

PSC 361
European Politics
UWSP
Spring 2022
MW 2-3:15pm
SCI B338

Prof. John C. Blakeman

Office: SCI D337

Office Hours: T, Th, 10am-12 noon; and by appointment. Zoom appointments are possible.

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Course Requirements

This course focuses on politics in Europe. The first section of the course looks at thematic issues in European politics, such as parliaments, executives, political parties, and constitutions and judges. We then focus in depth on several countries: Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Poland, and the European Union.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- learn about the basic political institutions and public policies of key European political systems;**
- research and analyze political institutions, behavior, and public policies in European politics;**
- critically analyze political affairs in Europe; and**
- compare politics in Europe and the United States.**

Grade distribution:

A	94-100%	A-	90-93%		
B+	87-89%	B	84-86%	B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%	C	74-76%	C-	70-73%
D+	66-69%	D	60-65%	F	<60%

Grading:

Participation	20%	Midterm Exam	20%
Paper #1	15%	Final Exam	20%
Paper #2	25%		

Grading Rubrics:

Grade rubrics are posted in Canvas. You should review them prior to submitting papers and exams.

Due Dates/Opening and Closing Times of Assignments

Paper #1: Due Friday February 11, 11:59pm.

Paper #2: Due Saturday May 6, 11:59pm.

Mid-Term Essay: Prompt opens in Canvas Saturday March 12, 8am. Essay must be submitted no later than Saturday March 19, 11:59pm.

Final Exam Essay: Prompt opens in Canvas Thursday May 12 8am. Essay must be submitted no later than THURSDAY May 19, 5pm. NOTE that this deadline is different than others.

Participation:

20% your semester grade is based on participation in class. In order to receive the most participation points you have to attend class consistently. Excessive absences will automatically reduce your participation grade.

Late Assignment Policy: all assignments are to be submitted to Canvas by the due dates. See the late assignment policy for this course in Canvas for specific information about how to submit assignments after the Canvas deadline, and the grade penalties for late submissions.

No Screens: You may NOT use any device with a screen during class, unless you have my explicit permission to do so or you have permission from the Learning Resources Office. Stay off your phones.

Statement on Academic Integrity: I take very seriously the issue of academic integrity—the idea that academic honesty is a vital part of higher education. For the UWSP policy on academic integrity—what it is, and violations of it—I refer you to the Community Rights and Responsibilities Document given to all UWSP students. Academic misconduct in this course may result in sanctions, which may include (but are not limited to: a 0 on a specific assignment; a failing grade in the course; removal from the course.

Student Privacy: Federal law protects your privacy as a college student, which means your academic records generally cannot be released without your permission. Therefore, I cannot discuss your grades and classroom performance with your roommate, friends, and even parents.

Communication: I will use UWSP e-mail as the main means of communicating with the class. I expect you to monitor your university e-mail account frequently. You must have access to UWSP e-mail and CANVAS in order to take this course.

COURSE CHANGES: IN ORDER TO KEEP THE COURSE AS CURRENT AS POSSIBLE THE SYLLABUS MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME.

Text Rental: *Politics in Europe* (7th edition) by M. Donald Hancock, et al. (Sage/CQ Press, 2019).

Course Outline

January

24	Introduction
26/31	Main themes: institutions, parties, elections, policies, economies... Modern European History and Democratization. Start reading the textrental Read the following polls in Canvas: PEW Poll: <u>Public Opinion Three Decades After the Fall of Communism</u> ; SKIM pages 3-20; 37-38; 40-41; 43-47; 52-68; 80-89; 98-102. PEW Poll: <u>Political Grievances in US and Europe</u> ; pages 1-30.

February

2/7	As above
	Paper #1 DUE February 11, 11:59pm
9,14,16,21	Great Britain <u>Politics in Europe</u> , 3-71; 87-95 *Special lecture/topic: Brexit
23,28	France <u>Politics in Europe</u> , 99-148; 168-170; 174-182; 199-209

March

2, 7	France *Special lecture/topic: the 2022 French Presidential Elections and the far right
9,14,16	Germany <u>Politics in Europe</u> , 217-290; 296-299; 302-313

	Mid-term Essay Exam Opens Saturday March 12 at 8am and closes Friday March 18 at 11:59pm.
21/23	SPRING BREAK
28,30	Germany *Special Lecture/topic: the 2021 German Election, the post-Merkel era, and the far right

April

4,6,11,13	Russia <u>Politics in Europe</u> , 319-557; 574-580 *Special lecture/topic: Why does Russia want Ukraine?
18,28,	Poland <u>Politics in Europe</u> , 585-636
25,27	The European Union, Textbook Part 8

May

2,4,9,11	European Union
	Paper #2 DUE Saturday May 6 at 11:59pm in Canvas.
	Final Exam Essay opens Thursday May 12 at 8am and closes Thursday May 19 at 5pm.

Paper Assignments

Paper #1:

Review the Spring 2021 poll published by PEW: *Political Grievances in the US and Europe*. It is available in Canvas. Relate some of the conclusions in the poll to broader themes, issues, concepts we've covered in class.

This is NOT a research paper. You are to use ONLY the PEW poll and your textbook. Your paper is graded on your own thoughts and analysis.

This is a formal writing assignment. Do not write in the first or second person.

Minimum word count is 750 words.

Paper #2:

This is a longer writing assignment of at least 2000 words.

The purpose of this assignment is for you to use a publicly accessible database and big data to help you understand European politics. You will use the World Values Survey to provide your data.

Using only the textbook, focus on at least three countries studied this semester OR covered in the textbook and pick two or three issues discussed in the textbook that you find interesting. Investigate those issues with public opinion data on your countries from the World Values Survey.

You must include the following elements:

1. What claim or issue did you choose from the textbook material on your country? Why? Be very specific and clear about what you are doing.
2. What WVS questions did you choose to help understand the textbook? Why? Again, specifically state, with clarity, your questions and why they were chosen.
3. What are your conclusions?
4. Provide at minimum three descriptive graphs. All graphs must be embedded in your paper. Screen shots of data pages are not acceptable and will not be graded.

Your paper should primarily use the textbook and WVS data. Other sources are to be used minimally for this assignment.

This is NOT a research paper. It is an analytical paper in which you use current data to highlight, explain, and elucidate a particular topic of European politics.

There is a video in Canvas on the World Values Survey and how to use it online.