POLS 5290: Development in Europe

Fall 2018
TR 3:00-4:15pm & Old Main 119

Instructor
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Office Hours:
TR 1:30-2:30pm
Old Main 324C

Course Description

What are the political consequences of the European Sovereign Debt Crisis? How have developments like European integration or the rise of populism changed political competition? How are political parties and social movements adjusting to changing environments in Europe? In this class will address these and other questions by drawing on recent work in political science and related disciplines which highlight contemporary political as well as economic development and developments in Europe. In engaging with these questions the class provides an overview of the theoretical and methodological tools the social sciences use to analyze social, political, and economic developments. The central focus of the class will be your own research projects in which you will be drawing on these toolkits to explore a question related to contemporary developments in Europe.

Learning Goals

This class will encourage you to develop and demonstrate competency in the following areas and skills:

- Employing the toolkit of the social sciences to think critically about developments European politics and economics
- Conducting your own research project including learning how to develop an argument, identify and gather relevant evidence, and write a compelling paper
- Presenting the results of analytical thinking in front of an audience
Course Requirements

Attendance and participation

This class will be taught in a seminar format and active participation is accordingly central and required. Students must attend at least 75% of all class meetings to receive a passing grade in the course. You have two free passes, meaning two unexcused absences for which you aren’t required to notify me ahead of time that you will miss class. Each additional unexcused absence will reduce your participation grade by one third of a letter. If you are unable to attend due to an illness or emergency, you must notify me before class begins to have your absence excused.

Please come to class prepared to engage thoughtfully, listen attentively, and interact with your peers respectfully. Debating politics can be a divisive topic, but differences in opinion and background provide an opportunity for intellectual growth. We all stand to benefit from being aware of and welcoming these differences. Furthermore, we can only have a successful discussion if the classroom is a comfortable space for all participants. Confrontational or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. If for any reason you feel uncomfortable contributing in class, please visit my office hours so that we can discuss strategies for increasing your class participation.

Readings

This class combines materials from different books and journal articles. All readings will be made available online and should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Please bring the readings and your notes on them with you to class (either in hard copy format or electronically).

Please also make sure to stay up-to-date with developments in European politics. Both the New York Times and The Washington Post offer coverage of European politics. Good European English-language sources are The Guardian (http://www.theguardian.com/uk) as well Le Monde Diplomatique (http://mondediplo.com), and Spiegel International Online (http://www.spiegel.de/international/). Note that the latter two websites are less frequently updated than The Guardian’s website.
Assignments and Grading

This class has two major requirements as outlined below:

1. Class participation. 50% of final grade. Consisting of:
   - Active participation during our seminar session, including respectful and genuine engagement with the contributions of your fellow students.
   - Weekly blogposts. Post a one page response to the readings for the week on Canvas. This response should not merely summarize the readings but either identify a theme that connects the different readings, a question or puzzle that the readings leave unanswered, or an argument based on the readings. The blog posts are due by noon on Tuesday of every week. Late submissions will not be accepted and the blogs will close at noon sharp.

2. Research Paper. The main assignment in this class is a research paper on a topic of your choice. You will develop the paper in several steps including a proposal (due 02/10), 8-10 page draft (due 11/27), presentation (during week 15), and peer-review (in-class activity 11/29) over the course of the semester. The paper is due on December 13 by 4:40pm. 50% of final grade.

Written assignments should be double-spaced, using font size 12 and 1-inch margins. If you feel that you will not be able to submit an assignment on time due to illness or emergency please let me know as early as possible.

In order to facilitate peer editing and review, as well as to learn from and about each other’s academic interests, writing styles, and techniques more generally, all writing assignments done for this class may be shared with and read by all members of the class.

Other Course Information

Email policy

Feel free to email me with questions or to set up an appointment. Longer discussions and all conversations about grades must take place in person. I will guarantee a response to emails within 48 hours during the week. However, do not wait until the last minute. While I typically check emails several times a day, there is no guarantee that I will receive, read and be able to respond to last minute requests or questions.
Note to students with disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, 435-797-2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Academic integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by USU’s Student Code. All the work you submit in this course must originate with you in form and content with all contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Student Code and the rules for properly acknowledging the work and ideas of others. You can find information on how to cite sources and avoid plagiarism here: https://usu.instructure.com/courses/152916. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you copy from others or collaborate in any way. Any violation of the rules for academic integrity will be punished in accordance with USU’s policies.

