

**EUROPEAN POLITICS**  
**Political Science 1311**  
**University of Pittsburgh • Fall 2018**  
**TR 9:30am-10:45am • 337 CL**

**Professor:** Jae-Jae Spoon

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**Office Hours:** Tues. and Thurs. 11am-12pm or by appointment in 4441 Posvar Hall

**TA:** Rian Litchard

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**Office Hours:** Tues. 2:30-5pm or by appointment

**Course Description**

You can't pick up a newspaper today without reading about something going on in Europe—Brexit, the rise of the far right, regions wanting to secede, elections, economic and migration crises, European integration, etc. The goal of this course is to provide you with the tools to better understand the political culture and institutions of the states that make-up this fascinating region. We'll take a comparative approach to studying the political systems of Europe (primarily Western Europe) and the European Union and the current policy issues facing both European governments and their citizens. This class will also have an 'analytical component' to it and you will learn how to use, interpret and present data using the European Social Survey.

**Course Materials**

The following books are required reading. They are available at the Pitt bookstore and on-line. If you decide to purchase the books on-line, make sure to get the correct editions.

Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Palgrave. [Denoted as Bale]

John McCormick. 2017. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. [Denoted as McCormick]

You will also be required to read articles, other book chapters, and news articles throughout the semester, which are all available on Blackboard. [Denoted as CW]

## Current Events

I would also strongly encourage you to stay on top of current events in Europe over the course of the semester, which will inform many of our discussions. There are many great on-line resources for European/EU news, including: the *New York Times*—[www.nyt.com](http://www.nyt.com), *Economist*—[www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com), BBC—[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk), *Der Spiegel*—[www.spiegel.de/international](http://www.spiegel.de/international); Al Jazeera—[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com). Feel free to check out non-English language sources as well. Some of these may have a limited number of free articles you can browse from the website, but there are student subscriptions and unlimited access through the library for most. I'd also suggest becoming a regular NPR listener. Our local station is WESA, 90.5 FM—[www.wesa.fm/www.npr.org](http://www.wesa.fm/www.npr.org).

## Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F (89.5-100=A; 79.5-89.4=B; 69.5-79.4=C; 59.5-69.4=D; below 59.5=F).

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Paper	30%
Data Assignments	10% (5% each)
Map quiz	5%
Participation	10%

\*\*All work will be weighed according to the break-down above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

## Details

**1) Exams.** There will be two exams. Exams will cover both readings and lectures. The midterm will cover all of the material to that point in the semester. The final exam will be cumulative, but will concentrate on material covered during the second half of the semester. Exams will consist of IDs, short answer, and essay. The midterm will be on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and the final will be on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**2) Paper.** You will select a topic based on the European Social Survey. The 8-10 pg. paper will consist of a hypothesis, brief literature review and empirical analysis. A complete draft of the paper is due on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and the final paper will be due Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**3) Map Quiz.** On Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have a map quiz. You will be responsible for locating the 28 member states of the EU plus Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland on a map and knowing their capitals.

**4) Data Assignments.** Following two of the data and analysis workshops, you will have assignments using the European Social Survey. The due dates are Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**5) Participation.** In-class participation will include both oral and written evaluations. Just coming to class is not participating! I want you to actively participate in class (ask and answer questions, participate in discussions, etc.). Six times during the semester, you must post two questions or comments on the weekly discussion board on CourseWeb related to the day's/week's readings or a related current event. These must be posted by 8am on Tues. or Thurs. Part of your participation grade *may* also include several unannounced quizzes based on readings and relevant current events. These will typically be at the beginning of class and cannot be made-up if you are absent.

### Analytical TA

This course is part of a pilot program in the Political Science Department to introduce more data analysis into our upper-level courses. Our TA, Rian Litchard, will be holding four Data Workshops throughout the semester (see schedule on syllabus) which will introduce you to basic data analysis and data visualization which you will then use for your final projects. All of the workshops and the paper will be using the European Social Survey, which is a public opinion survey that asks citizens across Europe questions about their behavior and attitudes. Rian will be assigning and grading two data assignments following Data Workshops 2 and 4. Rian will also be reading drafts of your final projects and, in consultation with me, grading your final projects.

