



POLS 3533 European Politics

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

CRN 22227 Section 202

Spring 2021, **TR 9:30-10:50am/PY 209**

Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Dowd

Office: O'Donohoe Hall 204

Office hours: Zoom Only – MW 1-3pm, Fri. 9-10am, or by appointment

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Please note: You are responsible for being aware of all the policies and other information on this syllabus and on all assignment details. Please **read this syllabus carefully** and direct any questions to me as soon as possible. Changes will be announced in class, and posted to D2L.

Course Description

The creation and evolution of the European politics has had critical impact upon American politics and international relations. This course is designed to give students without prior knowledge of the topic a comprehensive overview of modern politics in Europe. It will also equip you with the necessary concepts, theories, and methods to better understand European regional politics by comparing the behavior of governments and citizens in the region. We will also examine some of the most common domestic institutional structures, and the main regional institution of the European Union, and teach you how to understand them better. Finally, we will discuss some of the current social, economic, and political issues of concern to European states, and how national governments interact within the geopolitics of the region and the world.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the semester, you will:

- Develop an understanding of the components of modern European politics
- Learn the foundational purpose, key functions, and major institutions of the European Union
- Understand key issues affecting the region, including the rise of far-right parties, refugee and immigration challenges, and terrorist attacks
- Create an original research paper regarding a European state of your choosing, in which you address a current political problem for the state, how its relationship with nearby neighbors is impacted by this issue, and how you suggest to improve/challenge the existing policy.

Required Textbook & Instructional Materials:

1. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, By Tim Bale, 4th edition (2017), Macmillan and Red Globe Press, ISBN: ISBN: 978-0-333-69335 or 978-0-333-

71693-9; this is available in the MSU bookstore, or online through booksellers such as Amazon

2. Additional journal articles/PDFs/other readings posted on D2L.
3. Students are expected to follow European news through such sources as [The BBC](#), [France 24](#), [Le Monde](#), [Der Spiegel](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), [al Jazeera](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), or [Foreign Policy](#). You may also use these sources as material for class discussions or in your research paper.
4. ***Note, for this course students must have adequate online access to complete the adaptive learning lessons in Realizeit as well as other coursework. Technical excuses for being unable to successfully do the coursework will not be accepted. You must complete all coursework between the specified times/dates listed in the weekly course outline below.***

Student Handbook

Refer to: [2020-2021 MSU Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given).

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- A. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is presenting YOUR OWN WORK, PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED IN ANOTHER CLASS/PROJECT, and ANOTHER PERSON'S WORK AS YOUR OWN. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgement, including the submitting of another student's work as one's own... YOU MUST USE QUOTATION MARKS AND CITE WITH A NAME and YEAR OF PUBLICATION ANYONE'S WORDS THAT YOU COPY/PASTE, AND THAT WERE NOT WRITTEN BY YOU ALONE. **I have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. All online written work will be run through Turn-It-In, the originality software used by MSU. If your work is found to incorrectly cited and plagiarized, even if unintentional, you will get a zero for the assignment. NO resubmissions are accepted. If you submit a second plagiarized assignment, you will receive a zero for the entire course grade.** See the end of the syllabus for examples of correct citation formatting to avoid this problem.
- B. **Cheating on Examinations;** Cheating on examinations involves giving or receiving unauthorized help before, during, or after an examination. You will receive zero on the exam, and will be reported to the university administration in violation of university academic conduct, which could risk you being removed from the course and/or degree program.

Electronic Devices:

Laptop computers and tablets are allowed for the purposes of taking notes and completing in-class assignments. Cellphone use is prohibited unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Please mute all electronic devices before coming into class.

Many assignments in this course will be conducted in D2L. Exams will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for testing. In order to install these programs, you will need the following:

- A desktop computer or laptop other than a Chromebook. NOTE: Chromebooks are not compatible with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor.
 - Apple iPads may be used for quizzes and exams, but these are not advised for any assignment with a written component.
 - Mobile phones and similar devices are not compatible with the required programs.
 - A working webcam on the computing device used for the exam.
 - Microsoft Office or a compatible program for written assignments. Access to Microsoft Office 365 available for students here: [Software](#)
- Please note: a limited number of webcams and laptops with cameras are available for check-out through the MSU Texas Moffett Library.

Office Hours:

I encourage you to attend my virtual office hours as they are a useful forum for additional interaction with the material as well as the instructor. I am here to help you have a better understanding of the course topics and material. To meet with me, just click the office hours link posted to the Content tab in D2L; no appointment is necessary. If the posted virtual office hours are inconvenient, do not hesitate to contact me and make an appointment for another time.

Contacting Me:

The best way to reach is by email. I will make all attempts to answer emails within 48 business hours unless it is over a holiday break. Emails are answered in the order they are received.

