POL 207Y Politics in Europe
Carolina de Miguel Moyer
University of Toronto Department of Political Science
2019-2020

Lecture: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00 PM (SS 2135 Fall term; LM 161 Winter term)
Instructor: Carolina de Miguel Moyer (carol.demiguel@utoronto.ca)
Office hours: Tues 4:30-5:30 PM (SS 3035)

TAs: Salar Asadolahi (salar.asadolahi@mail.utoronto.ca)
Selin Kepenek (selin.kepenek@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, Brexit, the rise of populism and extreme right parties and challenges of immigration and incorporation of minorities. 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.

Learning objectives

• become familiar with the politics and governments of European countries
• critically engage academic work in comparative politics
• interpret basic quantitative evidence from media sources and academic articles
• conduct social science research: formulate research questions and hypotheses and test them

Readings
There is no single textbook for this course. You are required to purchase the two books listed below. Make sure you get the right edition. The two books are also on physical reserves at Robarts Library. The rest of required readings consist of a series of book chapters, articles and other resources that are all available online through Quercus (library course reserves).


We will regularly refer to European current events so I encourage you to read international newspapers. Here are a few suggestions of good news sources to follow: The Guardian, The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Economist, Der Spiegel (English version), The European Voice, The EU observer, Other respected sources of analysis in languages you might be familiar with (El Pais, Le Monde...).

## Course Evaluation and Requirements

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<th>Due Date Submission Guidelines</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorials 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map quiz Sept 24th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer review of proposal Jan 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance, participation &amp; other</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Midterm Test 20% Dec 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>In lecture (closed book and notes)</td>
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<td>Fall Assignments</td>
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<td>I Critical review 10% Oct 22nd</td>
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<td>II Research Proposal 15% Nov 26th</td>
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<td>Winter Assignments</td>
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<td>III Review academic article 5% Feb 4th</td>
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<td>IV Final Research Paper 20% March 24th</td>
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<td>Final Exam 20% TBD TBD (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 I will encourage in-class participation. I expect participation to be thoughtful and respectful at all times. I 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, clarifying concepts and providing guidance on your writing assignments. Tutorials will be graded based on attendance, informed in-class participation, a map quiz, a peer review exercise and other assignments (at the discretion of your TA).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial # 1 Week 3</td>
<td>Tutorial # 6 Week 14</td>
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<td>Tutorial # 4 Week 10</td>
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<td>Tutorial # 5 Week 11</td>
<td>Tutorial # 10 Week 23</td>
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- There is a midterm test at the end of the Fall term and a final exam at the end of the Winter term. Both are closed book and closed notes. Students are responsible for all materials.
covered in the readings, the lectures and the tutorials. My lectures will not always cover everything in the readings but those readings could still appear in the midterm test or final exam. The first midterm test will cover everything up to the date of the test. The final exam will mostly cover the material taught in the second half of the course, but will have a limited cumulative dimension.

- There are two written assignments in the Fall term (a brief critical review and a research proposal), and two written assignments in the Winter term (a review of an academic article and a final research paper). In addition, you will do a peer review of another student’s research proposal within tutorials.

Course Policies

- Due dates, submission procedures and late penalties: Please refer to the table above for deadlines. Note that all assignments are submitted online through Quercus (in doc or docx extensions only) and automatically processed through Turnitin. “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. Assignments submitted any time after the start of lecture on the due date will be treated as late. There will be a penalty of 4% per each late day or fraction of a day (including weekends and holidays). Assignments submitted after the start of lecture but before 5pm on the due date will be subject to a penalty of 2%. The cut off time for the determination of each late day is 5pm. Hard copy, emailed or faxed copies of on-time or late assignments will not be accepted.

- Extensions for assignments and make-up tests: Extensions 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.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). Extensions and make-up tests are at the discretion of the main instructor 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 (which is not always your own TA) 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 instructor**: I expect all lengthy and substantial conversations to happen during office hours (Tuesdays 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm in my office SS 3035). For non-substantive questions you can e-mail me at carol.demiguel@utoronto.ca including “POL 207Y” in the subject line. I will respond within 2 working days during weekdays. The TAs for this course will also hold office hours (TBD) and I encourage you to attend them if you need extra assistance on writing assignments or clarifications on course material.

- **Announcements and lecture outlines**: I 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. I will post announcements, grades, lecture slides (at the end of class) and any new resource or reading material that I consider important for the course.

- **Academic integrity and plagiarism**: Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. While I don’t expect to encounter instances of cheating in this class, you should be aware that I 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.

- **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 me 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 year. Any change in the grading scheme (which I do not expect will happen) will have to be approved by the students of this course in accordance to university regulations.
Course Schedule

Week 1: September 10th – Introduction

What is Comparative Politics? Why study European politics? What is Europe and who is European? Relevance of East-West divide.


Week 2: September 17th – Origins of the modern state

What is a State? The prisoners’ dilemma. How does the prisoner’s dilemma help us understand contemporary events in Europe?


