

PSCI 322 Politics of Europe

Description of Course

This course will introduce students to Europe's politics and society. Starting with a survey of modern European history from World War II until today, the course continues with a discussion of various political systems and selected policies such as immigration and energy policy. This lecture class will introduce you to the cultural, political, and economic challenges that Europe faces today. Students taking this class are expected to engage with class-readings, actively participate in discussions (in-class and online) as well as develop their own research paper and present it to their peers.

Note that this is a hybrid course. Monday and Wednesday we will meet in LA 337 and Fridays we have an online discussion in moodle.

Locations and Times

LA 337
M,W 12-12:50pm
F online session

Instructor Information

Eva-Maria Maggi
Office Location: NCOR 332
E-mail address: evamaggi@umontana.edu
Office Hours: W 10-noon
Instructor homepage: www.evamaggi.com

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes

- Develop an extensive knowledge about politics and society in Europe and its role in the world
- Gain an increased understanding of a variety of methodological approaches to address social science questions
- Nurture public speaking and presentation skills by discussing research projects in a class setting
- develop analytical writing with independent research papers

TOPICS

| UNIT | In-class | | Online Discussion |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Introduction | WEEK 1 Monday, January 22 Introduction to the class <i>Required readings:</i> none | Wednesday, January 24 Europe today <i>Required readings:</i> Syllabus Baile 2017, Introduction | Friday, January 26 <i>No discussion</i> |
| UNIT I History and Institutions | WEEK 2 Monday, January 29 Post-war Europe <i>Required readings:</i> Baile 2017, chapter 1 | Wednesday, January 31 The European Union <i>Required readings:</i> Baile 2017, chapter 2 | Friday, February 2 <i>Online discussion from 6am-10pm. Question posted weekly on D2L.</i> |

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| | <p>WEEK 3 Monday, February 5 Political Systems</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 3</p> | <p>Wednesday, February 7 Governments</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 4</p> | <p>Friday, February 9 Discuss the system of government of your country. <i>Online discussion in moodle from 6am-10pm.</i></p> |
| | <p>WEEK 4 Monday, February 12 Parliaments</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 4</p> | <p>Wednesday, February 14 Political Parties</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 5</p> | <p>Friday, February 16 Discuss the current governing coalition/governing party in your country. <i>Online discussion in moodle from 6am-10pm.</i></p> |
| | <p>WEEK 5 Monday, February 19 Elections</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 6</p> | <p>Wednesday, February 21 Participation</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 8</p> | <p>Friday, February 23 Discuss the last or upcoming elections in your country. <i>Online discussion in moodle from 6am-10pm.</i></p> |
| | <p>WEEK 6 Monday, February 26 Constitutional Courts</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> tba</p> | <p>Wednesday, February 28 Discussion</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> tba</p> | <p>Friday, March 2 Discuss the role of the constitutional court your country. <i>Online discussion in moodle from 6am-10pm.</i></p> |
| UNIT II Issues | <p>WEEK 7 Monday, March 5 Economic development</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 9</p> | <p>Wednesday, March 7 Immigration</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i> Bale 2017, chapter 10</p> | <p>Friday, March 9 What is the public opinion on economic development and immigration in your country? <i>Online discussion in moodle from 6am-10pm.</i></p> |
| | <p>WEEK 8 Monday, March 12 Populist movements</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i></p> | <p>Wednesday, March 14 Foreign Policies</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i></p> | <p>Friday, March 16 You can choose to discuss either a populist movement in</p> |

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| <p><i>Research drafts due March 16, 10pm in the moodle dropbox</i></p> <p><i>Peer reviews due March 18, 10pm in the moodle dropbox.</i></p> | tba | Bale 2017, chapter 11 | your country or pick a foreign policy that interests you. <i>Online discussion in moodle from 6am-10pm.</i> |
| UNIT III Research presentations & peer review | WEEK 9 Monday, March 19 Session I | Wednesday, March 21 Session II | Friday, March 23 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | WEEK 10 – spring break Monday, March 26 <i>No class</i> | Wednesday, March 28 <i>No class</i> | Friday, March 30 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | WEEK 11 Monday, April 2 Session III | Wednesday, April 4 Session IV | Friday, April 6 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | WEEK 12 Monday, April 9 <i>No class</i> | Wednesday, April 11 Session V | Friday, April 13 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | WEEK 13 Monday, April 17 Session VI | Wednesday, April 19 Session VII | Friday, April 20 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | WEEK 14 Monday, April 23 Session VIII | Wednesday, April 25 Session IX | Friday, April 27 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | WEEK 15 Monday, April 30 Review | Wednesday, May 2 Questions and final discussion | Friday, May 4 <i>No discussion</i> |
| | FINAL PAPER DUE Friday, May 4, 10pm Submitted to the Moodle dropbox | | |

Course Format and Teaching Methods

Lecture and seminar with small group activities and in-class and online discussion.