### Class Policies

**Class Expectations.** Please come to class ready to actively learn. Come to class having read the material and prepared to participate. Make sure to review the discussion questions before class. There will be lots of opportunities to engage with the material and with each other. You may use your laptop or other device to take notes, but if you are using it for something other than taking notes (and distracting other students), I may not allow you to continue using it. Please turn your phone off while you are in class and do not text, check Facebook, Twitter, or look up information that is not relevant to class. **Please make sure to bring the readings with you to class (either in hard copy or on an electronic device).**

**Attendance.** I will take attendance each time we meet within the first **10 minutes**. Should you arrive after 10 minutes, this will be counted as an absence. You are allowed **two absences** during the semester. You do not need to tell me why you will be absent or bring any sort of documentation to justify your absence. Each additional absence will result in a 2% deduction from your Participation grade. If there is a circumstance in which you will be absent more than once (e.g. Pitt team travel) please discuss this with me **in advance**. In order to have any additional absence excused, you will need to provide documentation.

**Email.** Please make sure you check your **Pitt email** regularly. If you do not use your Pitt account, make sure you link your Pitt account to whichever email address you do use. I will send email messages to the class periodically and will use your official Pitt email address. If you want to contact me, please use my Pitt addresses above and do not email us through CourseWeb.

**CourseWeb.** All materials handed out in class will be posted here. We will also post announcements, links, graphs/tables shown in class, and other useful information. So, check CourseWeb often!

**Extensions and Alternate Dates.** In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments or alternate exam dates. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time or be present for an exam, please discuss this with your me as soon as you can, and not the day the assignment is due or the day of the exam or afterwards.

**Late Policy.** A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, it will no longer be accepted.

**Grade Appeals.** Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received. The written appeal should be turned in to me and I will then schedule a time to meet with you to discuss your appeal.

**Academic Integrity.** Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated by the instructor, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. More information and the complete policy can be found at <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>.

**Accommodations.** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412-648-7890, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users), [drsrecp@pitt.edu](mailto:drsrecp@pitt.edu), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, please see <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

**Classroom Recording.** To ensure free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor. Any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

## SYLLABUS

### **Aug. 28 Introduction and Preliminaries: What is Europe?**

Bale, Introduction and ch. 1 (pgs. xiii-xix, 1-36)

McCormick, ch. 2 (pgs. 24-47)

**Aug. 30. No class. Prof. Spoon at conference.**

<b>Part 1: Domestic Political Institutions and Actors</b>
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### **Sept. 4 Federalism, Devolution and Secession**

#### **\*Map Quiz**

Bale, parts of Ch. 2 & 3 (pgs. 39-52, 72-78)

Sergi Pardos-Prado. "Catalonia's Three Ways Forward." *Washington Post*. Oct. 28, 2017.  
<https://wapo.st/2wiWhni> [CW]

### **Sept. 6. Courts and Judiciaries**

Bale, part of Ch. 3 (pgs. 92-101)

"Collision Course: Poland's Government Sacks a Third of Its Supreme Court." *The Economist*.  
July 5, 2018. [CW]

### **Sept. 11. Executives : Presidents and Prime Ministers**

Bale, part of Ch. 4 (pgs. 105-111)

Ashifa Kassam. "Juan Carlos Abdication Sparks Call for Referendum on Spain's Monarchy."  
*The Guardian*. June 2, 2014. <https://bit.ly/2v2lzWl> [CW]

"In Macron's Shadow: Why 35% of French People Cannot Name Their Own Prime Minister."  
*The Economist*. Feb. 22, 2018. [CW]

### **Sept. 13. Parliamentary Government**

Bale, part of Ch. 4 (pgs. 111-124)

Heidbreder, Eva. 2018. "The 2017 Federal Election Was a Potential Turning Point in German Politics." LSE EUROPP Blog <https://bit.ly/2uLWEHj> [CW].

