
PSC 2380-001

Fall 2021

European Politics

Day/Time: M/W/F 10:30-11:20am

<https://elearning.villanova.edu/>

Room: Falvey Hall VR3

Instructor: Prof. Ryan Weldzius

Office hours: M/W 12-13:00 (via Zoom; [sign-up here](#))

Office hours Zoom link: [click here](#)

E-mail: ryan.weldzius@villanova.edu

Webpage: <http://ryanweldzius.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will explore the origins, institutions, successes, and challenges of the post-WWII project of European unification. We will begin by exploring the historical rationale for establishing the European Union, evaluate the institutions created by this union, and consider how these institutions affect the political economy of European integration (past, present, and future). In the second half of the course, we will explore the root causes for the rise of anti-EU (or Eurosceptic) parties across the union and discuss what this means for the future of the European project. Each student will choose a populist Eurosceptic party to follow throughout the term and will write a critical analysis on the determinants of the party's successes (or failures).

Core Topics

1. History of European integration
2. European institutions
3. Rise of populism and Eurosceptic parties

Course goals

1. Sharpen analytical skills
2. Understand the interplay of politics, economics, and institutions in the EU
3. Analyze the rise of populist parties in Europe

LEARNING METHODOLOGY:

The course will be split into two sections. The first will focus on the history and theories of European integration. The second half will use the content from the first half in exploring the contemporary rise of populist, Eurosceptic political parties.

Our class sessions will combine a mix of lecture and discussion, with occasional puzzles for you to grapple with as a group. Class slides will be made available **after** each session (please do not ask for advanced access). The reason to provide the slides only after class is to keep you all engaged in an active learning mode. It is important for you not to be able to see the answers to puzzles until we have struggled through them as a group.

You will be tested on your understanding of the course material through a combination of in-class exams and a take-home writing assignment. The two exams (midterm and final) will count equally towards your final grade (30% each) and will cover the first and second halves of the course, respectively. If you miss the midterm for an excused reason, makeup exams will occur on the day of the final exam (you will take both concurrently). The writing assignment (30%) will allow you to apply the material to a contemporary political party of your choosing. Your active participation in class discussions and activities will count for the final 10%.

READINGS:

The course readings will be drawn from one textbook on the European Union (available for purchase in the bookstore), a few chapters from a scholarly text on economic austerity (I will provide copies of the chapters; you do not need to purchase the book), and several scholarly research articles. All readings (not from the assigned book) will be made available on the course webpage or links will be available on the syllabus.

John McCormick. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. Palgrave, 7th edition, 2017.

REQUIREMENTS:

Class attendance and participation (10%)

Our in-person classroom sessions will combine a mix of lecture and discussion. Class slides will be made available after each session. Class attendance and participation will count towards 10% of your final grade, which includes several groups projects.

Exams (60%)

You will have two exams (mid-term and final), each consisting of definitions, multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. Each exam will be worth 30% of your final grade. If you miss the mid-term exam for an excused reason, you will take your makeup exam concurrently with your final exam on December 17. Each exam is structured to take approximately one hour and 15 minutes.

Analytical Essay (30%)

You will write an analytical essay about a populist, Eurosceptic party of your choosing. In Week 3 you will choose your party and follow it in the news throughout the semester. In

Week 11 you will submit your argument about the rise of your chosen party followed by your outline of the paper along with a sample of sources in Week 12 (together worth 5%), and you will present your preliminary research (asynchronously via video recording) during Week 14 (10%). Several classmates will view your presentation and offer you feedback on how you can improve your project before submitting your final draft (25%) on Tuesday, May 11 by 12pm.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Grade Scale: 98-100, A+; 92-97, A; 90-91, A-; 88-89, B+; 82-87, B; 80-81, B-; . . . 0-60, F.

Grade Appeals. If you believe you received an incorrect grade on the midterm or final, you may formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a one-page typed explanation that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument for the proposed change.

OFFICE HOURS:

I am available for office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00-13:00 via Zoom. Please sign-up for a 15-minute time slot via the course Blackboard page. If you cannot make these times, please write to me in advance and we'll find a time that is suitable for us both.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 06-Oct-21:** Midterm exam
- 29-Oct-21:** Essay argument due by 5pm
- 12-Nov-21:** Essay outline due by 5pm
- 21-Nov-21:** Presentation recordings due by 10pm
- 06-Dec-21:** Essays due by 5pm
- 17-Dec-21:** Final exam, 8:30-11:00am

COVID-19 ADDENDUM:

Please continue to follow all university and CDC guidelines. We are not out of the pandemic yet, so we all must remain vigilant if we want to have a somewhat normal semester.

