

**York University
Department of Political Science**

**Course: AS/POLS 3520 3.0 (Section A)
Governing the New Europe
Thursday 11:30am - 2:30pm
Ross N146**

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Office Hours: Wed. 2:30-4:00
Thurs. 2:30-4:00**

Course Description:

This course examines the government and politics of the “new” Europe. It considers structures and process of governance at the national, sub-national and supra-national level. The course revolves largely around questions of democracy and democratic accountability within the European states and institutions. It draws on historical and current trends to consider similarities and differences in political and social institutions, political culture and economic forces

Europe has undergone a number of changes in recent years, that influence the ways in which we study the continent. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult to separate national politics and policy-making from supra-national policy in Europe. It is no longer possible (if indeed it ever was possible) to analyse the political systems of the nation state without considering the role of the European Union. And, conversely, it is nearly impossible to understand the EU and its international influence without an understanding of the politics and political systems of the individual member states. In this course, our focus is on governing the “new” Europe. We will consider the continent both in terms of its parts (the individual countries) and as a whole.

In this course students will explore several aspects of European democracy including historical background, institutional framework, political systems and key actors in the European systems. The course will address the similarities and differences within systems and will consider how institutions shape and are shaped by collective identities. For the most part, this course will focus on the institutions, both formal and informal at the national, sub-national and supranational levels. Next semester, in POLS 3521, we will look at more specific issues and the ways in which social and individual preferences are transferred to the systems of governance. The course comprises of three main parts. In the first, we will consider the institutions of politics and governance in Europe. In the second, our attention will shift to questions of social and economic governance and in the final weeks we will examine the role of identity and popular support in contemporary European states.

Course Aims:

In this course students will:

- gain an understanding of the differences and similarities of European democratic systems;
- identify and assess key social, political and historical factors shaping European politics;
- recognize and evaluate the complex relationship between national and supranational policy making in western Europe;

Assignments

Participation, Attendance and Daily activities (see below)	20 %
Country assignments (2 @ 25%)	50 %
Reflection Paper	30 %

Course Organization and Daily Activities

Although this course is officially considered a lecture class, we will be using a lecture/seminar style format. In addition to the traditional allocation of grades for participation and attendance, most classes will also involve a very short assignment to be completed in class or on-line. These will be handed in whenever possible. I will be reading and grading (some of) these assignments and collectively they will constitute 10% of the grade. The remaining 10% will be allocated based on attendance and traditional participation in class discussions.

Country Assignments: At the beginning of the semester, you will be asked to choose a country on which learn about in more depth over the course of the semester. You may choose ANY member state of the European Union or EFTA (Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland). In selected cases, you may also choose to study a candidate or applicant country of the EU. You can find a complete list of member states and applicant countries here: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm.

When selecting your country, you might wish to consider possible language abilities/barriers and check the availability of information on political and social issues. More information on selecting a country, finding information on your country and the assignments are on the course moodle page. Please make your country selection by adding your choice to the moodle wiki by September 20.

I expect you to follow the national politics and current events in “your country” during the semester (current events in “your country” may also be asked during in-class quizzes). You will be considered something of a “country expert” in group discussions and I will expect you to contribute examples from your country during classes and discussion times. Newspaper articles, in particular from European on-line newspapers are a good source of daily news coverage. The Financial Times and the Guardian are two possible sources. More links are posted on the course website.

Your country will also form the basis of two short written assignments (6 -8 pages) over the course of the semester. These assignments will ask you to analyse and discuss particular aspects of “your country”. While I will be assigning a broad topic, there will be plenty of room to “personalize” the assignment. We will discuss the exact topics in more detail during the first few weeks of class. Further information is posted on the course website.

Reflection Paper

The reflection paper will be a final assignment that resembles a take home exam. It will be due on the last day of class (Dec. 4, 2014). There will be no extensions. If you do not hand in the assignment on Dec. 4, you will receive a grade of 0 for this component. You will receive the question(s) for this assignment several weeks in advance. The question(s) will ask you to reflect

on all the material of the course. I will give you more information on this assignment during the course and will also post this information on Moodle.

