POL207Y Politics in Europe
Carolina de Miguel and Francisco Beltran
University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
2018-2019

**Lecture Location and Meeting Time:** LM 161, Tuesday 12am -2pm
**Instructor (Fall):** Francisco Beltran (francisco.beltran@utoronto.ca)
**Instructor office hours (Fall):** 303N (Munk), Wednesday 4-6pm, Thursday 1:30-2:30pm
**Instructor (Spring):** Carolina de Miguel (carol.demiguel@utoronto.ca)
**Instructor office hours (Spring):** SS 3035
**TAs:** Gözde Boecue (gozde.bocu@mail.utoronto.ca) and Anna Kopec (anna.kopec@mail.utoronto.ca)

Description

This course introduces students to key questions, theories and methods in comparative politics through an exploration of European politics. We will cover theories of transitions to democracy, formation and development of the nation-state, political institutions and their effects, parties and party systems and elections and electoral behaviour. We will also analyze the major developments and challenges in Europe today such as the formation of the European Union, the eurozone crisis, the challenge to the European social model, the rise of extreme political parties and the recent migrant crisis. The goal is for students to become familiar with the politics and governments of contemporary Europe through the lens of current and classic themes in comparative politics.

Readings

The required readings for this course are based on a series of textbooks and a collection of book chapters, articles and other resources that are listed below. The textbooks are available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore or through Amazon. **Make sure you get the right edition.** They are also on reserve at Robarts Library. All other required readings are placed under course reserves for you to download and print. You can access your course reserve page through the link on your Quercus page or through the following live link: http://go.utlib.ca/coursereserves.


We will regularly refer to European and EU current events so you are expected to devote time to reading European and EU news. Here are a few suggestions of good news sources to follow: The Guardian:

**Course Evaluation and Requirements**

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<tr>
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<th>Due date</th>
<th>Submission guidelines</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map quiz</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Sep 25th</td>
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<td><strong>Fall assignments</strong></td>
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<td>Assignment I country report</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Oct 30th</td>
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<td>Quercus before lecture class starts and hard copy at the beginning of tutorial class</td>
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<td>Assignment II short paper</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Nov 27th</td>
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<td>Quercus before lecture class starts and hard copy at the beginning of tutorial class</td>
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<td>First midterm test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Dec 4th</td>
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<td>In lecture class, closed book and notes</td>
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<td><strong>Spring assignments</strong></td>
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<td>Assignment III long research paper, proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Feb 5th</td>
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<td>Quercus before lecture class starts and hard copy at the beginning of tutorial class (week of Feb 12th)</td>
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<td>Assignment IV long research paper, final paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 26th</td>
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<td>Quercus before lecture class starts and hard copy at the beginning of tutorial class</td>
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<td>Second midterm test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 2nd</td>
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<td>In lecture class, closed book and notes</td>
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- The course meets for two hours of lecture per week. Students are expected to attend lectures and to complete the assigned weekly readings. Although this is a large class we will encourage in-class participation. We expect participation to be thoughtful and respectful at all times. We expect you to turn off and put your cell phones away when class starts.

- You will have tutorials approximately once every two weeks. Tutorials serve the purpose of delving deeper into topics covered during lecture and in the readings, as well as provide guidance on your writing assignments. Tutorials will be graded based on attendance and, more importantly, informed in-class participation. Attending fewer than 60% of the tutorials, in either semester, could lead to a final tutorial grade of 0%. 

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• There is a midterm test at the end of each semester that is closed book and closed notes. Students are responsible for all materials covered in the readings, the lectures and the tutorials. Our lectures will not always cover everything in the readings but those readings could still appear in the midterm tests. The first midterm test will cover everything up to the date of the test. The second midterm test will mostly cover the material taught in the second half of the course (winter term), but will have some limited cumulative dimension.

• There are two written assignments in the fall semester (a country report and a short paper) and a longer paper in the spring semester (divided into proposal and final paper). Guidelines for both assignments will be distributed in class.