Attendance Policy:

This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Spring 2021. As such, face masks are required to be worn in class at all times, per university policy. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room but will utilize social distancing and an assigned seating chart. In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.

You should attend class. Students who do not attend class often have difficulty with the course and receive lower grades. Attendance will be **taken randomly during 12 days** during the term, and will be applied to your grade in Attendance and Participation. Each student gets **two un-excused absences** without penalty to your attendance grade. After that, it will be marked against your attendance grade. The only excused absences allowed after the two “free” days will be those as follows: illness with a doctor’s note covering the date(s) absent from class, death in the family, legal proceedings occurring during class period, or a university-approved absence such as travel as member of an MSU sports team.

Disability Accommodations:

Any student having an education disability plan on file with the university needs to inform me within the first week of the class so I make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your situation. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application

for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature; sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Any person experiencing such behavior may receive confidential support from the Counseling Center. Counseling Center staff will hold what you share in strict confidence. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I as the instructor of this course am required to forward such information to the MSU Title IX office. This should not prevent you from speaking to me should you wish to do so, but know that what you tell me in this area cannot be held confidential, but must be shared with the Title IX office.

Grading

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Participation	20%
Exams	20%
Research Paper	60%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Class Participation (20%):

This class meets on Tuesdays/Thursday, except for national holidays. In-class participation is based on quality, not quantity, of your discussion and participation with the instructor and your colleagues. I encourage questions, dialogue, and open debate, but not a monopoly of class discussions. Your participation grade is based on two factors:

- Weekly participation with your group on a private Instagram chat created for the class; you must discuss the readings with your group and help contribute to the group discussion questions for your assigned days, AND,
- That you share a comment in **each** class about how your case country currently deals with the topic of the week (this will be explained more during the first few classes).

Exams (20% of course grade)

This is a mixed exam format, with 10 multiple-choice questions and several essay questions based on lecture content and readings (the textbook readings and additional readings posted on D2L). Anything discussed in the lectures, along with anything in the assigned readings could be used for the exam.

- **Closed book exam taken in class, Thursday, March 18.** (length: one hour, 20 minutes)

Original Research Paper (60%):

Writing encourages research, formulation of your argument, and articulation of supportive statements. Therefore, the majority of your grade in this class comes from producing a 12-14-page research paper. You will submit the paper in steps throughout the term. The idea is to help you become organized, plan a paper, outline a critical analysis argument, and write in a cohesive and convincing manner. Together these steps will help you grow in your knowledge of politics AND develop professional writing skills that are useful in the job market. The paper grade is segmented as follows:

1. *Section I* – The institutional background of your case country, literature review, and proposed outline sections of the paper (20% of course grade),
2. *Section II* – The rough draft, adding the body and bibliography to Section I; the body discusses a current problem issue in the country (use the provided list of topics), the policy regarding the issue, and policy changes you suggest to improve this problem – **this must be submitted on the due date, and you must meet with me to receive feedback** (20% of course grade), and
3. *Section III* – a Final draft, which incorporates the changes we discuss when we meet to discuss the rough draft.

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE A CITATION QUIZ IN D2L AND PASS IT WITH A 100%. Any student who doesn't pass the quiz with a 100% will receive an automatic zero on all portions of the research paper.

Policy on Missed Work

NO MAKEUP WORK IS ACCEPTED FOR REALIZEIT OR THE ESSAY. Makeup exams will only be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies (medical excuse, death in family, sports/off site event required by your degree program). You must contact me within 3 days of the scheduled exam, and take the makeup exam within 7 days of the regular exam window. If you miss the time window for a make-up test, I assume that you do not want to take it.

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:”

Please note, the semester's withdrawal deadline is **April 23 at 4pm. This is the last Day for “W”**. Students can **withdraw from the class up to this point and** receive a W for the class. However, there is a limited number of W's a student can receive over their academic career. **Drops after this date will receive grades of “F.”** If you intend to withdraw from a course, you must do so yourself. If you are still on the roll when I have to assign grades and you haven't done any passing work, then you will fail. I have to report to the university whether students have attended class, and how regularly you attend. If you have never attended this class when I have to submit my attendance report to the university, or you have stopped

attending, it is possible that the university will drop you from the course, potentially impacting your academic record and future financial assistance such as grants or loans.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a required part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact <https://msutexas.edu/distance/opr.php> to submit a D2L help request.

