This course provides students with an overview of European politics. The emphasis of the course will be on the democracies and capitalist systems of Western Europe, but we will consider Eastern Europe’s transition out of communism and the entry of some of these states into the European Union.

The course is organized along the following lines. We begin with a brief introduction to and discussion of the major themes in the study of European politics. Following this is a more detailed examination of major Western European democracies and a shorter section on Eastern Europe. We then examine the European Union. The last part of the course explores salient topics in European public policy: immigration and minorities in Europe, and the challenges facing European welfare states and labor markets.

The course will provide students with an understanding of the major political actors and institutions in Europe and the contemporary challenges facing this part of the world. Upon completion of this course, students will have a firm understanding of European politics and will possess the analytical tools to engage in cross-national comparisons of European politics and policy.

Course Requirements

Undergraduates: Your grade is based on the completion of the following assignments, as well as on class participation and attendance.

1. A take-home midterm exam. Questions will be distributed in advance.

2. A class discussion (15 minutes) of assigned readings led by individual students or groups of students. I will distribute a handout detailing this assignment shortly.

3. A paper (10 pages, double-spaced) based on European countries or the European Union. The paper will be based primarily on class readings; however, you are encouraged and expected to consult outside sources. A paper prospectus outlining the topic and problem you will address, the country or countries you will cover, and a preliminary bibliography is due in class on March 6. The paper is due on April 27.
Graduate students:

Graduate students must complete the same assignments as those for undergraduates as outlined above. However, the paper for graduate students is a 15-page paper whose topic and reading list must be approved by the instructor in advance. I expect graduate students to consult a range of sources in addition to or beyond the assigned readings. The paper prospectus outlining the topic and research question, the countries you will cover, and a preliminary bibliography is due in class on March 6. The paper is due on April 27. You must submit a hard copy in class and an electronic copy via email. I will provide more information on this assignment early in the semester.

The breakdown of the course grade for graduate students is as follows: midterm exam: 25%; group-led class discussion assignment: 15%; paper: 25%; final exam: 25%; attendance and participation: 10%.

All students:

There is a significant writing component to your course grade. I will grade written assignments on the content and clarity of argument and on writing style (grammar rules, punctuation, spelling, etc.). Therefore, I encourage students to seek out advice and help from the Writing Center in completing these assignments. The Writing Center is located in Raynor Library R240; tel. 288-5542. (You need to call them to make an appointment.)

Students should complete the readings in advance of class so that they are able to participate in a meaningful way in class discussions. Class meetings will not simply recapitulate the readings but will often bring in additional material, so it is in your interest to attend class regularly and take notes in class. Exams, written assignments, and the group-led class discussion will draw on class material and assigned readings.

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. I will take attendance for each class and will follow College of Arts and Sciences policies on attendance. If you have seven (7) or more unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered accordingly. Excessive absences may result in a grade of WA. Your attendance and participation in class will affect your final grade. Class participation means more than merely attending class meetings; it also entails that you do the readings and contribute insightful comments and questions to class discussions.

Students are expected to read all assigned readings from required books, articles on reserve, and class handouts. It is not sufficient for you to rely only on the textbook or
on a few of the assigned readings. If you do, it will be apparent in your written work and class participation and will be reflected accordingly in your course grade.

I do not accept late assignments unless there is a legitimate medical or family emergency, or unless it is the result of an officially-sanctioned, scheduled university activity. Students who miss an exam or assignment because of a university-sanctioned activity must arrange a make-up exam or assignment with me in advance of their absence. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are experiencing a medical or family crisis so that we have time to make arrangements for you to complete the coursework for this class.

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty by students. I will follow all University policies on academic dishonesty.

Readings

The following required books are available for purchase at Sweeney’s or at BookMarq.


In addition, required reserve readings will be either on D2L or on electronic reserve at Raynor Library. These readings are noted in the syllabus with an asterisk (*). In some instances, I may announce and distribute additional required readings in class. I will note on D2L the location of all reserve readings, so PLEASE CHECK D2L REGULARLY for any updates of assignments and their location.

Additional sources

I encourage you to read a daily newspaper with coverage of European and international politics, such as *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, or *The New York Times*. These are in the library or available online. You can also get a student-discounted rate for subscriptions. If you want to know how to obtain a student-discounted subscription, please talk to me.

If you are interested in getting perspectives on comparative politics, European politics, and international affairs other than those of American media, you may want to tune to some TV news programs on PBS, channel 36: "The Journal," which is broadcast by the German *Deutsche Welle*, and "BBC World News," which is a British production.
"The Journal" airs at 5:30 pm weekdays and "BBC World News" airs at 10 pm weekdays. Other PBS programs dealing with world affairs may be of interest to you, such as “Wide Angle.” These air on channels 10 and 36. In addition, National Public Radio stations (stations 89.7 and 90.7) broadcast news programs on comparative politics and international affairs, such as “BBC World Service” (broadcast daily) and “The World” (broadcast Friday afternoons and other times during the week).

