



Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POL387 H1F: POLITICS IN EUROPE

Thursdays, 9:00-11:00

Location: OI 2212

Professor Randall Hansen

Office: Munk N319

Email: r.hansen@utoronto.ca

Office hours: Thursdays, 11:15-12:30

NB: this is a new course, and the syllabus is a work in progress. The requirements will not be adjusted but the readings (September 7 excepted) might be.

Course Description

Europe is fascinating. The continent overcame 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, and 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, and Rome, 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, and hopefully a passion, for the history, politics, and society of postwar Western Europe.
2. Improve your research and writing skills.
3. Compare and contrast European countries to better understand them and to develop further your skills in comparative politics.

Textbook

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

Course Requirements

1. Podcast discussion paper 1: 20%

Write 750 words in response to the following *The Rest is Politics* podcast. Details TBA.

Due: September 27, 2023, at 11:59 pm. Submit to Quercus.

2. Podcast discussion paper 2: 20%

Write 750 words in response to the following podcast. Details TBA

Due: October 11, 2023, at 11:59pm. Submit to Quercus.

3. Short Research Essay (2000 words): 40%

Details TBA.

Due: November 15, 2023, at 11:59pm. Submit to Quercus.

4. Final In-Class Test: 20%: November 30, 2023

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 a full three days before the essay is due (for instance, by 11:59 pm on September 23 for the first assignment). After that, no extensions are given. **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 Assistants:

TBA

Instructor:

r.hansen@utoronto.ca [Email hours: 9am-5pm]. I will try to respond within 24 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 web site (<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

Although this class will be held in-person, please create a Zoom account with your university email address (<https://utoronto.zoom.us>). Events, as one British Prime Minister put, might force us to resort to zoom.

Course Schedule

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

1. September 7: Introduction: A Phoenix from the Ashes

Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945*, pp. 3-41.

POST-WAR POLITICS

2. September 14: Between the Scylla and Nazism and the Charybdis of Weimar: German democracy

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

Germany & Russia piece. TBA.

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.

4. September 21: 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.

5. September 28: Broken Britain: the Westminster Model in the Shadow of Brexit

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

Leslie Vinjamuri, "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).

6. October 5: 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.

Garzie Diego, “*The Italian parliamentary election of 2022*,” *West European Politics* (2022):

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

7. October 12: Where Fascism failed to fail: Franco, Spain, and Spanish Democracy today

TBA

8. October 19: A social democratic paradise or welfare chauvinism? Nordic Europe

David Arter, *Scandinavian Politics Today*, 3rd edition, Manchester University Press, 2016, chapters 10 and 14, pp. 186-202 and 285-306.

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

CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

9. October 26: Capitalism with a Human Face: The European economy

Berman, Sheri, and Maria Snegovaya. “Populism and the Decline of Social Democracy.” *Journal of Democracy* (2019): 5-19.

TBA

November 9: Reading Week. No class

10. November 2: 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* vol. 51 no. 2, 2016, pp. 183-208.

Rahsaan Maxwell, “Cultural Diversity and Its Limits in Western Europe.” *Current History* vol. 115 no. 779, 2016, pp. 95-101.

11. November 16: Gender and Sexuality

Jonathan Dean and Kristin Aune, ‘Feminism Resurgent? Mapping Contemporary Feminist Activism in Europe,’ *Social Movement Studies* (2015).

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.

12. November 23: The European Union: A Short History

TBA.

13. November 30: Final In-Class Test