Class Behavior Policies

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. **This includes in-person and online classes.** You should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Disruptive class behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class. If your behavior is disruptive to other students or the instructor, this will violate University guidelines, and you will be reported to administrative authorities.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Grade Appeal Process](#)

Course Schedule:

You are expected to complete all readings BEFORE the class date listed. *See next page for schedule.*

Course Schedule

Week	Class Date	Reading(s)	Assignments Due
Week 1: Course Intro and The Case Approach	<i>Tues, Jan 12:</i>	Course intro and excerpt from Skocpol, Theda, (1979). "Historical Case Comparison." In <i>States & Social Revolutions</i> , pp. 33-top of pp. 40 (PDF online) – Intro of key terms	
	<i>Thurs, Jan 14: Cases – Great Britain/United Kingdom</i>	Moore, Barrington. (1966). Chapter 1, pp. 1-14, skim 14-29, read pp. 29-39, in <i>Social Origins of Dictatorships and Democracy</i> . (PDF online) Discussion on how to read poli sci content for concepts and patterns	
Week 2:	<i>Tues, Jan 19: Cases - France</i>	Knapp, Andrew and Vincent Wright. (2006). <i>The Government and Politics of France</i> . London: Routledge. Chapter 1. (PDF online)	
	<i>Thurs, Jan 21: Cases – Germany</i>	Dahrendorf, Ralf. (1967). <i>Society & Democracy in Germany</i> . New York: Doubleday. Chapter 4.(PDF online)	
Week 3: Domestic Political Institutions	<i>Tues, Jan 26: Parliaments</i>	Bale, Tim. 2017. "Governments and parliaments—a long way from equality." Chapter 4 in <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i> . New York: Palgrave. pp 105-120 (read to "Governing").	
	<i>Thurs, Jan 28:</i>	Bale, Tim. (2017). "Governments and parliaments—a long way from equality." Chapter 4 in <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i> . Read from "Governing" to the end of the chapter.	
Week 4	<i>Tues, Feb 2: : Political Parties</i>	Bale, Tim. (2017). "Parties – how the past affects the present, and an uncertain future." Chapter 5 in <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i> . Read up until "Far-Right Parties" on page 162.	
	<i>Thurs, Feb 4:</i>	Bale, Tim. (2017). "Parties – how the past affects the present, and an uncertain future." Chapter 5 in <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i> . Finish the chapter.	
Week 5	<i>Tues, Feb 9: Far Right Parties (Germany)</i>	Franzmann, Simon. 2019. "Extra-Parliamentary Opposition within a Transforming Political Space: the AfD and FDP under Merkel III between 2013-2017." <i>German Politics</i> 28: pp. 332-349.	

	<i>Thurs, Feb 11: Far Right Parties (France)</i>	Surel, Yves. (2019). "How to Stay Populist? The Front National and the Changing French Party System." <i>West European Politics</i> 46: pp. 1230-1257.	
Week 6	<i>Tues, Feb 16: Voting, Elections, Referenda</i>	Bale, Tim. (2017). "Elections, voting and referendums—systems, turnout, preferences and unpredictability." Chapter 6 in <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i> .	
Regional Arrangements: European Union	<i>Thurs, Feb. 18: Creation</i>	<u>Europe Through the Generations or From WWII to EU</u> & Research Paper in-class workshop – LITERATURE REVIEW	
Week 7	<i>Tues, Feb 23: Evolution</i>	Bache et al. (2011). "Revival of EU Integration." Chapter 8 in <i>The Politics of the European Union</i> . Oxford University Press.	
	<i>Thurs, Feb 25: Infrastructure & Treaties</i>	Bache et al. (2011). "The Institutional Architecture." Chapter 8 in <i>The Politics of the European Union</i> . Oxford University Press.	
Week 8:	<i>Tues, Mar 2: Eurozone</i>	Wallace et al. (2015). "Policy-making under the EMU..." pp. 167-194 in Chapter 7 of <i>Policy-Making in the European Union</i> .	
Key EU Institutions	<i>Thurs, Mar 4: EU Commission and the EU Council (Executive Power)</i>	Chapter 1, in <i>At the Heart of the Union</i> , by Neil Nugent	SECTION 1 OF PAPER DUE THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 11:59PM!
Week 9	<i>Tues, Mar 9: EU Parliament and Council of Ministers (Legislative Power)</i>	Wallace et al. (2015). "An Institutional Anatomy and Five Policy Modes", pp. 72-111 in Chapter 4 of <i>Policy-Making in the European Union</i> .	
	<i>Thurs, Mar 11: ECJ and ECHR (Judicial Power)</i>	McCormick and Olsen (2013). "The European Court of Justice.", Chapter 8, in <i>The European Union: Politics and Policies</i> , Available online through the Moffatt Library. READ ONLINE, DON'T DOWNLOAD, SO OTHERS IN THE CLASS CAN HAVE ACCESS! *optional: Keleman and Pavone, (2019). "The Evolving Judicial Politics of European Integration: The European Court of Justice and National Courts Revisited." <i>European Law Journal</i> (25) 4.	
Week 10: EU External Relations	<i>Tues, Mar 16: EU Community/ Enlargement</i>	Epstein and Jacoby, (2014). "Eastern Enlargement Ten Years On: Transcending the East-West Divide?" - <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> , 52 (1), pp. 1-16.	
	<i>Thurs, Mar 18: EU</i>	EXAM	
Week 11: Pervasive Regional Issues	<i>Tues, Mar 23: Internal Conflict</i>	Cottey, A. (2009). The Kosovo War in Perspective. <i>International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)</i> , 85(3), pp. 593-608.	