Course Policies

• Due Dates, Submission Procedures and Late Penalties: Please refer to the table above for deadlines and different submission formats for each assignment. Note that for the papers (and paper proposal) you will need to submit an electronic copy through Turnitin (in addition to a hard copy in lecture class). “Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com 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 Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

All work must be submitted on time. Late assignments will receive a 5% penalty for each late day or fraction of a day (weekends and holidays included). Late assignments should be submitted to the main office of the Political Science Department (3rd floor of Sidney Smith Hall), and should obtain a time stamp at the main office.1 Emailed or faxed copies of on-time or late assignments will not be accepted.

• Extensions for Assignments and Make-Up Tests: Extensions for assignments and make-up tests will only be granted in extenuating circumstances and with appropriate supporting documentation. According to the Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Handbook you can submit a written request for special consideration within one week of the missed test, attaching appropriate documentation, such as a medical certificate [...] or a College Registrar’s note.” If your extenuating circumstance is medical you must submit the original copy of a University of Toronto student medical certificate (http://www.illnessverifiation.utoronto.ca). Extensions and make-up tests are at my discretion and assignments in other courses are not grounds for an extension.

• Grade Appeal Policy: The final grade in the course cannot be appealed. You can appeal the grade for an individual assignment and/or test. Students have up to one month from the date of return of the item of term work to query the marking. The appeal must be made in writing to the TA that graded the work explaining the reasons of your dissatisfaction, making explicit references to the grading criteria and to the course and lecture materials. Such re-marking may involve the entire piece of work, and may raise or lower the mark. If the student is not satisfied with this re-evaluation, he or she may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course. According to the Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Handbook “any appeal of a mark beyond the instructor in the course may only be made for an item worth at least 20% of the course mark.”

• Contacting the Instructors: Please feel free to stop by the instructors’ offices during office hours each

1 Please note that the Political Science main office is not open on weekends and closes at 5:00 pm during weekdays. If the office is closed, there is a dropbox and your assignments will be considered as turned in that day, but note that in the weekends your assignment will be considered as turned in the following Monday.
semester (see above). We expect all lengthy and substantial conversations to happen during office hours rather than by email. For non-substantive questions you can e-mail us at carol.demiguel@utoronto.ca and francisco.beltran@utoronto.ca, including “POL 207Y” in the subject line. We will respond within two working days during weekdays. The TAs for this course will also hold office hours (TBD) and we encourage you to attend them if you need extra assistance on writing assignments or clarifications on course material.

• **Quercus, Announcements and Lecture Outlines:** We will use Quercus to manage this course and to communicate with you outside of class time. It is your responsibility to have an active U of T e-mail address and to access Quercus regularly. We will post announcements through Quercus as well as any new resource or reading material that we consider important for the course. We will post our lecture outlines after class. The outlines point out the structure of the lecture, and the topics and central concepts it covers. As such, they can assist in reviewing the lecture material afterwards. Note, however, that the outlines are ‘bare-bone’ and cannot be used as a substitute for attendance and detailed lecture notes.

• **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. While we don’t expect to encounter instances of cheating in this class, you should be aware that we take academic integrity very seriously, and that there are significant consequences if you are caught cheating or engaging in academic misconduct. You are expected to know what constitutes Academic Integrity and familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

  - In papers and assignments: Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. Making up sources or facts. Including references to sources that you did not use. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
  - On tests and exams: Using or possessing unauthorized aids. Looking at someone else’s answers during an exam or test. Misrepresenting your identity. Submitting an altered test for re-grading.
  - In academic work: Falsifying institutional documents or grades. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor’s notes.

• **Academic Integrity Checklist:** To remind you of these expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, you must include a printed and signed Academic Integrity Checklist with all assignments (the academic integrity check list is posted on Quercus). If you do not include the Academic Integrity Checklist with your assignments, your work will not be graded. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from us, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources. Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their research paper and other assignments.

• **Accessibility Needs:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please let us know and contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

• **Alteration of the Syllabus:** The course schedule and readings may be subject to revision over the
course of the semester. Any change in the grading scheme (which we do not expect will happen) will have to be approved by the students of this course in accordance to university regulations.