LEARNING SUPPORT, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, AND ABSENCES:

Office of Disabilities (ODS) and Learning Support Services (LSS): It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. Go to the Learning Support Services website (<http://learningsupportservices.villanova.edu>) for registration guidelines and instructions. For physical access or temporarily disabling conditions, please contact the Office of Disability Services at (610) 519-4095 or email stephen.mcwilliams@villanova.edu. Registration is needed in order to receive accommodations.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to uphold Villanova's Academic Integrity Policy and Code. Any incident of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for disciplinary action. For the College's statement on Academic Integrity, you should consult the [Student Guide to Policies and Procedures](#). You may view the University's Academic Integrity Policy and Code, as well as other useful information related to writing papers, at the [Academic Integrity Gateway](#) web site.

Absences for Religious Holidays: Villanova University makes every reasonable effort to allow members of the community to observe their religious holidays, consistent with the University's obligations, responsibilities, and policies. Students who expect to miss a class or assignment due to the observance of a religious holiday should discuss the matter with their professors as soon as possible, normally at least two weeks in advance. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the absence. See the [Provost's policies on religious holidays](#).

SCHEDULE: The weekly schedule is subject to change.

WEEK 1 - Introduction

Class 1: (23-Aug-21) Introduction

Read: the syllabus (see why, [here](#)).

Class 2: (25-Aug-21) The EU in crisis?

Read: Timothy Garton Ash. 2012. The crisis of Europe: How the Union came together and why it's falling apart. *Foreign Affairs* 91:2.

Class 3: (27-Aug-21) What is the European Union?

Read: McCormick, Ch. 1 (1–23).

WEEK 2 - Origins of the European Union

Class 4: (30-Aug-21) The evolution of the EU

Read: McCormick, Ch. 3 (48–72).

Class 5: (01-Sept-21) EU enlargement

Read: Christina J Schneider. *Conflict, Negotiation and European Union Enlargement*. Cambridge University Press, 2009, Ch. 1 (pp. 1–8 only), Ch. 2 (p. 12–32).

Class 6: (03-Sept-21) Status of EU accession countries

Read: list of EU candidate countries [here](#).

- In five groups, discuss the likelihood of these countries acceding to the EU given Dr. Schneider’s argument on the distributional gains/losses from accession. I will assign each group a different candidate country.
- One student should volunteer to take notes on a shared google doc; another student should volunteer to be spokesperson.

WEEK 3 - Functioning of the EU

Class 7: (06-Sept-21) **No class meeting.** Labor Day (university holiday)

Class 8: (08-Sept-21) The European Institutions

Read: McCormick, Ch. 4 (73–95).

Class 9: (10-Sept-21) Discussion on the Rotating Presidency of the Council

Read: Alan Beattie’s “Trade Secrets” post in the *Financial Times*: The EU’s distracting game of governmental musical chairs. (June 24, 2021)

WEEK 4 - EU Policy Process

Class 10: (13-Sept-21) The EU Policy Process: Schulhaus Rock

Read: McCormick, Ch. 6 (120–144).

Class 11: (15-Sept-21) EU policy: compliance and infringement

Read about the EU’s Directive on Copyright in the Single Digital Market. What are the complaints against it since it was agreed upon? Which states have passed national laws to comply with directive? Are companies beginning to comply (in the EU, and perhaps elsewhere)?

- During class: I will put you into small groups to discuss the Copyright in the Digital Single Market directive and the questions above.
- One student should volunteer to take notes on a shared google doc; another student should volunteer to be spokesperson.

Class 12: (17-Sept-21) No class meeting

Watch the documentary *A History of the European Council* at home: [link](#)

WEEK 5 - Economic integration

Class 13: (20-Sept-21) The Single Market

Read: McCormick, Ch. 7

Class 14: (22-Sept-21) Politics of monetary integration

Read: Jeffrey A Frieden. Real sources of European currency policy: Sectoral interests and European monetary integration. *International Organization*, pages 831–860, 2002.

Class 15: (24-Sept-21) Role of the European Central Bank

Read: Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder on ECB ([link](#))

WEEK 6 - Legal Integration

Class 16: (27-Sept-21) Internal Policy

Read: McCormick, Ch. 8 (169–193).

Class 17: (29-Sept-21) No class meeting; away for APSA conference

* Although I'll be away, we will still have a remote lesson on the EU legal framework and what it means for integration

Read: Lauren Peritz. Obstructing integration: Domestic politics and the European Court of Justice. *European Union Politics*, 19(3):427–457, 2018.

Watch: video lecture to be posted on course Blackboard page

Class 18: (01-Oct-21) No class meeting; away for APSA conference;

Watch: Prof. Nick Grief's reflections on ECJ's judgement in Van Gend en Loos ([link](#))

WEEK 7 - Mid-term Exam

Class 19: (04-Oct-21) Mid-term review session

Come with questions. I will distribute a mid-term review guide one week prior.

Class 20: (06-Oct-21) **Mid-term Exam (30% of final grade)**

Definitions, multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions

Class 21: (08-Oct-21) **No class meeting** - post midterm rest

WEEK 8 - Fall Break

No class meeting (11-Oct-21)

No class meeting (13-Oct-21)

No class meeting (15-Oct-21)

WEEK 9 - Populism Overview

Class 22: (18-Oct-21) Defining Populism

Read: Urbinati, Nadia. 2019. Political theory of populism. *Annual Review of Political Science* 22: 111-127.

