

EUROPEAN UNION SEMINAR: POLITICS AND POLICIES
Political Science 1330
University of Pittsburgh • Spring 2017
TR 9:30-10:45am • 252 Cathedral of Learning

Professor: Jae-Jae Spoon

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2-3:30pm or by appointment in 4441 Posvar Hall

Course Description

In this final ‘capstone’ course of the European Union Studies Certificate, we will examine both politics and policies in the EU. We will focus on the relationship between voters, public opinion, parties, and policies in the EU. We will examine some of the major issues facing the European Union in the 21st century: changing demographics, identity, challenges to the EU from the right and left, Euroskepticism, and Brexit. Each student will spend the semester researching a topic of his/her choosing related to the EU/Europe.

Reading Materials

The majority of readings are available on CourseWeb. If students would like a reading packet, we can arrange this on the first day of class. In addition, you are required to purchase the following book, which we will read the week before and after spring break. Reasonably priced new and used copies are available on-line.

Risse, Thomas. 2010. *A Community of Europeans? Transnational Identities and Public Spheres*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

I would also strongly encourage you to stay on top of current events in Europe over the course of the semester. There are many great on-line resources for European/EU news, including: the *New York Times*—www.nyt.com, *Economist*—www.economist.com, BBC—www.bbc.co.uk, *Der Spiegel*—www.spiegel.de/international; Al Jazeera—www.aljazeera.com. Feel free to check out non-English language sources as well. Some of these may have a limited number of free articles you can browse from the website, but there are student subscriptions and unlimited access through the library for most. I’d also suggest becoming a regular NPR listener. Our local station is WESA, 90.5 FM—www.wesa.fm/www.npr.org.

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F, broken down as follows:

97-100=A+	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	59 and below=F
94-96=A	84-86=B	74-76=C	64-66=D	
90-93=A-	80-83=B-	70-73=C-	60-63=D-	

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Take Home Exam	25%
Paper and Presentation	35%
Participation	10%
Discussion Leader	10%

*All work will be weighted according to the break-down above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

1) Exams. We will have two exams in this course. The midterm will be in-class on Feb. 23rd. The final exam will be a take home, handed out the last of class, and due on April 24th @ 4pm. The midterm is 20% of your grade; the final is 25% of your grade.

2) Paper and Presentation. Each student will write a 10-12 pg. research paper (roughly 2500-3000 words, exclusive of abstract, title page, and bibliography) on a topic of your choice related to Europe/European Union. Students must meet with Prof. Spoon to discuss research topics. Research proposals are due on Feb. 9th. Paper drafts are due on April 6th. Please bring two copies of your drafts to class. We will then have a workshop in class on April 11th where each student will provide feedback on another students' paper. Final papers are due on April 18th. On this day, each student will also prepare a presentation of his/her paper using presentation software, such as PowerPoint. The paper and presentation combined are 35% of your final grade; the presentation is 10% of this.

3) Discussion Leader. On the first day, each student will sign up for two classes to lead the discussion. On your assigned day, please circulate about 5 questions by 7pm on Monday via CourseWeb (Discussion Board) to the class. These questions are meant to jump start the discussion and highlight the main themes of the week's readings. All students must bring a copy of the questions to class (either on an electronic device or a hard copy). Your grade will be based on the quality of questions and how well you are able to facilitate discussion. This will be 10% of your final grade.

4) Participation. You are required to come to class prepared having read the assigned readings. Participation will be 10% of your final grade.

Class Policies

Class Expectations. This is a very small class, so please come to class having read the material and prepared to participate. Make sure to look at the discussion questions before class. For weeks that there is not a student discussion leader, I will post a few questions before class. There will be lots of opportunities to engage with the material and with each other. You may use your laptop or other device to take notes, but if you are using it for something other than taking notes (and distracting other students), I may not allow you to continue using it. Please turn your phone off while you are in class and do not text, check Facebook, Twitter, or look up information that is not relevant to class. If you plan to come to class to do something else, I suggest that you not come. Please do the readings before class on Tuesday (unless otherwise instructed) and make sure to bring them with you to class (either in hard copy or on an electronic device).

