

POLI 328: Comparing European Democracies  
McGill University; Winter 2023

Professor Elaine Carsley  
Wednesday & Friday 235pm-355pm  
Duff Theatre 1  
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Office Hours: by appointment

### **Summary & Objectives**

This course will serve as introduction to the study of contemporary European politics. The course presents the basic concepts and approaches used in the field of European comparative politics and examines patterns of similarity and difference across Europe, as well as some current political debates in Europe. Together, we will consider the makings of contemporary Europe, the development of the European Union, as well as its various highs and lows including geopolitics, collective security, regionalism and environment; we will look at Brexit's rejection of integration, and the resulting political, social and economic implications. Equally, we will evaluate the rise of social movements, refugee crises, immigration; look at the cases of the financial crisis in Greece and Spain's 15M movement; and compare the EU Presidencies of Italy and Ireland. Finally, we will observe the impact of globalization on European democracy.

### **Course Evaluation**

- ***Midterm Take-Home Exam: 20%***

The midterm take-home exam will take place on from Wednesday, March 8- Friday, March 10, and must be uploaded to myCourses upon completion. This a firm deadline; the system will not accept late submissions. You will be required to answer two out of five short essay questions. Each answer should be one typed, double-spaced page. Answers should clearly indicate which question is being addressed and include a clear thesis statement. Assigned class readings should be consulted and referenced to reinforce your answers.

- ***Term Paper: 30%***

Each student will prepare a 6-8 page research paper, due on April 5 at 5pm. Further information about topics, approval and expectations will be discussed in class. Please note that papers must be directly connected to the course. A strict penalty of two late marks per day will be applied.

*"In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (approved*

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*by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)*

- **Final Exam: 40%**

Date to be determined by examination office; details to be discussed in class.

- **Conference Participation: 10%**

Conferences will begin during the third week of January. You will need to consult the schedule and register for a conference on Minerva with our Teaching Assistant. Your TA will explain their method of evaluation during the first conference, as well as provide mid-semester reports on your work. Should you become concerned about your conference grade, please feel free to address it with myself or your TA.

### **Required Reading**

The following textbook is available for purchase at the university bookstore:

- Brunet-Jailly, Emmanuel, Hurrelmann, Achim and Verdun, Amy eds. 2018. *European Union: Governance and Policy Making, a Canadian Perspective*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- All digital readings **are required**; citations provided below. Where available, articles will be posted to myCourses.

### **Calendar**

**Wednesday, January 4-** *Overview and objectives*

**Friday, January 6-** *Introduction to European Comparative Politics, I*

- \*no assigned readings

**Wednesday, January 11-** *Introduction to European Comparative Politics, II*

- Brunet-Jailly, Emmanuel, Hurrelmann, Achim and Verdun. *Introduction*. Chapter 1, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.

**Friday, January 13-** *Church and State*

- Croxton, Derek. 1999. "The Peace of Westphalia of 1648 and the Origins of Sovereignty." *The International History Review* 21 (3): 569-69.

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- van Bijsterveld, Sophie C. "Church and state in Western Europe and the United States: Principles and perspectives." *BYU L. Rev.* (2000): 989.

**Wednesday, January 18-** *Becoming Modern in Europe and America- Different History, Different Politics*

- Gerth, Hans H. and Mills, C. Wright. *The Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism*. From Weber, Max, and Kalberg, Stephen: *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Routledge (1999) Originally published 1904/1905.

**Friday, January 20-** *European Elections*

- Atkins, Judi, Timothy Heppell and Kevin Theakson HEPPELL, and KEVIN THEAKSTON. 2013. "The Rise of the Novice Cabinet Minister? The Career Trajectories of Cabinet Ministers in British Government from Attlee to Cameron." *The Political Quarterly* 84 (3): 362–70.
- <https://www.juancole.com/2016/03/why-are-american-elections-so-much-worse-than-everybody-elses.html>

**Wednesday, January 25-** *The EU: Matrimonial Beginnings*

- Chira-Pascanut, Constantin. *A Short History of the European Union: From Rome to Lisbon*. Chapter 2, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Verdun, Amy. *Theories of European Integration and Governance*. Chapter 6, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Habermas Jürgen. 2015. "Democracy in Europe: Why the Development of the EU into a Transnational Democracy Is Necessary and How It Is Possible." *European Law Journal* 21 (4): 546–57. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eulj.12128>

**Friday, January 27-** *The EU- Governance*

- Laursen, Finn. *The Major Legislative and Executive Bodies of the European Union*. Chapter 3, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- O'Brien, Martha. *Legal Integration and the Court of Justice of the European Union*. Chapter 4, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Tommel, Ingeborg. *Policy-Making and Governance in the European Union's Multilevel System*. Chapter 5, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Hurrelman Achim. *Democracy in the European Union*. Chapter 17, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.

**Wednesday, February 1-** *The EU: Social Policy*

- Macrae, Heather and Wood, Donna E. *The Social Dimension of the European Union*. Chapter 10, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.

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- Armstrong, Kenneth A. 2012. "EU Social Policy and the Governance Architecture of Europe 2020." *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research* 18 (3): 285–300.

**Friday, February 3-** *Collective Security and Geopolitics*

- Schmidtke, Oliver. *Justice, Freedom and Security*. Chapter 8, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Merand, Frederic and Rayroux, Antoine. *Foreign, Security and Defense Policies*. Chapter 9, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Debardeleben, Joan. *Geopolitics of the European Union*. Chapter 18, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.

