

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS CAPSTONE:
PARTIES, ELECTIONS AND POPULISTS IN EUROPE**
Political Science 1381
University of Pittsburgh • Spring 2018
Tues. 10am-12:30pm • 4801 WWPB

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Course Description

It couldn't be a more interesting time to study parties and elections in Europe with Brexit, independence movements, immigration, the far right, financial crises and security playing increasingly large roles in electoral campaigns and public discussion. In this capstone course, we will work to understand these and other issues and how they are influencing what voters want, how (and if) parties respond, and election outcomes across Europe. Each student will spend the semester researching a topic of his/her choosing related to voters, parties and/or elections in Europe.

Reading Materials

We will read one book in its entirety during the course. This book is available free on-line through the library, or you can purchase it on-line (from Amazon, etc.) for about \$20. All of the other readings are available on CourseWeb, denoted [CW].

Clarke, Harold D., Matthew Goodwin and Paul Whiteley. 2017. *Brexit: Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Denoted CGW]

I would also strongly encourage you to stay on top of current events in Europe over the course of the semester. There are many great on-line resources for European/EU news, including: the *New York Times*—www.nyt.com, *Economist*—www.economist.com, BBC—www.bbc.co.uk, *Der Spiegel*—www.spiegel.de/international; Al Jazeera—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.

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F, broken down as follows:

97-100=A+	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	59 and below=F
94-96=A	84-86=B	74-76=C	64-66=D	
90-93=A-	80-83=B-	70-73=C-	60-63=D-	

Participation	10%
Reading Summaries	10% (5% each)
Discussion Leader	5%
Midterm Exam	25%
Paper and Presentation	50% [Paper=40%; Presentation=10%]

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

1) Participation. You are required to come to class prepared having read the assigned readings. Participation will be 10% of your final grade.

2) Reading Summaries. On the first day, each student will sign up for two weeks to write reading summaries. Each summary will be 3 pages (double-spaced, 11 or 12-pt font, 1-inch margins on all sides). For your summary, you will distill the main arguments of each of the assigned readings and tie them together coherently. You should think about and focus on what the overall argument is of the readings or chapters and how they relate to each other (where applicable). I would suggest not signing up for back-to-back weeks, so that you can get feedback on your first summary before writing the second. The reading summaries are due in class for the weeks you have selected. The reading summaries will be graded both on substance and writing style. Each reading summary is worth 5% of your final grade.

3) Discussion Leader. For one of the weeks you have selected to write a reading summary, you will serve as discussion leader. If necessary, two students may need to sign-up for a given week, which we will determine the first day of class. As discussion leader, you will write-up 5-7 questions based on the readings that you will circulate to the class. These are meant to be open-ended questions that provoke discussion. These are due Monday at 7pm posted on the Discussion Board on CW. Your grade will be based on both the quality of the questions and how well you have facilitated discussion and will be 5% of your final grade. If you are not serving as discussion leader, you should make sure to review the questions and come to class prepared to discuss them.

4) Midterm Exam. The midterm will be in-class on March 27th and will be essay format. The midterm is 25% of your grade.

5) Paper and Presentation. Each student will write a 20 page research paper on a topic of your choice related to voters, parties, and/or elections in Europe. At the end of the semester, each student will prepare a presentation of his/her paper using presentation software, such as PowerPoint. The paper and presentation combined are 50% of your final grade; the presentation is 10% of this. See the assignment description for list of due dates for drafts, final paper, expectations, etc.

Class Policies

Class Expectations. This is a small class, so please 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. If you plan to come to class to do something else, I suggest that you not come. **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 **one absence** 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), drsrec@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

PART 1: PARTIES AND VOTERS: THEN AND NOW

Week 1 (Jan. 9). Introduction and Preliminaries

"Turning Right." *The Economist*. Jan. 2, 2014. [CW]

Cassidy, John. 2016. "A Europe of Donald Trumps?" *The New Yorker*. May 2. [CW]

Erlanger, Steven. 2017. "In Eastern Europe, Populism Lives, Widening a Split in the E.U." *New York Times*. Nov. 28. [CW]

Week 2 (Jan. 16). Party Systems and Party Families [DL1]

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. 5th Edition. London: McGraw Hill. Ch. 7-8. [CW]

Erlanger, Steven. "As Europe's Political Landscape Shifts, Two-Party System Fades." *New York Times*. April 7, 2015. [CW]

Week 3 (Jan. 23). Electoral Choice and Change [DL2]

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage. Ch. 5, 8-9. [CW]

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. 5th Edition. London: McGraw Hill. Ch. 9. [CW]

Extra Credit: Roundtable "Will the EU Fall Apart?" – Jan. 25th 4-5:30pm in 4130 WWPH

Week 4 (Jan. 30). Party and Voter Preferences & Research Paper 101

**We will be exploring several datasets that focus on party/voter policy positions and preferences. Bring your laptop to class.*

Skim the following:

Bakker, et al. 2012. "Measuring Party Positions in Europe: The Chapel Hill Expert Survey Trend File, 1999-2010." *Party Politics*. 21.1: 143-152. [CW]

Werner, et al. 2015. "Manifesto Coding Instructions."
Pay particular attention to pgs. 16-26. [CW]

Read:

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods*. 7th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. Ch. 4.