Attendance. I will take attendance each time we meet within the first 10 minutes. Should you arrive after 10 minutes, this will be counted as an absence. You are allowed **three absences** from during the semester. You do not need to tell me why you will be absent or bring any sort of document to justify your absence. Each additional absence will result in a 2% deduction from your Participation grade. If there is a circumstance in which you will be absent more than twice (e.g. Pitt team travel) please discuss this with me **in advance**. In order to have any additional absence excused, you will need to provide documentation.

Email. Please make sure you check your **Pitt email** regularly. If you do not use your Pitt account, make sure you link your Pitt account to whichever email address you do use. I will send email messages to the class periodically and will use your official Pitt email address. If you want to contact me, please use my Pitt addresses above and do not email us through CourseWeb.

CourseWeb. All materials handed out in class will be posted here. We will also post announcements, links, graphs/tables shown in class, and other useful information. So, check CourseWeb often!

Extensions and Alternate Dates. In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments or alternate exam dates. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time or be present for an exam, please discuss this with your me as soon as you can, and not the day the assignment is due or the day of the exam or afterwards.

Late Policy. A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, it will no longer be accepted.

Grade Appeals. Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received. The written appeal should be turned in to me and I will then schedule a time to meet with you to discuss your appeal.

Academic Integrity. Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated by the instructor, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. More information and the complete policy can be found at <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>.

Accommodations. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412-648-7890, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users), drsrec@pitt.edu, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, please see <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

Classroom Recording. To ensure free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor. Any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Syllabus

Week 1 (Jan. 5). Introduction and Preliminaries: Public Opinion, Voters, Parties, Policies

Week 2 (Jan. 10 & 12). Democratic Deficit

Moravcsik, Andrew. 2002. "In Defence of the 'Democratic Deficit': Reassessing Legitimacy in the European Union." *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 40(4): 603-624.

Føllesdal, Andreas. and Simon Hix. 2006. "Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik." *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 44(3): 533-562.

Week 3 (Jan. 17 & 19). Public Opinion and Support for European Integration

Hix and Høyland. 2011. *The Political System of the European Union*. Ch. 5.

McLaren, Lauren. 2002. "Explaining Mass Level Euroscepticism: Identity, Interests, and Institutional Distrust." *Acta Politica*. 42(2): 233-251.

Hobolt, Sara B. and Catherine E. de Vries. 2016. "Public Support for European Integration." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 19: 413-432.

Week 4 (Jan. 24 & 26). Does Anyone Listen? Parties and Policy

Toshkov, Dimiter. 2011. "Public Opinion and Policy Output in the European Union: A Lost Relationship." *European Union Politics*. 12(2): 169-191.

Spoon, Jae-Jae and Heike Klüver. 2014. "Do Parties Respond? How Electoral Context Influences Party Responsiveness." *Electoral Studies*. 35: 48-60.

Williams, Christopher and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2015. "Differentiated Party Response: The Effect of Euroskeptic Public Opinion on Party Positions." *European Union Politics*. 16.2: 176-193.

Week 5 (Jan. 31 & Feb 2). European Parliament

Hix and Høyland. 2011. *The Political System of the European Union*. Ch. 6.

Hix, Simon, Abdul G. Noury and Gérard Roland. 2007. *Democratic Politics in the European Parliament*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 2-3.

Week 6 (Feb. 7 & 9). EP Elections

Reif, Karlheinz and Hermann Schmitt. 1980. "Nine Second-Order National Elections—A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis of European Election Results." *European Journal of Political Science*. 8.1: 3-44.

Mattila, Mikko. 2003. "Why Bother? Determinants of Turnout in European Elections." *Electoral Studies*. 22.3: 449-468.

Clark, Nicholas. 2014. "Explaining Low Turnout in European Elections: The Role of Issue Salience and Institutional Perceptions in Elections to the European Parliament." *Journal of European Integration*. 4: 339-356.