There are a number of excellent journals that will be useful for your paper. Several cover European Politics more generally; others are devoted to specific countries. This list is by no means exhaustive, but these are the more important journals:

- West European Politics
- Comparative Political Studies
- World Politics
- German Politics
- Parliamentary Affairs
- Governance
- Europe-Asia Studies
- Communist and Post-Communist Studies
- French Politics and Society
- Scandinavian Politics
- British Journal of Political Science
- German Politics and Society
- Government and Opposition
- Journal of European Public Policy
- Slavic Studies

There are also a number of journals that cover the European Union:

- Journal of Common Market Studies
- European Law Review
- West European Politics
- International Organization
- Common Market Law Review
- Comparative Political Studies

You must take care when using the web as a research tool to consult good sources. As we all know, there is a lot of junk on the internet. Some websites are suspect and vulnerable to erroneous information. Therefore, I will not accept Wikipedia as a source for any assignments. However, there are useful websites that you may want to consult:

Tithe European Union has its own website: [www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)

Some other websites on the EU:
- [http://lib.berkeley.edu/GSSI/eu.html](http://lib.berkeley.edu/GSSI/eu.html)
- www.europguide.org
- [http://eiop.or.at/euroint](http://eiop.or.at/euroint)
- [http://olymp.wu-wien.ac.at/erpa](http://olymp.wu-wien.ac.at/erpa)
- [www.cix.co.uk/~fedtrust](http://www.cix.co.uk/~fedtrust) (Federal Trust, pro-European views)
- [www.FreeBritain.co.uk](http://www.FreeBritain.co.uk) (Euroskeptic views)

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has a number of excellent individual country studies as well as publications exploring specific topics. It also provides a wealth of statistical information. You can find publications on its website.
Marquette University’s Raynor Library also has a number of excellent resources for researching your paper. From Raynor Library’s website, go to Resources, then to Research Starting Points, and then Political Science and Government. You will find a number of excellent electronic collections of academics journals and newspapers; see especially Proquest, JStor, PAIS, and EBSCO. Do not hesitate to ask a reference librarian at Raynor for additional assistance.

The Kesselman and Krieger text also provides a list of useful sources and websites at the end of each chapter.

I will also recommend relevant books or articles for your paper. Again, I encourage students to consult important English-language newspapers and news magazines, such as The Economist and the Financial Times, as well as the major newspapers, newsweeklies, and periodicals in each European country.

**Extra credit opportunity**

One of the topics we will cover in this course is the situation of and policies toward immigrants and minorities in Western Europe. In conjunction with this topic, students will have an opportunity to hear Rachid Taha, an Algerian musician who lives in France, speak to students at Alverno College on Monday, April 20. In order to earn extra credit, students must attend his talk and write a short paper on it for extra credit. I will provide additional details as the date gets closer.

Rachid Taha will also give a concert of his music, which combines North African music and post-punk rock, at Alverno College on Saturday, April 18. If you want to attend the concert, go to alvernopresents@alvernomail.net for ticket information. I will also try to put on Raynor Library reserve a documentary DVD of him for those of you who are interested in learning more about him and his music.
Class Schedule and Assignments

I. INTRODUCTION

Jan. 12: Course introduction. No reading assignment.


II. MAJOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES AND EASTERN EUROPE

A. Great Britain

Jan. 19: No class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day


Jan. 26: *“The great performer leaves the stage,” The Economist, May 12, 2007.

B. France
Jan. 28: Kesselman and Krieger, chap. 11.


C. Germany
Feb. 6: Kesselman and Krieger, chap. 16.

Feb. 9: Kesselman and Krieger, chaps. 18, 19.


D. Spain
Feb. 16, 18:


February 23: Take-home exam due in class

E. Eastern Europe
Feb. 23: Kesselman and Krieger, chap. 26


III. THE EUROPEAN UNION

March 2: Kesselman and Krieger, chaps 1, 2.


March 6: Paper prospectus due in class

March 8-15: No class; spring break
IV. ISSUES IN EUROPEAN PUBLIC POLICY

A. Immigration and minorities in Europe

1. Immigration trends in Europe; EU immigration policies

2. Muslims in Europe

3. Specific countries’ approaches toward Muslim minorities
   a. France: *laicite* and assimilation
      March 23: Bowen, chaps. 6-10.
   b. Netherlands: the limits of multiculturalism

4. Minority integration or social exclusion? Welfare state and citizenship policies
   a. Multicultural approaches in Britain
      March 30: Schierup et al., chap. 5.
   b. Germany’s belated recognition as a country of immigration
      April 1: Schierup et al., chap. 6
   c. Conclusions on European immigration approaches
B. Welfare states and labor markets in Western Europe and the EU

1. Welfare regimes

2. Challenges to the welfare state

April 10-13: No class. Easter break.

3. Social Policy in the European Union

4. Welfare state challenges and responses in specific cases
a. April 17: Britain

b. April 22: France

c. April 24: Germany
April 27: Papers due.
You must turn in an electronic copy via email and a hard copy in class.

d. April 27: Southern European welfare states

e. Flexicurity approaches in Denmark and the Netherlands

May 1: *Anton Hemerijck and Jelle Visser, Change and Immobility: Three Decades of Policy Adjustment in the Netherlands and Belgium,” West European Politics, 23 (2). Read only pp. 229-243 (stop at Belgium) and Conclusion, pp. 251-254.

Final exam: Monday, May 4, 8:00-10:00 AM, Wehr Physics 209.