

**GOV324L (#38895)  
EUS 350 (#36995)  
Government & Politics of Western Europe  
Fall 2021**

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**Teaching Assistant (TA): Oguzhan Alkan**

**Office hours of the professor:** Wednesdays 9:30am-12pm.

### **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, (6) COVID-19, and (7) European foreign relations and security issues.

### **Course Requirements:**

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

### **Attendance and Participation (+3 extra credit points on your final grade)**

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.**
- **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.**

Class participation is different from attendance. Throughout the course students are encouraged to raise questions and relevant discussion topics in class, and expected to contribute to class discussions. Students are expected to do the assigned readings **before** we discuss the topic in class, and arrive at class ready to discuss the readings.

While there is not a participation grade, I will use my personal judgment based on your in-class participation to give you up to 3 extra points on your final course grade.

**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 6 pages (double-spaced), or shorter than 4 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. You have to have a bibliography part and show your research. Wikipedia is not accepted as a scholarly citation.

There will be a sign-up sheet on **Canvas starting at noon on Tuesday, September 7**. 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 14 you will be randomly assigned. The deadlines to submit the papers are as follows:

***September 30, Thursday 5pm: Paper #1 on Electoral Systems***  
***October 21, Thursday, 5pm: Paper #2 on Party Organizations***  
***November 4, Thursday 5pm: Paper #3 on Autonomous Regions***  
***November 18, Thursday 5pm: Paper #4 on the European Union***  
***December 2, Thursday 5pm: Paper #5 on the Far-Right Parties***

**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.

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

### **Required Text:**

The following book is available for purchase at the bookstore or can be purchased online:

Gallagher, Laver and Mair. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe: Institutions, Parties, and Governments*. McGraw Hill. **5th Edition**.  
**(Make sure you have the correct edition)**

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**

You cannot make-up for the quizzes. 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.

## **Course Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule of readings, topics and assignments that will be covered in the course. 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. Those reading marked with double asterisks (\*\*\*) will be available through Canvas. Readings should be done in the order listed.**

August 26, Thursday                   **Introduction: Brief Overview of the European History and Countries, Overview of Syllabus**  
Gallagher et al., ch.1

### **Module 1: European Political Institutions**

August 31, Tuesday                   **The Executive**  
Gallagher et al., ch.2  
\*\* News article/ editorial

September 2, Thursday               **Parliaments I**  
Gallagher et al., ch.3 (up to section 3.4 on p.63)  
Gallagher et al. ch. 12 (between pages 414-420)  
\*\* News articles/ editorials

September 7, Tuesday	<b>Parliaments II</b> Gallagher et al., ch.3 (rest of the chapter) ** News articles/ editorials
September 9, Thursday	<b>Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referenda I</b> Gallagher et al., ch.11 (up to section 11.5.5 on p.387)
September 14, Tuesday	<b>Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referenda II</b> Gallagher et al., ch.11 (from p. 389 to p. 400) ** 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.
September 16, Thursday	<b>Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referenda III</b> Gallagher et al., ch.11 (referenda section (11.7) and mixed member section (11.5.2)) ** News articles/ editorial
September 21, Tuesday	<b>Building and Maintaining a Government</b> Gallagher et al., ch. 12 (from section 12.3 onwards (from page 420 until the end of the chapter)) ** News article/ editorial
<b>September 23, Thursday</b>	<b><u>EXAM #1</u></b>
September 28, Tuesday	<b>Democratic (Selective) Representation in Europe</b> ** Ezrow, Lawrence, C. E. De Vries, M. Steenbergen, and E. E. Edwards. 2011. "Mean Voter Representation and Partisan Constituency Representation." <i>Party Politics</i> 17(3): 275-301.
September 30, Thursday	<b>Constitutions, Judges and Politics</b> Gallagher et al., ch. 4 ** News article/ editorial

*September 30, Thursday 5pm: Paper #1 Due via Canvas*

### **Module 2: European Parties and Party Systems**

October 5, Tuesday	<b>Cleavage Structures and Electoral Change</b> Gallagher et al., ch. 9 (up to section 9.9)
October 7, Thursday	<b>Patterns in Party Politics and Party Systems</b> ** Ware ch. 5 ** News articles/ editorials

October 12, Tuesday	<b>Party Change</b> ** Katz, Richard S. and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization." <i>Party Politics</i> 1(1): 5-28.
October 14, Thursday	<b>Inside European Political Parties: Party Members</b> Gallagher et al., ch.10 (up to the section of "Power within Parties") ** Norris, Pippa. 1995. "May's Law of Curvilinear Disparity Revisited: Leaders, Officers, Members and Voters in British Political Parties" <i>Party Politics</i> 1: 29-47.
October 19, Tuesday	<b>Inside European Political Parties II: Manifestos, leaders, and candidates</b> 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.

### **Module 3: Issues in European Politics**

October 21, Thursday	<b>Levels of Governance</b> Gallagher et al., ch. 6 (sections 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6) ** News articles/ editorials
<b><i>October 21, Thursday, 5pm: Paper #2 is due via Canvas</i></b>	
October 26, Tuesday	<b>European Voters— Political knowledge, partisanship, vote</b> ** Dalton, Russell. Citizen Politics. Ch. 2 ** Blais, André. 2006. "What Affects Voter Turnout?" <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 9: 111-125.
<b>October 28, Thursday</b>	<b>EXAM #2</b>

November 2, Tuesday	<b>The European Union I</b> Gallagher et al. ch. 5 (up to section 5.4, page 139)
November 4 Thursday	<b>The European Union II</b> Gallagher et al. ch. 5 (rest of the chapter) ** News articles/ editorials

### ***November 4, Thursday 5pm: Paper #3 is due via Canvas***

November 9, Tuesday	<b>The European Union III</b> Review ch. 5 of Gallagher et al. ** News articles/ editorials
November 11, Thursday	<b>European Parliamentary Elections vs. National Elections</b>

\*\* Hix, Simon and Michael Marsh. 2007. "Punishment or Protest? Understanding European Parliamentary Elections." *Journal of Politics* 69(2): 495-510.

November 16, Tuesday

**Immigration and Asylum**

\*\* News articles/ editorials

November 18, Thursday

**Anti-System Politics: The rise**

\*\* van der Brug, Wouter, Meindert Fennema and Jean Tillie. 2005. "Why Some Anti-immigrant Parties Fail and Others Succeed: A Two-Step Model of Aggregate Electoral Support." *Comparative Political Studies* 38:537.

***November 18, Thursday 5pm: Paper #4 due via Canvas***

November 23, Tuesday

**Anti-System Politics: How to Deal with It? Is it Relevant?**

\*\* Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. "Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy and Niche Party Success." *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 347-360.  
\*\* Mudde, Cas. 2013. "Three Decades of Populist Right Parties in Western Europe: So What?" *European Journal of Political Research* 52: 1-19.

November 30, Tuesday

**European Security after the Cold War**

\*\* Heywood et al., ch.17 (by Epstein and Gheciu)  
\*\* News article/ editorial

December 2, Thursday

**Europe in the COVID age and the future of Europe**

Readings TBA

***December 2, Thursday 5pm: Paper #5 due via Canvas***

**Final Exam on the Final Date (Tentatively scheduled for Monday, Dec 13 at 9am)**