POLS 5290: Development in Europe

Fall 2019

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

Instructor
Steffen Blings
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Office Hours:
T 12:30-1:30pm
R 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 we 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. 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 adding up to 1000 points in total as outlined below:

1. Class participation. 500 points. Consisting of:

   • Active participation during our seminar session, including respectful and genuine engagement with the contributions of your fellow students. 200 points.
• 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. 300 points.

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 09/24), 8-10 page draft (due 11/21), presentation (during week 15), and peer-review (in-class activity 11/26) over the course of the semester. The paper is due on December 12 by 4:50pm. 500 points.

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 27
    * No required reading
  – Thursday, August 29
    * NO CLASS; instructor conference travel

• Week 2: A refresher on comparative politics & an introduction to European (Union) Politics
  – Tuesday, September 3
    * Clark, Golder, and Golder (2017), chapter 2
    * Gallagher, Laver, and Mair (2011), pp. 6-22
  – Thursday, September 5
    * Dinan (2015)
    * Verhofstadt (2017), chapter 21 & Epilogue
    * Gillingham (2016), pp. 190-199 & 239-243

• Week 3: Governing Europe
  – Tuesday, September 10
    * Laver and Shepsle (1996), chapter 6
    * Levy and Skach (2008)
  – Thursday, September 12
    * Klüver and Pickup (2019)
    * Hjortshoj (2009), chapter 8

• Week 4: Political Parties I
  – Tuesday, September 17
    * Gallagher, Laver, and Mair (2011), chapter 8
    * Poguntke, Sarrow, and Webb (2016)
– Thursday, September 19
  * Spoon and Klüver (forthcoming)
  * Dassonneville (forthcoming)

• Week 5: Political Parties II

– Tuesday, September 24
  * **Final Paper Concept due**
  * Library information session: we will meet in LIB 155
  * No required reading

– Thursday, September 26
  * Grant and Tilley (2019)
  * Lutz (2019)

• Week 6: Parties & Voters

– Tuesday, October 1
  * Mainwaring and Mcgraw (2019)
  * Surel (forthcoming)

– Thursday, October 3
  * Fortunato (2019)
  * Williams, Stegmaier, and Debus (2017)

• Week 7: Voters & Parties & Economics I

– Tuesday, October 8
  * Marx and Nguyen (2018)
  * Langshæter and Stubager (forthcoming)

– Thursday, October 10
  * Berend (2016), chapter 6
  * Hancké (2011)

• Week 8: Economics II & Economic Crisis

– Tuesday, October 15
  * Browse the data on [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15748696](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15748696) to get an overview of how debt is interconnected in Europe
  * Pontusson and Raess (2012)
  * Matthijs and McNamara (2015)

– Thursday, October 17
  * Roberts (2017)
  * Kurer, Häusermann, Wiest, and Enggist (forthcoming)
• Week 9: Populism in Europe I
  – Tuesday, October 22
    * Roberts (2018)
    * Rooduijn (2019)
  – Thursday, October 24
    * Plescia and Eberl (forthcoming)
    * Hawkins, Kaltwasser, and Andreadis (forthcoming)

• Week 10: Populism in Europe II & Social Movements I
  – Tuesday, October 29
    * Kantola and Lombardo (forthcoming)
    * Garzia (2019)
  – Thursday, October 29
    * Tarrow (1998), pp. 10-25
    * Hadden (2014)

• Week 11: Movements II & Parties & Movements I
  – Tuesday, November 5
    * Busby and Hoey (2018)
    * Schoene (2018)
  – Thursday, November 7
    * Pirro and Gattinara (2018)
    * Cowell-Meyers (2014)

• Week 12: Parties & Movements II & European integration
  – Tuesday, November 12
    * Giugni and Grasso (forthcoming)
    * Císař and Vrábliková (forthcoming)
  – Thursday, November 14
    * Hobolt (2016)
    * Evans and Mellon (2019)

• Week 13: Representation of Women and Minorities in Europe
  – Tuesday, November 19
    * Wängnerud (2009)
    * Dahlerup (2014)
  – Thursday, November 21
    * Final Paper Draft due
    * Geese and Schwemmer (2019)
    * Bloemraad and Schönwälder (2013)
• Week 14: Peer review
  – Tuesday, November 26
    * In-class peer review
    * No required reading
  – Thursday, November 28
    * NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break
• Week 15: Student Research Presentations
  – Tuesday, December 3
    * No required reading
  – Thursday, December 5
    * No required reading
• Final Paper due: December 12 by 4:50pm

Course Readings


Plescia, Carolina, and Jakob-Moritz Eberl. forthcoming. “'Not my government!' The role of norms and populist attitudes on voter preferences for government formation after the election.” Party Politics pp. 1–11.


