

**GOV324L (#38405)
EUS 350 (#36430)
Government & Politics of Western Europe
Fall 2022**

**UTC 3.132
T-Th 9:30-11am**

Professor: Zeynep Somer-Topcu, PhD
zsomer@utexas.edu

Office hours of the professor: Thursdays 12:30-3:30pm.

Introduction

This course provides students with a general introduction to the political institutions, voter behavior, and issues in West Europe. The objective is to equip students with a broad overview of the politics and political systems of Western Europe, as well as on concepts, methods, and tools to understand and analyze contemporary developments. The course is organized thematically (rather than in a country-specific way) around a framework that emphasizes the political determinants and policy consequences of institutional differences.

We will start the course with a short overview of the countries and the history of Europe. We will then look at political institutions in Europe—ranging from the executive power to the parliaments, electoral systems, parties, and party systems. In the second half of the course we will discuss the important issues/problems Western European countries face: (1) regionalism, (2) the European Union, (3) lack of voter interest/knowledge, (4) immigration, (5) the rise of anti-immigrant politics and challenges the mainstream parties face, and (6) European foreign relations and security issues.

Course Requirements:

Participation in Class Discussion	+3 points (extra credit)
Three Exams	20% (each)
Two Short Papers	20% (each)

Attendance

Attendance is NOT required. However, the exams will heavily rely on what we will discuss in class. There are more details beyond the slides we will discuss in class, and you will be responsible of those details in the exams. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to come to class.

While attendance is NOT required, I would like to strongly emphasize the following two points:

- Given that some of you may be on the other side of the campus for an earlier class, you can be a few minutes late to the class. However, you should not be late to class for more than a few minutes (unless there is an exceptional circumstance like an exam, which should be notified in advance to the TA or the professor). Please do not be late and disturb the class. Also the quizzes will take place in the first 5 minutes of the class, and if you are late, you will not be allowed to take the quiz.
- You are NOT allowed to leave the class early. If you must leave early this can happen only once or twice during the semester. AND, you must let me know in advance and can only leave within the last 10-15 minutes of the class. If you leave the class without my approval in advance and if we had a quiz in that class, you will receive 0 points for that quiz.

Participation in Class Discussion (+3 points extra credit)

Class participation is different from attendance and can get you some extra credit at the end of the semester.

Students are expected to do the assigned readings *before* we discuss the topic in class and arrive in class ready to discuss the readings. We may start the class with a discussion about that day's readings so be ready to dive in!

Once your extra credit grade is determined (anywhere between 0 to 3), that number will be added to your final course average. Hence, if your course average based on your exams and papers is 88 (B+), and if you earned 3 points extra, your final course grade will be 91 (A-).

Short papers (20% each):

There are five topics with deadlines scattered throughout the semester. You have to choose **two** of these topics. These short papers should not be longer than 8 pages (double-spaced), or shorter than 5 pages (double-spaced), excluding the title page and the bibliography.

In these assignments, you will provide the facts about the question asked. However, you can receive full grade **only if** you provide a critical analysis for the question. Your grade will be determined based on:

- Your original point of view: Your opinion matters, and it should form the core of the paper and should not be only the last paragraph of the essay
- Your command of the existing academic literature on the question
- The evidence you provide to back up your point of view
- Correct in-text citations and bibliographic citations at the end of your paper

There will be a sign-up sheet on **Canvas starting at noon on Tuesday, August 30**. You are required to sign up for two topics. There are limited slots available for each topic. If you do not sign up for two topics by 5pm on Tuesday, September 6 you will be randomly assigned. The deadlines to submit the papers are as follows:

September 13, Tuesday 5pm: Paper #1 on No-Confidence Motions

September 29, Thursday, 5pm: Paper #2 on Judicial Review

October 18, Tuesday 5pm: Paper #3 on Party Leadership Elections

November 3, Thursday 5pm: Paper #4 on the Regional Independence Movements
November 29, Tuesday 5pm: Paper #5 on the EU's Democratic Deficit

Your write-up must be original and demonstrate your unique point of view. You should NOT work with others for these papers.

The papers are due at **5pm on the day they are due. You must upload your papers to Canvas by the deadline.** Emailed or late submissions won't be accepted, and you will receive a grade of F for that paper.

Exams (20% each)

There are three exams scattered throughout the semester (the last exam is on the scheduled final exam date). Each exam will be a combination of short and long essays. You will take the first two exams during the course time (9:30am-10:50am) on the days they are assigned. Each exam will be a combination of multiple-choice questions, short or bullet-point answer questions, and a few long (one-page) essays.

Exam Dates:

- Exam 1: September 22, Thursday
- Exam 2: October 25, Tuesday
- Final Exam: on the scheduled final date

If you foresee problems with the exam dates, see me after class, during office hours, or contact me by e-mail at least two weeks *before* the assigned dates.

Grading Scheme:

In this course I will use the following grading scheme:

A	100 - 93.34
A-	93.33 - 90
B+	89.99 - 86.67
B	86.66 - 83.34
B-	83.33 - 80
C+	79.99 - 76.67
C	76.66 - 73.34
C-	73.33 - 70
D+	69.99 - 66.67
D	66.66 - 63.34
D-	63.33 - 60
F	Below 60

In addition, please note that I use the following numerical grade assignment for each letter grade while calculating your final course grades:

A	95
A-	91.67
B+	88.33

B	85
B-	81.67
C+	78.33
C	75
C-	71.67
D+	68.33
D	65
D-	61.67

Please note that, once your final grade is calculated using all the components of your final grade, I automatically round the final course grade .50 or above to the next higher grade (but not before—not for individual components). Requests for additional rounding will not be entertained.

Required Text:

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore or can be purchased online:

- Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*. **Fourth Edition**. Palgrave.
- McCormick, John. 2021. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. **Eighth Edition**. Red Globe Press.

The books for this class are available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, a new initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students. You are automatically opted into the program but can easily opt-out (and back in) via Canvas through the 12th class day. If you remain opted-in at the end of the 5th class day you will receive a bill through your “What I Owe” page and have until the end of the 20th class day to pay and retain access. If you do not pay by the 20th class day, you will lose access to the materials and your charge will be removed.

There will also be required news articles or editorials assigned for each class period. These will be based on the current events for the topic under discussion. We will post them on Canvas on Fridays before each week.

There will be additional required articles/chapters for some classes. These readings are denoted with an asterisk (**) in the syllabus, and will be available on Canvas in advance.

MAKE-UP EXAMS AND EXTENSION OF DEADLINES POLICY

Make-up exams and extensions of paper deadlines will not be offered except in extremely rare circumstances. These extremely rare circumstances can be: (1) University sanctioned events (verification required) (2) extraordinary circumstances such as medical emergency, or (3) religious observances. Make-up exams and extension of deadlines requested for any other reason will be decided on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to a 20% grade penalty. **Vacations and early departure for breaks do not constitute legitimate reasons for extensions or make-**

up exams. If you know you are going to miss an exam or a deadline, notify me as soon as possible BEFORE the exam and the deadline, no later than 14 days prior to the exam date or deadline.

Citation and Reference Guidelines for Written Work

The papers, as well as the citations of articles and books in the body of the papers, and the list of citations or references at the end of the papers, should all adhere to formatting guidelines for all papers written for courses in the Government department. Those guidelines are presented in a memo that I will post to Canvas.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

University's Honor Code governs all work in this course. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and observe university's policies against cheating and plagiarism. If you have any questions regarding academic honesty, please consult the university's Honor Code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>

Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements

Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the professor and TAs for this course are required to report for further investigation any information concerning incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking committed by or against a UT student or employee. Federal law and university policy also requires reporting incidents of sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct (collectively known as Title IX incidents). This means we cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with us. If you need to talk with someone who can maintain confidentiality, please contact University Health Services (512-471-4955 or 512-475-6877) or the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center (512-471-3515 or 512-471-2255). We strongly urge you make use of these services for any needed support and that you report any Title IX incidents to the [Title IX Office](#).

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a learning or physical disability, or if you learn best utilizing a particular method, please discuss with me how I can best accommodate your learning needs. I will maintain the confidentiality of your learning needs. If appropriate, you should contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> to get more information on accommodating disabilities.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited:

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Emergency Evacuation Policy:

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759).

Course Schedule

Below is a tentative course schedule. I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule, including exam dates, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these changes. Date changes will be announced well in advance during class. **All readings are required unless noted otherwise. Those reading marked with (**) will be available through Canvas.**

August 23, Tuesday	Introduction and Overview of Syllabus McCormick ch. 2 <i>Optional</i> (if you like to learn more about Europe's history and current state before we dive deep): Bale ch. 1
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Module 1: Domestic Political Institutions

August 25, Thursday	The Executive (Presidents vs. Prime Ministers) Bale ch. 4 pp. 105-111 ** News article/ editorial
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August 30, Tuesday	Building and Maintaining Governments Bale ch. 4 pp. 111-124 ** News article/ editorial
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September 1, Thursday	Parliaments I Bale ch. 4 pp. 124-134 ** News article/ editorial
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September 6, Tuesday	Parliaments II Review Bale ch. 4 pp. 124-134 ** News article/ editorial
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September 8, Thursday	Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referenda I Bale ch. 6 pp.187-190 ** Blais, Andre and R. K. Carty. 1991. "The Psychological Impact of Electoral Laws: Measuring Duverger's Elusive Factor." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 21: 79-93.
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September 13, Tuesday	Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referenda II Bale ch. 6 pp. 190-194
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September 15, Thursday	Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referenda III Bale ch. 6 pp.215-221
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September 20, Tuesday	Constitutions, Judges and Politics Bale ch.3 pp. 92-101 ** News article/ editorial
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September 22, Thursday	Exam #1
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Module 2: European Parties and Party Systems

September 27, Tuesday	Where do parties come from? And, electoral Change **Ware ch.6 Bale ch.6 pp. 194-211
September 29, Thursday	Patterns in Party Politics and Party Systems Bale ch. 5 pp.150-174
October 4, Tuesday	Party Change ** Katz, Richard S. and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization." <i>Party Politics</i> 1(1): 5-28.
October 6, Thursday	Inside European Political Parties: Party Members ** Gallagher et al., ch.10 (up to the section of "Power within Parties")
October 11, Tuesday	Inside European Political Parties II: Manifestos, leaders, and candidates Gallagher et al. ch. 10 (the rest of the chapter) ** Horiuchi et al. 2015. "Hard Acts to Follow." <i>Party Politics</i> 21: 357-366.
October 13, Thursday	Anti-System Parties: The rise ** Golder, Matt. 2016. "Far Right Parties in Europe." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> . 19: 477-497.
October 18, Tuesday	Anti-System Parties: Competition and Concerns ** Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. "Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy and Niche Party Success." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 99(3): 347-360. ** Mudde, Cas. 2013. "Three Decades of Populist Right Parties in Western Europe: So What?" <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 52: 1-19.
October 20, Thursday	Beyond Parties? Civil Society, Organized Interest and Social Movements Bale ch. 8
October 25, Tuesday	Exam #2

Module 3: Levels of Governance in Europe

October 27, Thursday	Regional Politics Bale ch. 2: pp. 39-52 ** News articles/ editorials
November 1, Tuesday	The European Union I: What is the European Union? McCormick ch. 1
November 3, Thursday	The European Union II: The evolution of the European Union McCormick ch. 3
November 8, Tuesday	The European Union III: Brexit News articles/ editorials
November 10, Thursday	The European Union IV: The European Institutions McCormick ch. 4
November 15, Tuesday	The European Union V: European Parliamentary Elections and the Democratic Deficit McCormick ch. 5 ** Hix, Simon and Michael Marsh. 2007. "Punishment or Protest? Understanding European Parliamentary Elections." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 69(2): 495-510.

Module 4: A Few Select Important Issues in European Politics

November 17, Thursday	Voters— Political knowledge, partisanship, vote ** Dalton, Russell. Citizen Politics. Ch. 2 ** Blais, André. 2006. "What Affects Voter Turnout?" <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 9: 111-125.
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break
November 29, Tuesday	Immigration and Asylum Bale ch. 10 ** News articles/ editorials
December 1, Thursday	European Security after the Cold War Bale ch. 11 ** News article/ editorial

Final Exam on the Final Date