Week 3: September 24th – Nationalism and stateless nations in Europe

What is a nation? How do nations relate to states? What explains violent versus peaceful state breakup? What explains the recent rise in minority nationalism in Europe?


Week 4: October 1st – Protests, revolutions and democratic transitions: Eastern and Southern Europe


Background Reading
Week 5: October 8th – Elections, electoral systems and referenda

What are the major trade-offs between different electoral systems? Are referenda good or bad? Reflections on the Brexit referendum.

- “Nick Clegg says PR is essential to preserve smaller partners in coalitions,” The Guardian, Sunday July 12th

Week 6: October 15th – Parties and party systems

What are political parties? Where do they come from? How do we explain the type and number of parties? Social cleavages. Duverger’s Law. Contemporary developments of European party systems: fragmentation and implosion of mainstream parties.

- Tarik Abou-Chadi. “Why Germany and Europe can’t afford to accommodate the radical right” Monkey Cage, Washington Post, September 4, 2019:

Week 7: October 22nd – The rise of populism and far right parties

What is populism? What is the most relevant difference between right wing and left wing populism? What factors have contributed to the rise of extreme right parties in Europe?

- Mudde, Cas “Populism isn’t dead. Here are five things you need to know about it”
- “The Guardian view of Europe’s populists: left or right, they are united by a worrying xenophobia,” The Guardian, February 1st, 2015: http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/01/guardian-view-europe-populists-left-right-united-worrying-xenophobia

Suggested
• Arzheimer, Kai and Carl C. Berning. 2019. “How the Alternative for Germany (AfD) and their voters veered to the radical right” Electoral Studies, 20132017.
• “The winds are changing: a new left populism for Europe”, LSE, February 16th, 2015: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/eurocrisispress/2015/02/16/the-winds-are-changing-a-new-left-populism-for-europe/

Week 8: October 29th – Making and breaking governments

• Bale. 2017. Chapter 4 excerpt: 105-133.
• Field, Bonnie N. “Is something wrong with Spain’s political leaders?” Monkey Cage

Suggested:

November 5th – Fall reading week – No class

Week 9: November 12th – Veto players: federalism, bicameralism, constitutionalism


Week 10: November 19th – Effect of political institutions: Part I

• Clark et al. 2018. Chapter 16 Consequences of Democratic Institutions, pp. 701-725.

Week 11: November 26th – Effect of political institutions: Part II


Suggested:

**Week 12: December 3rd – Mid-Term Test I: In Class**

**Week 13: January 7th – Origins of European integration**
Is the EU a State? What explains the process of European Integration? How and why did European states decide to give up sovereignty to a supranational organization?


Suggested
• Watch: A German Europe? (Empire-The Debate: Al Jazeera English) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XksZYV3-6eg

**Week 14: January 14th – Towards an ever closer union**


**Week 15: January 21st – Towards an ever wider union**

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?

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

Week 16: January 28th – The institutions of the EU
How does the EU compare to existing political systems? What type of regime does the EU have? How is policy made in the EU?


Week 17: February 4th – The Constitutional Treaty and the democratic deficit in the EU
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?


Week 18: February 11th – Monetary union and Eurozone crisis
Is the eurozone crisis in Europe a financial problem, a political problem or a moral problem? Evaluating responses to the crises? What have been the consequences of the crises? What is the best way forward?

- “Jurgen Habermas’s veredict on the EU/Greece debt deal”: http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/16/jurgen-habermas-eu-greece-debt-deal?CMP=share

February 18th – Winter Reading Week: No class

Week 19: February 25th – EU parties and elections
Are EU elections different from national elections? To what extent are parties and voters europeanized? What changed in the most recent EP election (May 2019)?


**Week 20: March 3rd – Public Opinion in the EU**

How do citizens of EU countries feel about the EU? Is anti-EU sentiment on the rise? What impact is it having/might it have in the future?

- Sara B. Hobolt and Catherine E. de Vries. 2016 Public Support for European Integration. APSR 41332

**Week 21: March 10th – The Challenge of Brexit**

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


**Week 22: March 17th – Gender and politics in Europe**

- Bauhr, Monika et al. 2019. “Exclusion or interests? Why females in elected office reduce petty and grand corruption” EJPR

*Suggested*
• Niels Spieringsa and Andrej Zasloveb. 2017. “Gender, populist attitudes, and voting: explaining the gender gap in voting for populist radical right and populist radical left parties” *West European Politics*, Volume 40, 2017 - Issue 4

**Week 23:** March 24th – *Immigration, integration and conflict*


**Week 24:** March 31st – *Liberal democracy at risk?*

What does the illiberal turn look like? What should the EU do? Review for final exam.

• Vachudova, Milada Anna. “The EU’s eastward enlargement and the illiberal turn”
• Zilinsky, Jan. “Democratic deconsolidation revisited: Young Europeans are not dissatisfied with democracy”. *Research and Politics* January -March 2019: 17
• Milanovic, Branko. “This time is different” in *Social Europe* (17th June 2019): [https://www.socialeurope.eu/time-is-different](https://www.socialeurope.eu/time-is-different)

**FINAL EXAM – DATE AND LOCATION TBD**