"Merkel Goes Fourth: SPD Members Vote for Grand Coalition." *The Economist*. March 4, 2018. [CW]

### **Sept. 18. Data Workshop I**

Review European Social Survey Variables and Questions [CW]

### **Sept. 20. Parliaments**

Bale, part of Ch. 4 (pgs. 124-140)

Watch British Prime Minister's Question Time in class-- <https://bit.ly/2NEplwQ>

### **Sept. 25 & 27. Electoral Rules and their Effects**

Bale, part of Ch. 6 (pgs. 187-200)

*(For Sept. 27) Case Study: Electoral Reform in the United Kingdom:*

Hélène Mulholland. "AV Referendum: Everything You Need to Know." *The Guardian*. May 5, 2011. <https://bit.ly/2LbJrww> [CW]

"Q&A: Electoral Reform and Proportional Representation." *BBC*. May 11, 2010. <https://bbc.in/2wnfaFZ> [CW]

Yes/No to AV Campaign Ads [CW]

### **Oct. 2 & 4. Parties, Party Systems and Party System Change**

Bale, ch. 5 (pgs. 143-184)

"The Snail Loses Pace." *The Economist*. August 1, 2015. [CW]

“Verdant Pastures.” *The Economist*. May 23, 2015. [CW]

**Oct. 9. Partisanship and Voting**

Bale, part of Ch. 6 (pgs. 200-221)

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage. Ch. 9. [CW]

**Oct. 11. Do Institutions (and Politics) Matter?**

Bale, Ch. 9 (pgs. 293-324)

**No class Oct. 16. Fall Break schedule—Mon. classes meet on Tues. TBD review session.**

**Oct 18—Midterm**

<b>Part 2: “Doing” Political Science</b>
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**Oct. 23. Research in Political Science**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. Ch. 4. [CW]

Powner, Leanne C. 2015. *Empirical Research and Writing: A Political Science Student’s Practical Guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. Ch. 3. [CW]

**Oct. 25. Data Workshop II**

\* Analysis Assignment I due Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>

**Oct. 30. Data Workshop III**

**Nov. 1. Data Workshop IV**

\* Analysis Assignment 2 due Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

## Part 3: European Union and European Integration

### Nov. 6. What is the European Union? Origins and Integration

McCormick, ch. 1 & 3

### Nov. 8 & 13. EU Institutions

Bale, part of Ch. 2 (pgs. 53-68)

McCormick, ch. 4

\*Nov. 9 & 10—Choose one lecture or panel from Sbragia Symposium to attend. Details TBA.

### Nov. 15. Public Opinion and the Democratic Deficit

McCormick, ch. 5

Moravcsik, Andrew. 2002. "In Defence of the 'Democratic Deficit': Reassessing Legitimacy in the European Union." *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 40(4): 603-624. [CW]

### Nov. 20. Elections to the European Parliament

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/election-results-2014.html> [CW]

Sara B. Hobolt, Jae-Jae Spoon and James Tilley. 2009. "A Vote Against Europe? Explaining Defection at the 1999 and 2004 European Parliament Elections." *British Journal of Political Science*. 39: 93-115. [CW]

Trieb, Oliver. 2014. "The Voter Says No, but Nobody Listens: Causes and Consequences of the Eurosceptic Vote in the 2014 European Elections." *Journal of European Public Policy*. 21.10: 1541-1554. [CW]

**Thanksgiving Break—Nov. 22. No class.**



## **Nov. 27. Europe in the World**

Bale, Ch. 11

McCormick, Ch. 9

“Amid Tensions with America, China is Turning to Europe.” *The Economist*. July 19, 2018. [CW]

## **Nov. 29. Brexit**

Clarke, Harold D., Goodwin, Matthew and Paul Whitley. 2017. *Brexit: Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 7-8 (pgs. 146-203). [CW]

Articles TBD. [CW]

<b>Part 4: Immigration in Europe</b>
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## **Dec. 4 & 6. Immigration, Actions and Re-Actions**

Bale, Ch. 10 (pgs. 327-361)

Adida, Claire, David Laitin and Marie-Anne Valfort. 2014. “The Muslim Effect on Immigrant Integration in France.” *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage Blog* (30 September) <https://wapo.st/2IPWvXG>. [CW]

McAuley, James and Rick Noack. “What You Need to Know about Germany’s Immigration Crisis.” *Washington Post*. July 3, 2018. <https://wapo.st/2OamoVA>. [CW]

“Europe’s Populists are Waltzing into the Mainstream.” *The Economist*. February 3, 2018. [CW].

**Papers due: Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Exam: Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> @ Noon**