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

***RP Part 1 due in class.*

PART 2: WHO LISTENS? WHO RESPONDS? PARTY AND VOTER INTERACTIONS

Week 5 (Feb. 6). Party and Voter Responsiveness [DL 3]

Adams, James, Lawrence Ezrow and Zeynep Somer-Topcu. 2011. "Is Anybody Listening? Evidence that Voters Do Not Respond to European Parties' Policy Statements during Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 55.2: 370-382. [CW]

Klüver, Heike and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2016. "Who Responds? Voters, Parties and Issue Attention." *British Journal of Political Science*. 46.3: 633-654. [CW]

Hutter, Swen and Rens Vliegthart. 2016. "Who Responds to Protest? Protest Politics and Party Responsiveness in Western Europe." *Party Politics*. <https://doi-org.pitt.idm.oclc.org/10.1177/1354068816657375>. [CW]

Week 6 (Feb. 13). Niche Parties [DL 4]

Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. "Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success." *American Political Science Review*. 99: 347-359. [CW]

Adams, James, Michael Clark, Lawrence Ezrow, and Garrett Glasgow. 2006. "Are Niche Parties Fundamentally Different than Mainstream Parties? The Causes and the Electoral Consequences of Western European Parties' Policy Shifts, 1976-1998." *American Journal of Political Science*. 50.3: 513-529. [CW]

Meyer, Thomas M. and Markus Wagner. 2013. "Mainstream or Niche? Vote-Seeking Incentives and the Programmatic Strategies of Political Parties." *Comparative Political Studies*. 46.10: 1246-1272. [CW]

Week 7 (Feb. 20). Issue Entrepreneurs [DL 5]

De Vries, Catherine E. and Sara B. Hobolt. 2012. "When Dimensions Collide: The Electoral Success of Issue Entrepreneurs." *European Union Politics*. 13.2: 246-268. [CW]

Han, Kyung Joon. 2015. "The Impact of Radical Right-Wing Parties on the Positions of Mainstream Parties Regarding Multiculturalism." *West European Politics*. 38.3: 557-576. [CW]

Spoon, Jae-Jae, Sara B. Hobolt and Catherine E. de Vries. 2014. "Going Green: Explaining Issue Competition on the Environment." *European Journal of Political Research*. 53.2: 363-380. [CW]

Week 8 (Feb. 27). Midterm

Week 9 (Mar. 6). Spring Break.

***RP Part 2 due on March 11th. Upload to TurnItIn and email to partner(s). Read papers for March 13th.*

PART 3: ARE THINGS FALLING APART? BREXIT AND POPULISM
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Week 10 (Mar. 13). Brexit Pt. 1 [DL 6]

CGW, Ch 1-4.

Literature Review Workshop

Extra Credit: Virtual Roundtable “May 1968 and the Legacy of Protest in France and Europe” – March 14 – 12-1:30pm 4217 UCIS; re-broadcast March 15 – 4-5:30pm 4130 WWPB

Week 11 (Mar. 20). Brexit Pt. 2 [DL 7]

CGW, Ch. 5-9 (skim ch. 8).

Week 12 (Mar. 27). Populist Parties [DL 8]

Mudde, Cas. 2010. “The Populist Radical Right: A Pathological Normalcy.” *West European Politics*. 33.6: 1167-1186. [CW]

Golder, Matt. 2016. “Far Right Parties in Europe.” *Annual Review of Political Science*. 19: 477-497. [CW]

Eiermann, Martin, Yascha Mounk and Limor Gultchin. 2017. “European Populism: Trends, Threats, and Future Prospects.” *Tony Blair Institute for Global Change*.
<https://institute.global/insight/renewing-centre/european-populism-trends-threats-and-future-prospects> or [CW].

Week 13 (Apr. 3). Populist Voters [DL 9]

Allen, Trevor. 2015. "All in the Party Family? Comparing Far Right Voters in Western and Post-Communist Europe." *Party Politics*. 23.3: 274-285. [CW]

de Vries, Catherine E. and Isabell Hoffmann. 2016. *Fear not Values: Public Opinion and the Populist Vote in Europe*. Bertelsmann Stiftung. [CW]

Inglehart, Ronald F. and Pippa Norris. 2016. "Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism: Economic Have-Nots and Cultural Backlash." Harvard Kennedy School Faculty Research Working Paper Series. [CW]

Week 14 (Apr. 10). Regular class will not meet. Meet with workshop group.

***RP Part 3 due on April 8th. Upload to TurnItIn and email to partner(s). Read papers for April 10th.*

Week 15 (Apr. 17 + extra time if needed). Presentations.

****Papers due April 25th @ noon****