

POLS 491/ 581 European Politics
Fall 2015/16, Sabancı University

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This upper-level seminar focuses on post-war Western European politics with a special emphasis on political institutions and political change. Attention will also be paid to recent developments in the European Union (EU). Six countries: Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands will be examined in the context of more general comparative issues. Among the topics to be covered are: constitutional orders, political parties and party systems, electoral behavior, legislatures and executives, and some political economy issues. We then turn to the character of democratic institutions and party competition in these countries, particularly in recent years. How does democracy work in parliamentary political systems? How does capitalism vary among western democracies? What do different parties stand for? What are the major lines of conflict in the domestic politics of European countries? How can we explain the rise of the Green movement or the spread of nationalism? What does European Union membership imply for the domestic political arena? This graduate seminar provides an introduction to these and other analytical issues in political development within the European context.

Expectations and Requirements:

This seminar is designed to encourage critical thinking. Students are expected to attend all sessions and to actively participate in class discussion. The readings for this course consist of various analytical perspectives, which demand careful and critical preparation. You are expected to understand the central questions/arguments of the required readings **prior to** coming to class so that you may meaningfully participate in class discussion.

This is a demanding course with a substantial reading load. Therefore, it is essential that you come prepared to discuss the readings for each meeting. If you miss a class, please check *SUCourse* in order to be informed about additional readings and assignments. Besides lectures, we will have class/ group discussions and individual/ group presentations in designated times. You are expected to be engaged in reading materials, classes and group discussions.

Grading

Your performance in this class is based on several components: class participation, a presentation, a midterm and either a final exam (491 candidates) or a final paper (581 candidates). Class participation means active and informed discussion. 581 students will write one 10-12 page paper for the course. The midterm is take home in week 6. The final exam for 491 candidates will be in the final week. Additionally, students will make one brief presentation critically discussing the readings for a week of their choice. **Please note that late assignments will be docked ½ of a letter grade for each day beyond the deadline unless excused with a medical note from a fully equipped clinic (not our health center). Likewise, there will be no make-up for the exams, unless the student provides a proper doctor’s report from a fully-equipped clinic.**

Class Participation	10%
Presentation	20%
Final exam or Longer Paper	40%
Midterm	30%

Academic Integrity:

We assume academic honesty is something that each student takes seriously. Any breach of academic honesty will be dealt with as harshly as University policy permits. If identified in the research or response papers, the assignment will be failed and the Dean will be notified. Students are expected to abide by the University’s policies concerning academic integrity. The policy on academic misconduct is found at http://mysu.sabanciuniv.edu/yonerger/Akademik_durustluk/E-Investigation.html

You should pay particular attention to the issue of **plagiarism**:

All students should, in all assignments, fully and unambiguously cite sources from which they are drawing important ideas and/or sizable quotations (for example, more than eight consecutive words or more than 50% of a given sentence or paragraph). Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Attempts to steal or use the ideas of another person in a paper or exam while claiming them as your own will be viewed as a violation of academic integrity and rigorously pursued. This includes but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

Readings:

All readings will be available on *SUCourse*. The central books are cited by their title in the semester readings. They are also available on closed reserve in the IC.

Textbooks:

Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver and Peter Mair, Representative Government in Modern Europe (5th Edition)

Gabriel Almond, Russell Dalton and Bingham Powell, European Politics Today (2nd Edition)
Arend Lijphart, Patterns of Democracies

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction and Course Design

Week 2: Comparative European Politics

Gallagher et. al. Chapter 1
Lijphart Chapters 1-3
Almond, et al. Chapters 4-6

Questions for Week 2: Why do we study Western Europe? What makes Western Europe an area to study? What have been the major issues in Western Europe since World War II, how have they affected the development of West European states and what are the critical areas of contemporary change?