Submitting Assignments

Due dates for assignments are noted in the weekly course outline. You will be expected to hand assignments in on time. **Late papers will be penalized by 5% per day and 10% per weekend.**

If you are unable to submit an assignment directly to me, please use the departmental drop box located outside the political science office. Make sure that the course number and my name are clearly written on the first page. Assignments placed in the drop box will be date stamped and put into my mailbox. Assignments left under my office door or in my mailbox will not be date stamped and will therefore not be accepted.

Other Information

Course website

The course is listed on moodle. I have set up several discussion options as well as links to resources and information on assignments. I hope that you will make use of these resources. If there is more information that you would like to see on moodle, please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate. I will be checking the forum discussion each morning and will reply to posts at that time. Please note that I will not always be able to give you an immediate answer to your questions and plan your time accordingly.

Tolerance and Appropriate Behaviour:

The ability to converse across different social, ethnic and other backgrounds is an important component of the university education. The exchange of ideas, beliefs and insights contributes to an especially rich understanding of comparative politics. **To this end, students, instructors and teaching assistants are expect to display tolerance for each others' ideas and beliefs across personal and cultural boundaries.** All parties are expected to actively maintain a positive classroom environment at all times and in all interactions.

Textbooks

There are two textbooks for this class. They are available at the University bookstore.

- 1) Tim Bale. 2013. European Politics: A Comparative Introduction. Third Edition (Palgrave MacMillan) [in course outline as EP]
- 2) Erik Jones, Paul Heywood, Martin Rhodes and Ulrich Sedelmeier (eds.). 2011. Developments in European Politics Two (Palgrave MacMillan). [in course outline as Developments]

Additional readings will be made available to you through moodle or the university library.

Course Outline:

This reading list is subject to changes. Exact dates and/or readings may be changed or added. Please watch the website for any changes.

September 11 – Introduction to the Course

• EP Chapter 1

This is a really useful chapter for putting many of the main concepts for the course into the broader context. It also offers some important background information that will help you to understand key ideas, if you do not already have a strong background in European/EU politics.

September 18 – Paths to Democracy

• Grugel, Jean and Matthe Louis Bishop (2014). *Democratization: A Critical Introduction* (2014). 2nd ed. Chapters 2 and 7 (Chapter 3 optional) [on reserve]

These chapters set out the different paths that European states have followed towards democratization. Within each chapter, some states that are not part of this course are also discussed. Feel free to skim over these sections. The optional chapter 3 discusses various theories of democratization. I will cover these in class, but you may prefer to read about these theories either before or after class.

September 25 – A United Future?

• “Your Guide to the EU institutions” (esp. pp 3-25) available at <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/how-the-european-union-works-pbNA0113090/>

• EP pp. 59-74

• Developments Chapter 3

The internet resource is intended to familiarize you with the institutions of the EU and how they work. It is published by the European Union itself and should be read with this in mind. However, for the most part, these are “facts”. They are considered from a slightly more critical perspective in the textbook excerpt. There is some overlap in the information. If you have read the internet resource carefully, you will be able to skim over much of this chapter. These facts will help you to understand how and why the EU can influence the politics of its member states. This process of “Europeanization” is further elaborated on in Chapter 3 of the Developments text.

October 1 -- Organizing governance

• EP pp. 44- 59 and 77-85

• Developments Chapter 8

These chapters consider different aspects of the phenomenon frequently referred to as “multi-level governance”. They lay out the different forms of organization and governance in European states. In addition to the examples offered in the texts, we will be discussing the outcome of the recent Scottish referendum and thinking about how we can understand the results of the referendum within the context of changing patterns of governance in Europe.

October 8 – Who Governs?

- *EP Chapter 4*
- *Developments Chapter 4*

At least on one level, democracy is about who governs whom. These chapters investigate different relationships of power sharing within the (central) governments. The developments chapter emphasizes that there are two processes currently at play in many European states. On one hand, states are becoming increasingly decentralized, and yet at the same time, in many states there is a concentration of power within the head of government (President). Within the context of the past few weeks, use these chapters to think about how democratic Europe is and how it is democratic.