Class 23: (20-Oct-21) Causes of Populism

Read: Berman, Sheri. 2021. The Causes of Populism in the West. *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 71-88.

Class 24: (22-Oct-21) Populism in Europe (discussion)

Read: Mudde, Cas. 2016. Europe's populist surge: A long time in the making. *Foreign Affairs* 95(6): 25-30.

WEEK 10 - Populism causes: global financial crisis?

Class 25: (25-Oct-21) Economic crises and deeper integration

Read: Peritz, Lauren, Ryan Weldzius, Ronald Rogowski, and Thomas Flaherty. 2021. Enduring the Great Recession: Economic integration in the European Union. *The Review of International Organizations*: 1-29.

Class 26: (27-Oct-21) Growth regimes as precursor to populism (pre-GFC)

Read: Hopkin, Jonathan and Mark Blyth. 2018. The global economics of European populism: growth regimes and party system change in Europe. (The Government and Opposition/Leonard Schapiro Lecture 2017). *Government and Opposition*: 1–33.

Class 27: (29-Oct-21) **No class meeting**

Watch: Mark Blyth's lecture, [A brief history of how we got here and why](#)

- Focus on the lecture over the first 49 minutes and how it relates to the readings from this week. Feel free to continue watching Prof. Blyth's Q&A post lecture, which is fantastic!

***Due on Friday, October 29 by 5:00PM:** Argument for analytical essay

Upload your one sentence argument to the course Blackboard page

WEEK 11 - Populism causes: austerity?

Class 28: (01-Nov-21) **No class meeting**

Start reading for Wednesday; you have two chapters and they involve complex ideas

Class 29: (03-Nov-21) Austerity

Read: Blyth, Mark. 2013. Austerity: The history of a dangerous idea. *Oxford University Press*: Ch. 1 and 3 (online version of book available through Falvey Library [here](#))

Class 30: (05-Nov-21) The death of austerity

Read: Giles, Chris. 2020. Global economy: the week that austerity was officially buried. *Financial Times*, October 16, 2020.

WEEK 12 - Populism causes: cultural backlash or economic grievance?

Class 31: (08-Nov-21) Cultural backlash

Read: Inglehart, Ronald F. and Pippa Norris. Trump, Brexit, and the rise of populism: Economic have-nots and cultural backlash. *RWP16-026*

Class 32: (10-Nov-21) Economic grievance and Brexit

Read: Colantone, Italo, and Piero Stanig. 2018. Global competition and Brexit. *American Political Science Review* 112(2): 201-218.

Class 33: (12-Nov-21) So which is it?

Discussion on the merits of Inglehart-Norris and Colantone-Stanig.

***Due on Friday, November 12 by 5:00PM:** Outline for analytical essay

Upload your detailed outline (and updated argument) to the course Blackboard page

WEEK 13 - Immigration

Class 34: (15-Nov-21) Cleavage Politics and Changing Demographics

Read Ford, Robert and Will Jennings. 2020. The changing cleavage politics of Western Europe. *Annual Review of Political Science* 23: 295-314.

Class 35: (17-Nov-21) Immigration and Distributive Politics

Read: Angin, Merih, Albana Shehaj, and Adrian J. Shin. 2021. Inside job: Migration and distributive politics in the European Union. *Economics & Politics* 33: 264-288.

Class 36: (19-Nov-21) Discussion of papers/presentations

Come to class with questions about your papers and presentations (to be filmed by / viewed next Monday)

WEEK 14 - Presentation of Projects

***Presentation recordings due Sunday (21-Nov) by 10pm**

Class 37: (22-Nov-21) In-class viewing of recorded presentations; discussion afterwards

Class 38: (24-Nov-21) **No class meeting** (Thanksgiving Break)

Class 39: (26-Nov-21) **No class meeting** (Thanksgiving Break)

WEEK 15 - Solutions to Populism in Europe

Class 40: (29-Nov-21) EU Funding

Read: Charasz, Paweł, and Jan P. Vogler. 2021. Does EU funding improve local state capacity? Evidence from Polish municipalities. *European Union Politics*: 1-26.

Class 41: (01-Dec-21) Financial integration

Read: Esteve-González, Patricia, Helmut Herwartz, and Bernd Theilen. 2021. National support for the European integration project: Does financial integration matter? *Economics & Politics* 33(2): 357-378.

Class 42: (03-Dec-21) Opposing disintegration

Read: Walter, Stefanie. 2020. The Mass Politics of International Disintegration.

WEEK 16 - Summary and Course Review

Class 43: (06-Dec-21) Analytical Essays Due by 5pm

Come to class for open office hours or for a place to work on your essays. No new material will be introduced today.

Class 44: (08-Dec-21) Defining Populism

Review for final exam

FINALS WEEK

Final Exam (17-Dec-21) 8:30-11:00AM