

POLI 239: Introduction to European Government

Spring 2011

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Office Hours: Monday 11:00am-Noon; Wednesday 1pm-3pm

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an introduction to the politics of Western Europe, focusing in particular on the institutional foundations of European politics. By the end of the semester, you will develop an understanding of parliamentary and semi-presidential systems, the impact of electoral rules on party systems and government formation, and the implications of political institutions on the quality of representative government. Empirically, we will focus on the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Spain, and contrast the European experience with the American case.

## READINGS

There is one required textbook, available at the campus bookstore. You can also purchase the book through online retailers, and there should be lots of used copies available.

1. • [Almond, Powell, Dalton, and Strom. European Politics Today. Fourth Edition. New York: Longman.](#)

There will be additional readings that will be made available through this website or the blackboard page for this course. See the semester schedule below for details and links. Note that you will have to be on the UNC campus network or log in through the UNC Library website in order to have access to many of these documents (in particular, articles available through JSTOR.)

## GRADES AND EVALUATION

Grades will be determined based on a midterm exam, a cumulative final exam, abstracts (~4 pages), a short paper (~6 pages), and participation in your recitation sections. Details on the abstracts and paper assignment will be provided in the recitation sections.

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Abstracts and Paper: 25%

Class Participation: 15%

Course grades will be determined according to the following grading scale:

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92 B+: 88-89 B: 83-87  
B-: 80-82 C+: 78-79 C: 73-77 C-: 70-72  
D+: 68-69 D: 63-67 D-: 60-62 F: 0-59

## LECTURES

On Mondays and Wednesdays, class will consist of lecture. I will be covering significant material in lecture that goes beyond the readings. You will not be able to rely solely on keeping up with the readings to do well in the course. Lecture attendance is key. During lecture, please ask questions if something is not clear.

## RECITATION SECTIONS

There are five teaching assistants for this course who will be conducting recitation sections. **YOU MUST BE ENROLLED IN A RECITATION SECTION TO TAKE THIS COURSE.** The purpose of the recitation section is to give you an opportunity to discuss the material, ask questions, and have a small-group learning experience in addition to lecture. It is critical that you attend recitation sections, complete the readings before your section, and participate. Attendance and participation in section constitute a significant part of your grade, and there may be pop quizzes during section.

1. •Over the course of the semester, you may miss one recitation section. If you miss more than one section, your participation grade will be lowered by 1/2 grade for each unexcused section missed (after the first section).
2. •There is a FRENCH LANGUAGE recitation section offered through the LAC program on Fridays at 10am. If you are interested in taking this section, please contact Emanuel Coman.
3. •There are no recitation sections in Week 1 and Week 8.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1. •Emanuel Coman: [ecoman AT email.unc.edu](mailto:ecoman@email.unc.edu)
2. •Robert Galantucci: [rgalant AT email.unc.edu](mailto:rgalant@email.unc.edu)
3. •Rahim Mohamed: [rmohamed AT email.unc.edu](mailto:rmohamed@email.unc.edu)
4. •Monica Moore: [momoore AT email.unc.edu](mailto:momoore@email.unc.edu)
5. •Andy Pennock: [pennock AT email.unc.edu](mailto:pennock@email.unc.edu)

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students and faculty at UNC are governed by the Honor Code, and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who is caught attempting to represent someone else's work as their own or to cheat in any other manner will be subject to university discipline under the Honor Code. If

you have any questions regarding this policy, you can refer to the University Code of Conduct [by clicking here](#).

## STUDENTS WITH CHALLENGES

Students with challenges who require individualized testing or other accommodations should identify themselves and express their needs during the first week of the semester. Where the challenge is not immediately apparent, verification will be required.

## (TENTATIVE) SEMESTER SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1 (1/10 and 1/12): Europe - An Introduction

1. •ADPS, Chapter 1
2. •[Powell, G. Bingham. 2000. Elections as Instruments of Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1.](#)

### WEEK 2 (1/17 and 1/19 - no class on 1/17): The Parliamentary System - The Cabinet

1. •ADPS, Chapter 5, pp.80-99
2. •ADPS, Chapter 6, pp.128-136

### WEEK 3 (1/24 and 1/26): The Parliamentary System - The Legislature

1. •[Huber, John. 1996. "The Vote of Confidence in Parliamentary Democracies." American Political Science Review 90: 269-282](#)

2. •ADPS, Chapter 7, pp.178-193

WEEK 4 (1/31 and 2/2): Courts and Constitutions

1. •[Vanberg, Georg. 2000. "Establishing Judicial Independence in West Germany: The Impact of Opinion Leadership and the Separation of Powers." Comparative Politics 32: 333-353.](#)
2. •ADPS, Chapter 8, pp.230-245

WEEK 5 (2/7 and 2/9): The European Union

1. •ADPS, Chapter 12

WEEK 6 (2/14 and 2/16): The European Union/Regionalism

1. •ADPS, Chapter 12

WEEK 7 (2/21 and 2/23): The European Union/Regionalism

1. •[Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2001. Multilevel Governance and European Integration. Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 1.](#)

WEEK 8 (2/28 and 3/2): Review and Midterm

1. •MIDTERM EXAM ON WEDNESDAY, 3/2

WEEK 9 (3/7 and 3/9 -- Spring Break)

WEEK 10 (3/14 and 3/16): Public Attitudes/Cleavages

1. •ADPS, Chapter 5, pp.99-105
2. •ADPS, Chapter 6, pp.136-143
3. •ADPS, Chapter 7, pp.193-199
4. •ADPS, Chapter 8, pp.245-248

WEEK 11 (3/21 and 3/23): Electoral Law

1. •[Bawn, Kathleen. 1993. "The Logic of Institutional Preferences: German Electoral Law as a Social Choice Outcome." American Journal of Political Science 37: 965-989.](#)

WEEK 12 (3/28 and 3/30): Parties and Party Systems

1. •ADPS, Chapter 5, pp. 111-124
2. •ADPS, Chapter 6, pp. 149-174
3. •ADPS, Chapter 7, pp. 205-225
4. •ADPS, Chapter 8, pp. 253-276

WEEK 13 (4/4 and 4/6): Coalition Politics

1. •[Martin, Lanny and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." American Journal of Political Science 45: 33-50.](#)

2. •[Martin, Lanny and Georg Vanberg. 2005. "Coalition Policymaking and Legislative Review." American Political Science Review 99: 93-106.](#)

WEEK 14 (4/11 and 4/13): Coalition Politics/The Quality of Representation

1. •[Powell, G. Bingham. 2000. Elections as Instruments of Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 3 and 4.](#)
2. •[Pinto-Duchinsky, Michael. 1999. "Send the Rascals Packing: Defects of Proportional Representation and the Virtues of the Westminster Model." Representation 36: 117-126.](#)

WEEK 15 (4/18 and 4/20 - no class on 4/18): Interest Groups/Corporatism

1. •ADPS, Chapter 3, pp.42-46
2. •ADPS, Chapter 5, pp. 105-111
3. •ADPS, Chapter 6, pp. 143-149
4. •ADPS, Chapter 7, pp. 199-205
5. •ADPS, Chapter 8, pp. 248-253

WEEK 16 (4/25 and 4/27): The Quality of Democracy/Review

1. •[Anderson, Christopher and Christine Guillory. 1997. "Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Consensus and Majoritarian Systems." American Political Science Review 91: 66-81.](#)

FINAL EXAM FRIDAY APRIL 29, 8AM.