October 15 – Economic governance at the national and European levels

- *EU publication on monetary union*
http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/economic-and-monetary-union-and-the-euro-pbNA0414124/downloads/NA-04-14-124-EN-C/NA0414124ENC_002.pdf?FileName=NA0414124ENC_002.pdf&SKU=NA0414124ENC_PDF&CatalogueNumber=NA-04-14-124-EN-C
- *Verdun (2014), Amy “The building of economic governance in the European Union”, Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research Vol. 19, No 1 23-35. [e-journal]*

This week, the readings focus on the mechanisms of economic governance at the European level (the Euro currency and the EMU). The EU publication outlines how EMU came about and the advantages that the EU believes it to have for all states. In the Verdun piece, she highlights how social aspects of the economy were left out of this thinking, and will form the basis of our later discussion on the economic crisis in Europe. The reading in the Developments text, lays important groundwork about the differences in forms of capitalism in Europe. Together these three capture the themes for the next several weeks.

ASSIGNMENT #1 is due today

October 22 - Politics and Markets

- *EP Chapter 9*
- *Developments Chapter 10*
- *Peter Hall (2014) Varieties of Capitalism and the Euro Crisis. West European Politics Vol 37 (6): 1223-1243.*

This week is very tightly intertwined with the previous week and next week, really forming three parts of a single topic. The readings here focus on the relationship between politics and the market and, in particular on the nature and salience of social democracy in Europe. Bale looks at the political side of markets: do left-wing parties support the welfare state and right-wing parties dismantle the welfare system? In the developments chapter, we consider how different forms of

capitalism have taken hold in Europe and the ways in which these differences in capitalism contribute to policy differences. Finally, Hall makes connections between the Varieties of capitalism literature and the recent Euro-crisis, which we will consider in more detail next week.

October 29 – No class today [co-curricular day]

November 6 – The Economic Crisis and Welfare State Restructuring

- *Developments Chapter 11*
- *Annesley, Claire and Alexandra Scheele. (2011) ‘Gender, Capitalism and Economic Crisis: Impact and Responses’, Journal of Contemporary European Studies 19(3): 335-347.*

In the previous two weeks we considered the collective economic governance structures in Europe and the idea of European Social democracy and a “Social Europe”. This week brings these ideas together under the umbrella of “crisis”. The two consider a variety of shifts and challenges to contemporary welfare states.

November 13 – Political Participation, Popular Support and Eroding Trust

- *EP Chapter 8*
- *Developments Chapter 9*
- *Duff, Andrew (2013) “On Dealing with Euroscepticism” Journal of Common Market Studies Vol. 51 (1) pp. 140-152 [e-journal]*

Use the chapter from the EP text to get a sense of how people participate in governing in Europe and the EU. The chapter in developments, in turn, looks at why people are feeling disillusioned with this process and the sources of distrust in political institutions. Finally, the article for this week takes this discussion to the European level and examines the growing trend of Euroscepticism and how to best address this phenomenon.

ASSIGNMENT #2 is due today

November 20 - National Identities, migration and “European-ness”

- *EP Chapter 10*
- *Developments Chapter 12*

This week is, in some ways a continuation of last week’s discussion about Euroscepticism as we consider forces that create national and European identities. The Bale chapter addresses migration and minorities within Europe and considers the ways in which stereotypes can construct identities. The chapter from Developments, picks up on this with a discussion on religion in European politics and law and the way in which these forces intertwine with the project of European integration.

November 27 – The Role of the Media

- *EP Chapter 7*
- *Trenz, Hans-Juergen (2008) Understanding Media Impact on European Integration: Enhancing or Restricting the Scope of Legitimacy of the EU?, Journal of European Integration, Vol. 30(2) pp. 291-309 [e-journal]*

These two readings are intended to set us thinking about how the media does (and could) influence perceptions of the process of integration. When reading, think about things like, is the media national or European? What roles and responsibilities does the media have in a democratic society?

December 4 – Moving Forward

TBA

REFLECTION PAPERS are due today