Week 3: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems

Gallagher et al. Chapters 2 and 3
Lijphart Chapter 7
Bale Chapter 4

Questions for Week 3: What are the fundamental differences between Parliamentary and Presidential structures? Would you prefer to live in a presidential system or a parliamentary one? Why? What is the relative power of the executive within Parliamentary and Presidential systems? How do these differences affect individual politicians and legislators? What kinds of emphasis are placed on the notions of representation and efficiency?

Week 4: Parties, Cleavages, and Identity

Gallagher et. al. Chapters 7 and 8
Bale p. 131-190

Questions for Week 4: What have been the sources of the major divisions found in European politics since World War II. How have voters been tied to parties? What is the mass party and what are its origins? How might it be changing?

Week 5: Voting Patterns and Partisan Change

Gallagher et. al. Chapters 9

Mair, Müller and Plasser Chapters 1 and 10(ebook), country chapter of choice

Questions for Week 5: Are voter identities changing in Europe? In fact, does the concept of party identity have a real significance any longer? Is European politics becoming like American politics? Is the European political system experiencing realignment or dealignment? (What do these terms mean?) Is class still a salient issue?

Week 6: Elections and Electoral Systems

Gallagher et al. Chapter 11

Lijphart Chapter 8

Questions for Week 6: What is the role of elections in different European political systems? How is this role affected by differences in type of electoral system? How do electoral systems affect party, and candidate strategies, and the structure of choices facing voters? How do they affect party discipline?

Week 7: Governments and Coalitions

Gallagher et al. Chapter 12

Lijphart Chapter 6

Müller and Strom, Coalition Governments in Western Europe, Chapter 1

Questions for Week 7: How are coalitions formed? How do they function? What determines how long they last?, How “representative” are coalition governments? How do political leaders utilize spoils to consolidate political support? Why should minority governments ever be formed?

Week 8: Representation at the End of the 20th Century

Almond, et al. Chapter 11

Bale Chapter 11

Questions for Week 8: What are the major issues in Contemporary European Politics and how do they compare to traditional issues? How has representation outside of formal governmental structure changed since the beginning of the post-war period?

Week 9: Political Economy: Institutions

Gallagher et.al. Chapter 14

Lane and Ersson in Colomer, Chapter 8

Geoffrey Garrett and Peter Lange, “Internationalization, Institutions and Political Change” in *Internationalization and Domestic Politics*

Questions for Week 9: Do institutions affect how the economy works and how well it works? How do economic policy-making institutions vary across countries? Is there only one “good” kind of institution: few institutions? What is Corporatism? Is there a European “model”? If so, what is it? If not, what explains differences across countries?

Week 10: To be determined

Week 11: Green Politics in Europe

- Neil Carter, *The Politics of the Environment* (2007), pp. 41-114
- Hubert Kleinert, ‘Politics and Progress: The German Green Party 1983-2003’, in: Frank Zelko and Carolin Brinkmann, *Green Parties: Reflections on the First Three Decades* (2006), pp. 77-88

Questions for week 11: What are the distinguishing principles of green political thinking? Why do people vote green? How does participating in government affect green parties?

Week 12: The Rise of Populism

- Erica Meijers (ed), *Populism in Europe* (2011), pp. 15-46
- Cas Mudde, *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe* (2007), pp. 158-197, 277-301

Questions for week 12: Why is populism here to stay? Why is globalization the multifaceted enemy of the populists? What is the impact of populists on European democracies?

Week 13: The impact of globalization and the EU on national policy making

- Hanspeter Kriesi e.a (ed), *West European Politics in the Age of Globalization* (2008), pp. 320-344
- Giandomenico Majone, *Dilemmas of European Integration* (2005), pp. 181-221
- Anthony Giddens e.a (ed), *Global Europe, Social Europe* (2006), pp. 257-278

Questions for week 13: What is the effect of globalization on West European politics? How to combine a globalized economy with the nation state and democracy? Can European integration be combined with national welfare states?

Week 14: Concluding discussion