Required Texts

Books

- Tim Bale, 2017, *European Politics : A Comparative Introduction*, Palgrave, 4th edition.

This title is available in the UM bookstore.

Articles & book chapter

Drop Policy, Grading Options, and Incompletes

University policy regarding grades and grading systems is available at:

<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/gradematrix.pdf>

The 15th day of the semester is the last day to drop the class or change the grading option without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop or change the grading option after that, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation in which you are directly involved that has made it impossible for you to complete the course. For UM's policy on incompletes, see

http://archive.umt.edu/catalog/14_15/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved, but the following distribution is the lowest I will use (*i.e.*, if you earn 93% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

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|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 93-100 A | 83-86 B | 73-76 C | 63-66 D |
| 90-92 A- | 80-82 B- | 70-72 C- | 60-62 D- |
| 87-89 B+ | 77-79 C+ | 67-69 D+ | 0-59 |

A breakdown of final grade calculations is as follows:

35% participation in class (includes online discussion)

5% news discussion

15% quiz

15% research paper presentation (10%) & peer review (5%)

30% final research paper (20%) & draft (10%)

Assignment/Testing Schedule/Due Dates

- **participation in class**

The participation grade depends on the degree to which you engage in "thoughtful conversation" in class and online. "Thoughtful conversation" involves original responses to questions raised by the instructor and peers during class but also thoughts and comments on the assigned readings and news as well as critical reflection on the lectures. The UM's attendance policy applies.

Online discussion. Most class weeks end with an online discussion on moodle each Friday,

6am-10pm. Questions to be discussed differ from week to week. "Thoughtful conversation" involves posting one original response to the discussion question of the week (between 200 and 400 words), as well as responding to at least one of your peers' original posts (minimum 100 words). You are also expected to respond to questions posed by your peers in response to your original post. The discussion should focus on **all readings and lecture(s) of each week**. All contributions to the discussion forum are expected to be courteous and collegial in tone and content.

- **quiz**

There will be one quiz at the end of the first unit of the class that covers the fundamentals about the Europe's political systems as discussed in class and the assigned readings. The quiz is online and is administered through moodle. **The moodle quiz site is open from Wednesday, February 28, 2pm until Friday March 3, 6am.** Students have 60 min to complete the quiz and cannot move between questions. Please make sure that you have access to internet and computer for this time period. There is no make-up of this quiz.

- **News discussion**

Each student will discuss two news articles from her country on the **class topic of the day** at the beginning of class. This discussion should be max. 5min long and be followed by a question for the class to discuss. Please go to moodle and sign up for a discussion slot. A grading rubric will be posted on moodle.

- **research paper (draft and final)**

Students are expected to formulate a research question concerning their country and any of the topics covered in class and answer the question through independent research. Each student is required to discuss the question with the instructor in-person during her office hours. **A draft of the paper should be submitted to the moodle dropbox and emailed to the peer reviewer by March 16th, 10pm** (see below for details on peer review). This draft should clearly outline the content of the paper: introduction, question, relevance, conclusion and references in max. 4 pages of full sentences of proper English (no bullet points). This draft will be presented in class and discussed by a peer. The **final paper** should integrate the peer review and is due to be in the moodle dropbox by the end of the class on **May 5, 10pm**. It should total no more than 10 pages and cite a min. of 10 academic sources. Any associated charts, graphs should be included in an appendix. The paper must be double spaced, with font Times New Roman in size 11. Late submission will not be accepted and will result in the failure of the assignment. Any citation style is allowed. A grading rubric will be posted on moodle.

- **research paper presentation & peer review**

Each student will present their draft research paper, followed by a peer review. The presentation is 5min. long, the review 2min. followed by question by the class. Power point presentations are not necessary, but may be used. The peer-review needs to be 200words long and submitted to the moodle dropbox **by March 18th @ 10pm**. The presentations and peer review will take place during class sessions from **March 19-April 25**. A grading rubric will be posted on moodle.

Late Work Policy

As a rule, work will not be accepted beyond the terms described in this syllabus, except in case of documented emergency or illness. You may petition the professor in writing for an exception if you feel you have a compelling reason for turning work in late.

Attendance policy

The UM's policy concerning Class Attendance and Administrative Drops is available at:

<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/attendance.php> &
<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php>

"Classroom" Behavior

To foster a positive learning environment, students must conduct themselves respectfully in online discussions. Any comments that are derogatory or threatening will not be tolerated, and appropriate action will be taken through University channels.

The University of Montana's Student Code of Conduct prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. See:

https://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Accessibility and Accommodations

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to email me to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Student Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UM Code of Conduct as described:

https://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism available at:

<http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/docs/plagiarism.pdf>

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Student Code of Conduct and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use Moodle or UM email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Confidentiality of Student Records

<http://www.umt.edu/business-services/Students/Student%20Accounts/Student%20Confidentiality.php>

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.