Course Schedule

• Week 1: Introduction to the class
  – Tuesday, August 28
    * No required reading
  – Thursday, August 30
    * No required reading
• Week 2: A refresher on comparative politics & an introduction to European (Union) Politics
  – Tuesday, September 4
    * Clark, Golder, and Golder (2017), chapter 2
    * Gallagher, Laver, and Mair (2011), chapter 1
  – Thursday, September 6
    * Dinan (2015)
    * Verhofstadt (2017), chapter 21 & Epilogue
    * Gillingham (2016), chapter 6
• Week 3: Governing Europe
  – Tuesday, September 11
    * Laver (2006)
    * Levy and Skach (2008)
  – Thursday, September 13
    * Laver and Shepsle (1996), chapter 6
    * Hjortshoj (2009), chapter 8
• Week 4: Political Parties I
  – Tuesday, September 18
    * Gallagher, Laver, and Mair (2011), chapter 8
    * Rovny and Polk (forthcoming)
  – Thursday, September 20
    * Hagevi and Loxbi (2018)
    * Hagevi and Enroth (2018)
    * Ignazi (forthcoming)
• Week 5: Political Parties II
  – Tuesday, September 25
    * Library information session: we will meet in LIB 155
    * No required reading
  – Thursday, September 27
    * Ruedin and Morales (forthcoming)
    * Karlsen and Saglie (forthcoming)
    * Wagner and Meyer (2014)
• Week 6: Voters & Parties
  – Tuesday, October 2
    * Final Paper Concept due
    * Neundorf and Adams (2016)
    * Han (2017)
  – Thursday, October 4
    * Daenekindt, de Koster, and van der Waal (2017)
    * Oesch and Rennwald (forthcoming)
    * Hernández (forthcoming)
• Week 7: Economics
  – Tuesday, October 9
    * Berend (2016), chapter 6
    * Hancké (2011)
– Thursday, October 11
  * Browse the data on http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15748696 to get an overview of how debt is interconnected in Europe
  * Pontusson and Raess (2012)
  * Mattheis and McNamara (2015)

• Week 8: Economic Crisis
  – Tuesday, October 16
    * Roberts (2017)
    * Traber, Giger, and Häusermann (2018)
  – Thursday, October 18
    * Rodon and Guinjoan (2018)
    * Conti, Hutter, and Nanou (2018)
    * Quaranta (2018)

• Week 9: Populism in Europe
  – Tuesday, October 23
    * Mudde and Rovira Kaltwasser (2013)
    * Roberts (2018)
    * Tsakatika and Lisi (2013)
  – Thursday, October 25
    * Pasarelliu and Tuorto (2018)
    * Meret, Siim, and Pingaud (2017)

• Week 10: Social Movements I
  – Tuesday, October 30
    * Tarrow (1998), pp. 10-25
    * Hadden (2014)
  – Thursday, November 1
    * de Moor, Marien, and Hooghe (2017)
    * Kleiner (forthcoming)

• Week 11: Social Movements II
  – Tuesday, November 6
    * Ellinas and Lamprianou (forthcoming)
    * Ravndal (2017)
  – Thursday, November 8
    * Sanz Sabido (2015)
    * Fredriksson Almqvist (2016)
• Week 12: Movement Parties & European integration I
  – Tuesday, November 13
    * Cowell-Meyers (2017)
    * Rüdig and Sajuria (Forthcoming)
  – Thursday, November 15
    * Hobolt (2016)

• Week 13: European integration II
  – Tuesday, November 20
    * Grande and Kriesi (2015)
    * Kanthak and Spies (2018)
  – Thursday, November 22
    * NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break

• Week 14: Europeanization & Peer review
  – Tuesday, November 27
    * Final Paper Draft due
    * Kiilahci (2012)
    * Caiani and Graziano (forthcoming)
  – Thursday, November 29
    * In-class peer review
    * No required reading

• Week 15: Student Research Presentations
  – Tuesday, December 4
    * No required reading
  – Thursday, December 6
    * No required reading

• Final Paper due: December 13 by 4:50pm

Course Readings