Research proposals due on Feb. 9th*

Week 7 (Feb. 14 & 16). Voting in EP Elections

Hobolt, Sara B., Jae-Jae Spoon and James Tilley. 2009. "A Vote Against Europe? Explaining Defection at the 1999 and 2004 European Parliament Elections." *British Journal of Political Science*. 39.1: 93-115.

Trieb, Oliver. 2014. "The Voter Says No, but Nobody Listens: Causes and Consequences of the Eurosceptic Vote in the 2014 European Elections." *Journal of European Public Policy*. 21.10: 1541-1554,

Ferrara, Federico and J. Timo. Weishaupt. 2004. "Get your Act Together: Party Performance in European Parliament Elections." *European Union Politics*. 5.3: 283-306.

Week 8 (Feb. 21 & 23). Review and Midterm

Feb. 21: Review

Feb. 23: Midterm

Week 9 (Feb. 28 & March 2). Identity Politics: European Identity

Risse, Thomas. 2010. *A Community of Europeans: Transnational Identities and Public Spaces*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pgs. 1-103.

**Evening showing of *L'Auberge Espagnole* (2002) before 3/2. Date TBD.

Week 10 (March 7 & 9). Spring Break. No class.

Week 11 (March 14 & 16). Identity Politics Continued

March 14: Risse, Thomas. 2010. *A Community of Europeans: Transnational Identities and Public Spaces*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pgs. 177-252.

March 16 (also March 17): No class. Attend European Studies Center's "A Diversity of (European) Identities" Conference.

**Requirement: Attend at least 1 panel and 1 keynote presentation. Write up summary of presentations. Due March 23rd.

Week 12 (March 21 & 23). Challenges to Europe from the Populist Right and Left

de Vries, Catherine E. and Isabell Hoffmann. 2016. *Fear not Values: Public Opinion and the Populist Vote in Europe*. Bertelsmann Stiftung.

Golder, Matt. 2016. "Far Right Parties in Europe." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 19: 477-497.

Cassidy, John. 2016. "A Europe of Donald Trumps?" *The New Yorker*. May 2.

Halikiopoulou, Daphne, Kyriaki Nanou, and Sofia Vasilopoulou. 2012. "The Paradox of Nationalism: The Common Denominator of Radical Right and Radical Left Euroscepticism." *European Journal of Political Research*. 51.4: 504-539.

**Required Attendance: Tues. March 21st from 12-1:30pm: Conversation on Europe: "The Dutch Bellweather: What is the Forecast for 'Nexit' or 'Frexit'?" Write up summary of discussion. Due March 28th.

Week 13 (March 28 & 30). Referendums on the EU

Hix and Høyland. 2011. *The Political System of the European Union*. Pgs. 152-157.

Hobolt, Sara Binzer. 2007. "Taking Cues on Europe? Vote Competence and Party Endorsements in Referendums on European Integration." *European Journal of Political Research*. 46.2: 151-182.

Markowski, Radoslaw, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2005. "Pocketbooks, Politics, and Parties: The 2003 Polish Referendum on EU Membership." *Electoral Studies*. 24.3: 409-433.

Week 14 (April 4 & 6). Brexit

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

Hobolt, Sara B. 2016. "The Brexit Vote: A Divided Nation, A Divided Continent." *Journal of European Public Policy*. 23.9: 1259-1277.

Read another article from the *Journal of European Public Policy's* special issue (23.9) on Brexit (Debate Section) which is available through PittCat. Students will present their chosen article in class.

Week 15 (April 11 & 13). Paper Workshop & French and Dutch Elections

April 11: Workshop (Drafts due on TurnItIn and hard copy—April 6th in class).
Dutch/French elections

April 13: Dutch and French Elections

Shorto, Russell. 2011. "Marine Le Pen, France's (Kinder, Gentler) Extremist." *New York Times Magazine*. April 29.

Additional readings TBD.

Week 16 (April 18 & 20). Presentations and Wrap-Up

April 18: Papers due and presentations

April 20: Wrap up and Review