Course Schedule

September 11th – Introduction


September 18th – Origins of the modern state

Questions: How can we think about the creation of states? How does it help us understand contemporary events in Europe (especially in the context of the EU)?

Clark et al. Chapter 4, 2nd edition: pp. 87-91; 100-119 (skip “A Brief History of a Failed State”);
3rd edition: pp. 89-92; 100-120 (skip “Somalia and Syria: Two Failed States”)


September 25th – Making and breaking governments in European democracies – In class: Map Quiz


October 2nd – Elections and electoral systems

Question: What are the major trade-offs between different electoral systems?


Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver & Peter Mair. 2006. Representative Government in Western Europe, table 11.1 (pp. 344-345) and table 11.4 (pp. 352-353).


October 9th – Parties and party systems in Europe

Questions: What are political parties? Where do they come from? How do we explain the type and number of parties?


October 16th – Populism in Europe

Questions: What factors have contributed to the recent rise of extreme right parties Europe? Are they the same factors that explain the rise of extreme left parties? Are all extremist parties the same?


October 23rd – Veto players: federalism, bicameralism, constitutionalism

Clark et al. “Chapter 15. Institutional Veto Players”.

October 30th – Nationalism and secessionism

Questions: What is a nation? How do nations relate to states? Which are the main European secessionist movements? What explains the recent rise in minority nationalisms in Europe?


Watch: Simon Hix on the results of the Scottish independence referendum, September 2014: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQaRfj7sx0g

November 13th – Revolutions and democratic transitions in Eastern Europe

Clark et al. “Chapter 8. Democratic Transitions”.


November 6th – Fall break - No class

November 20th – Effects of political institutions: representation and accountability


November 27th – Effects of political institutions: economic and social outcomes


December 4th – Mid-Term Test 1: in class

January 8th – Origins of European integration

Questions: What explains the process of European Integration? How and why did European states decide to give up sovereignty to a supranational organization?

January 15th – Towards an ever closer union

Dinan, Desmond. Ever Closer Union, 73-102.


January 22nd – Towards an ever wider union

Questions: Why did the EU decide to enlarge eastward? What were the consequences of that enlargement? What are the politics of enlargement today? What is the view on Turkey?

Dinan, Desmond, pp. 133-143; pp. 484-493.

Watch: “What is the EU’s Future?” (on enlargement) (Watson Institute, Brown University): only the presentation of the two speakers (not the Q&A), from minute 7:40 to 49:18. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeoulpKB2zE

January 29th – The institutions of the EU

Questions: How does the EU compare to existing political systems? What type of regime does the EU have? How is policy made in the EU?


February 5th – The Constitutional Treaty and the democratic deficit in the EU

Questions: What does it mean to have a political union? Why did the Constitutional Treaty fail to be ratified? Does the EU have a democratic deficit? If so, does it matter?

Dinan, Desmond. Ever Closer Union, 143-156.

February 12th – **Monetary union and the eurozone crisis**

Questions: Is the current crisis in Europe a financial problem, a political problem or a moral problem? What is the best way forward?


“Jurgen Habermas's verdict on the EU/Greece debt deal”: http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/16/jurgen-habermas-eu-greece-debt-deal

February 19th – **Spring break — no class**

February 26th – **EU and its citizens**


March 5th – **EU parties and elections**


March 12th – **Europe in crisis: Brexit**

Questions: What factors (long-term and short-term) led to Brexit referendum? What explains the outcome of the referendum? Why was it hard to predict? What is the path forward for the UK?


Browse: BBC “Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU”: http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887

March 19th – Europe in crisis: the end of the European social model?

Questions: What is a welfare state? What are the origins of the welfare state? What are the types of welfare state? Is the European social model in crisis? Why or why not?


Pontusson, Jonas. Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal American, chapters 1-2.

March 26th – Europe in crisis: refugees, immigration, and terrorism

Bale, Tim. “Chapter 10. Not wanted but needed - migrants and minorities” in European Politics


April 2nd — Final test: in class