	Thurs, Mar 25: 2008 Economic Crisis	Wade, Robert (2009). "Iceland as Icarus." <i>Challenge</i> . & Research Paper in-class workshop –	
Week 12	Tues, Mar 30: 2015 Refugee Crisis & Immigration	Bale, Tim. (2017). "Not wanted, but needed – migrants and minorities." Chapter 10 in <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i> .	
	March 31- Apr 4:	Holiday Break-No Classes	SECTION TWO OF THE PAPER, DUE SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 11:59PM, and DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR PAPER MEETING
Week 13	Tues, Apr 6: Domestic & International Terrorism	Vasilopoulos and Brouard. (June, 2020), "System Justification and Affective Responses to Terrorism: Evidence from the November 15 Paris Attacks" in <i>Political Psychology</i> , 41(3), pp. 569-586.	
	Thurs, Apr 8: Brexit	Clark, Harold, Matthew Goodwin, and Paul Whiteley. (2017). "Why Britain Voted for Brexit: An Individual Level Analysis of the 2016 Referendum Vote." <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> (70), pp. 439-464. OR "On Irish Border, Worries That 'Brexit' Will Undo a Hard-Won Peace." <i>New York Times</i> , August 5, 2017.	
Week 14: Global Relationships	Tues, Apr 13:	Mandatory Paper Pt II meeting – Group I	
	Thurs, April 15: EU Near Neighborhood	Pänke, Julian (2019), "Liberal Empire, Geopolitics and EU Strategy: Norms and Interests in European Foreign Policy Making." in <i>Geopolitics</i> , 24 (1), pp. 100-123 *Optional Forsberg, Tuomas (2016), "From Ostpolitik to 'frostpolitik...'" in <i>International Affairs</i> 92 (1), pp. 21-42	
Week 15	Tues, Apr 20:	Mandatory Paper Pt II meeting – Group II	
	Thurs, Apr 22: EU-US Relations	Polyakova, A., & Haddad, B. (2019). Europe Alone: What Comes After the Transatlantic Alliance. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , (4), 109. AND Article, "Harvesting personal data and requiem for the EU-US Privacy Shield", by CEPS Policy Insights, 2017	
FINALS	Tues, Apr 27	Final Paper due	DUE AT 11 AM!

Basic Citation Guide (for more detail and specific style guides, see citation guide on D2L)

1. If an idea is yours, or if you are stating a well-known fact, you do not need to provide a citation.

Examples: I argue that the presence of nuclear weapons would have prevented war.

The First World War began in 1914.

2. If you borrow an idea from a source but put it in your own words, you must cite the source after you use it. There is no need to use quotation marks. However, changing a couple of words from a source is not enough to “put it in your own words.” Rather, you should incorporate the idea into the context of your argument in a more complete way.

In your citation, put the author’s name in parentheses along with the date of publication. If you are citing a chapter from an edited volume, be sure to use the name of the chapter author rather than the name of the editor. This is in-text citation as used by the APA format you need to follow for your written assignments.

Example: With the withdrawal of American forces from Europe after the Cold War, the chances for another European war increased (Mearsheimer 1990).

3. If you take a quotation word for word from a source, you should put it in quotation marks and cite the author, publication date, and page number. While a well-placed quote can strengthen a paper, however, you should avoid relying too much on the statements of others. In other words, use direct quotes sparingly.

Example: “Moral arguments move and constrain people” (Nye 2005, p. 20).

In addition to citing your sources in the body of your paper, you should include a “Bibliography” page at the end. On this page, you should provide full citations for all of the sources that you used. The following is a guide to proper citation format:

For books: Goldstein, J.S. (2005) *International Relations, Sixth Edition*. New York: Longman.

For articles: Allison, G.T. (1969) Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *The American Political Science Review*, 63(3), 689-712.

For chapters in edited volumes:

Wheeler, N.J. and Booth, K. (1992) The Security Dilemma. in J. Baylis and N.J. Regger (Eds.), *Dilemmas of World Politics* (pp. 29-43). New York: Oxford University Press.

For websites: World Bank. Trends in Average Tariff Rates for Developing and Developed Countries, 1980-99 (Unweighted in %). Available from www.worldbank.org/wbi/trade/data/TR_Data.html. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2003. (accessed: DATE)

If relying on websites for material, you should also take care that your source is reputable.

Final course grade will be posted to D2L once all work has been assessed.

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