**Wednesday, February 8-** *Regionalism and Economics*

- Schure, Paul and Verdun, Amy. *The Single Market and Economic Monetary Integration*. Chapter 7, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- D'Erman, Valerie J. *European External Trade Policy*. Chapter 14, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Brunet-Jailly, Emmanuel. *The Origins and Development of EU's Regional Policy*. Chapter 13, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Chira, Gabriella and Dandashly, Assem. *European Neighborhood Policy*. Chapter 16, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.

**Friday, February 10:** *Energy and Environment*

- Van Kooten, Cornelius G, and Wortzman, Rebecca H. *Environmental and Energy Policy*. Chapter 12, Brunet-Jailly et al, eds. 2018.
- Hess, David J, and Madison Renner. 2019. "Conservative Political Parties and Energy Transitions in Europe: Opposition to Climate Mitigation Policies." *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 104: 419–28.

**Wednesday, February 15-** *Nationalism and Ethnicity*

- Wellings, Ben. 2022. "Nationalism and European Disintegration." *Nations & Nationalism* Oct2022, P1.
- Wahl, Peter. 2017. "Between Eurotopia and Nationalism: A Third Way for the Future of the EU." *Globalizations* 14 (1): 157–63.

**Friday, February 17-** *Divorce: Brexit*

- D'Arcy, Mark. "The Story of Mr. Brexit" <https://www.bbc.com/news/election-2019-50565543>

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- Booth, William. "Brexit is Boris Johnson's Singular Achievement. How Well is it Working?" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/15/boris-johnson-brexit-legacy/>
- The Economist. "How Brexit Happened" [https://www.economist.com/britain/2021/01/02/how-brexit-happened?utm\\_medium=cpc.adword.pd&utm\\_source=google&ppccampaignID=18798097116&ppcadID=&utm\\_campaign=a.22brand\\_pmax&utm\\_content=conversion.direct-response.anonymous&gclid=CjwKCAiAhKycBhAQEiwAgf19epaQP95eknkPitOJD2afL5P90R\\_S\\_RFSXLMYfCedQHnJ-AYBWITUhxoCQpAQAvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.economist.com/britain/2021/01/02/how-brexit-happened?utm_medium=cpc.adword.pd&utm_source=google&ppccampaignID=18798097116&ppcadID=&utm_campaign=a.22brand_pmax&utm_content=conversion.direct-response.anonymous&gclid=CjwKCAiAhKycBhAQEiwAgf19epaQP95eknkPitOJD2afL5P90R_S_RFSXLMYfCedQHnJ-AYBWITUhxoCQpAQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

**Wednesday, February 22:** *Brexit: Implications*

- Baldini, Gianfranco, and Nicola Chelotti. 2022. "The Brexit Effect: Political Implications of the Exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union." *International Political Science Review* 43 (3): 319–28.
- Gamble, Andrew. 2018. "Taking Back Control: The Political Implications of Brexit." *Journal of European Public Policy* 25 (8): 1215–32.

**Friday, February 24-** TBC

**READING WEEK: February 25-March 3-** *no classes*

**Wednesday, March 8- Friday March 10-** *MIDTERM Take-Home\**

**Wednesday, March 15-** *Social Movements*

- Della Porta D, and Parks L. 2018. "Social Movements, the European Crisis, and Eu Political Opportunities." *Comparative European Politics* 16 (1): 85–102.
- Di Martino, Salvatore, and Isaac Prilleltensky. 2020. "Happiness As Fairness: The Relationship between National Life Satisfaction and Social Justice in EU Countries." *Journal of Community Psychology* 48 (6): 1997–2012.

**Friday, March 17-** *Refugee Crisis*

- Niemann, Arne, and Natascha Zaun. 2018. "Eu Refugee Policies and Politics in Times of Crisis: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives." *Jcms: Journal of Common Market Studies* 56 (1): 3–22.

**Wednesday, March 22-** *Immigration*

- Erisen, Cengiz, Sofia Vasilopoulou, and Cigdem Kentmen-Cin. 2020. "Emotional Reactions to Immigration and Support for Eu Cooperation on Immigration and Terrorism." *Journal of European Public Policy* 27 (6): 795–813.

**Friday, March 24-** *Greek Tragedy*

- Maris, Georgios. 2022. "Introduction: Eurozone and the Greek Economic Crisis in 2020: Current Challenges and Prospects." *European Politics and Society* 23 (4): 443–46.

**Wednesday, March 29-** *Spain: 15M*

- Díaz-Parra, Ibán, and Beltran Roca. 2017. "From State Fetish to Community Fetish: A Spatial Analysis of 15m and Podemos in Spain." *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management: An International Journal* 12 (4): 262–79.
- Morell, Mayo Fuster. 2012. "The Free Culture and 15m Movements in Spain: Composition, Social Networks and Synergies." *Social Movement Studies* 11 (3-4): 386–92.

**Friday, March 31** *Italy and Ireland: Comparison of EU Presidencies*

- Quaglia, L. Moxon-Browne E. (2006), What Makes a Good EU Presidency? Italy and Ireland Compared. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 44: 349-368.

**Wednesday, April 5-** *Globalization; Term Paper Due*

- Jacoby, Wade, and Sophie Meunier. 2010. "Europe and the Management of Globalization." *Journal of European Public Policy* 17 (3): 299–317.

**Friday, April 7 -Good Friday (no class)**

**Wednesday, April 12:** *Summary + Conclusions; Final Exam Review*

**Plagiarism**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity>).

**Acknowledgement of Land**

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant.