



Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POL387 H1F
POLITICS IN EUROPE

Thursdays, 11:00-13:00
Location: SS 1085

Professor Randall Hansen
Office: Munk N319
Email: r.hansen@utoronto.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays, 13:30-14:45

Course Description

Europe is fascinating. The continent has overcome a history of war and ethnic hatred, massive inequality, aristocratic privilege, and genocidal racism to create a zone of peace and prosperity. Across Western Europe, the welfare state is far more generous than anything found in North America. In the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden), gender and economic equality are unmatched on the planet. Its cities are among the most beautiful on earth, and their concert halls and museums are outstanding. But the cities are themselves anything but museums: they are magnets for immigrants from across the world, and Berlin, London, Paris, and Madrid, among others, teem with people and crackle with energy. Northern Italy, Southern Germany, Catalonia, Île de France (the Paris region), and the Nordic countries are some of the most economically dynamic places on earth.

Yet they face many challenges, including rising anti-immigrant sentiment and steadily increasing support for the far right. Further contentious issues include a history of racism, genocide, and colonialism that has not been fully confronted, diverging patterns of prosperity between northern and southern Europe, and a militaristic and expansionist Russia that threatens both invasion and everything for which postwar Europe stands.

Organized around dramatic events, strange paradoxes, and puzzling outcomes, the course will provide students with an introduction to the study of Western Europe.

Course & Learning Objectives

The main objectives of this course are to:

1. Develop an understanding of, and hopefully a passion for, the history, politics, and society of postwar Western Europe.
2. Improve your analytical skills.

3. Compare and contrast European political systems to better understand them and to develop your skills in comparative politics further.

Textbook

There is no required text for the course. Articles and appropriate links will be found on Quercus.

Course Requirements

1. Discussion paper: 25%

Write 2,000 words in response to the following Rachman Review (*Financial Times*) podcast: [Britain's role in a changing Europe](#) (also available on Spotify):

What are the podcast's arguments regarding the difference a new Labour government can make for the UK's relationship with the EU? Is personality as important as the podcast suggests? Is France taking a hard line toward the UK, and if so, why? Would trading security cooperation for economic cooperation work? What is dynamic realignment? What sort of constraints would a sector-by-sector renegotiate face (think about how the single market works and the scope for 'cherry-picking')? Would it really reduce "quite a bit" of the economic damage?

Use at least eight sources for your essay. Five of them must be peer-reviewed. The remainder may be book chapters, quality dailies and weeklies, or reliable podcasts.

ChatGPT is allowed, although it is not advisable. If you do use ChatGPT, you must add a separate paragraph on how you used it. Which questions did you ask/which instructions did you give? *You are **NOT** allowed to have generative AI write your entire assignment for you, as this would constitute plagiarism. You still need to write your own essay. If you use ideas or quote text directly from generative AI, you must provide proper attribution: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>.*

Keep in mind that generative AI can provide incomplete, biased, incorrect, or otherwise unreliable information. You are responsible for the quality of your submitted work, which includes demonstrating a deep understanding of the material and developing a clear and thorough analysis.

Due: October 9, 2024, at 11:59 pm. Submit to Quercus.

2. In-Class Mid-Term: 35%: October 17, 2024

3. Final Exam: 40%: Content to be discussed in class. You will have to show evidence of readings, so keep up on them and take notes.

Late Penalties & Extensions

The penalty for late submission is a modest **3% per day** (*including weekends*), to a maximum of two weeks.

Extensions must be requested for legitimate reasons (illness, family tragedy) at least three full days before the essay is due (for instance, by 11:59 pm on October 6 for the written assignment). After that, extensions given will come with a penalty. **Extensions are in all cases for a maximum of two weeks; after that, no work will be accepted.** This policy may appear firm, however, there is no ill will implied by it; on the contrary, managing deadlines is an essential life skill, and private-sector employers take an uncompromising view of deadlines. We are not doing you any favors with an overly generous extension policy. Start your work early, and you will have no difficulty meeting deadlines. Good luck!

Email Communication

Students are encouraged to raise questions in class. **Email should be a last, not a first, resort.** Asking questions in class will benefit other students, and it will increase your confidence in public speaking (another essential life skill). For matters that cannot be raised in class, TA and instructor emails are:

Teaching Assistant:

Arina Dmitrenko: arina.dmitrenko@mail.utoronto.ca [Email hours: 9am-5pm].

Instructor:

r.hansen@utoronto.ca [Email hours: 9am-5pm]. I will try to respond within 48 hours, weekends excepted.

Please include your course number in the subject line when emailing.

Essay Submission

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool on Quercus for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq> ([Links to an external site.](#)))

Academic misconduct

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Course Resources & Technology

Quercus

This course uses Quercus for accessing announcements, readings, PowerPoint slides, and online discussions. Make sure to have access to Quercus and check it regularly.

Zoom: As the first, introductory class, is online, please create a Zoom account with your university email (<https://utoronto.zoom.us>). The rest of the class is in-person, but events, as one British Prime Minister put it, might force us to resort to Zoom.

Course Schedule

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

1. September 5: Introduction: A Phoenix from the Ashes

Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945*, pp. 1-41.

****NB: this class will be online****

POST-WAR POLITICS

2. September 12: Between the Scylla of Nazism and the Charybdis of Weimar: German democracy

Manfred G. Schmidt. "Germany: The Grand Coalition State," 2015, pp. 1-36.

Dalia Marin, "Germany's Divided Soul," *Project Syndicate* (2019).

Timothy Garton Ash, "The New German Question," *The New York Review of Books*, August 15, 2013.

Guy Chazan, "Germany's Tangled Relationship with Russia," *Financial Times*, May 22, 2023.

Kati Marton, *The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel* (Simon and Schuster, 2021), "Dictators:" 101-121.

3. September 19: How do you govern a country with 246 varieties of cheese? The French 5th Republic

Vincent Wright and Andrew Knapp, *Government & Politics of France* (2006), pp. 24-31 & 49-53.

Kesselman et al., *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (8th edition), 2019, chapter 3 ("France").

Sophie Meunier. "Is France Still Relevant?" *French Politics, Culture & Society* vol. 35 no. 2,

2017: 59-75.

Zaretsky, Robert. "[France Is at a Historic Turning Point - and It Has Been Here Before](#)," *POLITICO*, July 14, 2024.

Hanne Cokelore, "[How France Voted: Charts and Maps](#)," *Politico*, July 8, 2024.

4. September 26: Broken Britain: the Westminster Model in the Shadow of Brexit

Vernon Bogdanor, *The New British Constitution* (2009), chapter 1 ('A Peculiar Constitution').

Leruth, B., Gänzle, S., and Trondal, J. (2019) Differentiated Integration and Disintegration in the EU after Brexit: Risks versus Opportunities. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 57: 1383–1394.

Leslie Vinjamurie, "How Brexit and Boris Broke Britain," *Foreign Affairs*, August 3, 2022.

Philip Pullman, "On the 1,000 Causes of Brexit," *The Guardian*, June 25, 2016.

Mujtaba Rahman, "The EU's approach to Britain and Brexit needs fixing," *Financial Times*, August 11, 2024.

Geoffrey Wheatcroft, "A Tenuous Mandate," *New York Review of Books*, August 15, 2024 [on the new Labour government).

5. October 3: Where Fascism failed to fail: Franco, Spain, and Spanish Democracy

Josep M. Colomer, "Political Institutions in a Comparative Perspective," in Diego Muro and Ignacio Lago (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics* (Oxford, 2020).

Nigel Townson, *The Penguin History of Modern Spain* (2023), chapter 10.

Financial Times, "Spain faces uncertain political future after election deadlock," *Financial Times*, July 24, 2023.

Sandrine Morel, "Catalonia's pro-independence movement lose regional majority," *Le Monde*, May 13, 2024.

6. October 10: In Search of Italy: The Second Italian Republic

Christopher Duggan, *The Force of Destiny: A History of Italy since 1796* (2008), 529-548

Robert Leonardi, *Government and Politics of Italy* (2017): chapter 4.

Diego Garzie, "The Italian parliamentary election of 2022," *West European Politics* (2023).

Ian Bremmer, "What Italy's Political Chaos Means for Europe," *Time Magazine* (July 23, 2022).

7. October 17: In-Class Midterm Examination

8. October 24: A social democratic paradise or welfare chauvinism? Nordic Europe

Gosta Esping-Anderson, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (1989), chapter 2.

Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, 2nd edition, Yale University Press, 2012, chapter 3, pp. 30-45.

David Andreas Bell Marco Strabac, "Nordic welfare chauvinism: A comparative study of welfare chauvinism in Sweden, Norway, and Finland," *Zan International social work*, 2023-11, Vol.66 (6), p.1786-1802.

October 31: Reading Week. No class. Enjoy Halloween but don't overdo it on the candy.

CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN SOCIETY

9. November 7: Capitalism with a Human Face: The European Economy

Patrick O'Neil et al., *Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics* (2021), political economy sections of the UK, France, and Germany chapters.

Kathleen Thelen, *Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity* (2014), chapter 1 ("Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity") and chapter six ("The Future of Egalitarian Capitalism").

10. November 14: Europe Unsettled: Migrants and Refugees on the Old Continent

Peter Gatrell, *The Unsettling of Europe*, part 5 (pp. TBA).

Randall Hansen, "Making Immigration Work: How Britain and Europe Can Cope with Their Immigration Crises." *Government and Opposition* (2016), pp. 183-208.

Rahsaan Maxwell, "Cultural Diversity and Its Limits in Western Europe." *Current History* (2016), pp. 95-101.

Arne Niemann and Natascha Zaun, "Introduction: EU external migration policy and EU migration governance," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* Vol. 49, No. 12 (2023): 2965-2985.

11. November 21: Gender and Sexuality

Jonathan Dean and Kristin Aune, 'Feminism Resurgent? Mapping Contemporary Feminist Activism in Europe,' *Social Movement Studies* (2015), pp. 375-395.

Laura Hughes. "How to Close the Gender Pay Gap." *Financial Times* (August 6, 2020).

Philip Ayoub and David Paternotte, "Europe and LGBT Rights: A Conflicted Relationship," in: Michael Bosia et al. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics*, 2019.

Maddy Savage, "[This might be the loneliest country for expats](#)," *BBC*, October 6, 2016.

11. November 28: The European Union: A Short History

David Phinnemore, "The European Union: Establishment and Development," in Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, *European Union Politics* (Oxford, 2022).

Final Exam. Location TBA.