrong with the European Union and how to fix it*. Polity, Cambridge.
- Hobolt, S.B., 2016. The Brexit vote: A divided nation, a divided continent. *J. Eur. Public Policy* 23, 1259–77.
- Jensen, C.S., 2010. Neo-functionalism, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 71–85.
- Kapsis, I., 2010. The Courts of the European Union, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 176–88.
- Kriesi, H., 2014. The populist challenge. *West Eur. Polit.* 37, 361–78.
- Lane, J.-E., Ersson, S., 2008. The Nordic countries: Compromise and corporatism in the welfare state, in: Colomer, J.M. (Ed.), *Comparative European Politics*. Routledge, Abingdon, pp. 246–79.
- Lewis, J., 2015. The Council of the European Union and the European Council, in: Magone, J.M. (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge, London, pp. 219–34.
- Lewis, J., 2010. The Council of the European Union, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 141–61.
- McCormick, J., 2014. *Understanding the European Union: A concise introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- McLaren, L.M., 2010. Public opinion and the EU, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 390–404.
- Menon, A., Salter, J.-P., 2016. Brexit: Initial reflections. *Int. Aff.* 92, 1297–318.
- Pasquino, G., 2008. Italy: The never-ending transition of a democratic regime, in: Colomer, J.M. (Ed.), *Comparative European Politics*. Routledge, Abingdon, pp. 135–207.
- Raunio, T., 2015. The European Parliament, in: Magone, J.M. (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge, London, pp. 248–62.
- Rosamond, B., 2010. New theories of European integration, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 104–22.
- Rupnik, J., 2016. Surging illiberalism in the East. *J. Democr.* 27, 77–87.

- Schmidt, M.G., 2008. Germany: Grand coalition state, in: Colomer, J.M. (Ed.), *Comparative European Politics*. Routledge, Abingdon, pp. 58–93.
- Schmidt, V.A., 2015. Democracy in Europe, in: Magone, J.M. (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Routledge, London, pp. 280–91.
- Scully, R., 2010. The European Parliament, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 162–75.
- Smith, M., 2010. European Union external relations, in: Cini, M., Borragán, N.P.-S. (Eds.), *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 225–38.