



PSC 4640: The European Union
Fall 2016
Tuesday and Thursday, 14:00 - 15:15
Memorial Field House 1350

“Europe has achieved peaceful political union for the first time ever: They’re using this unprecedented state of affairs to harmonize the curvature of bananas.” — Charles Stross

Professor:

Prof. M. Joel Voss, PhD

Snyder Memorial 3069

419.530.2314 (office)

Michael.Voss@UToledo.edu

@mjoelvoss(twitter)

Department of Political Science and Public Administration on Facebook

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00. 12:15 - 13:45, & by appointment.

Course Description:

This course will give students an overview of different European states, governments, and politics. In addition, the course will examine the European Union, its structures, and key issues facing both the European Union and Europe. Issues include European integration, the rise of authoritarian political parties, the recent refugee and migration crisis, and European foreign policy.

Course Overview:

This course will give a detailed overview of the governmental systems of important European states including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Russia. In addition, the course will provide students with a thorough examination of the goals, decision-making processes, and institutional framework of the European Union. Finally, the course will focus on current and future problems in Europe, including terrorism, migration, and issues within global political economy.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will gain a practical and theoretical understanding of the comparative politics of key European States.
- Students will gain a practical and theoretical understanding of the European Union, including its history, structure, decision-making, and foreign policy.
- Students will be able to synthesize readings and apply concepts to multiple contexts, including day to day examples.
- Students will increase competence and confidence in both oral and written communication through practice.

Prerequisites:

TBD

Textbooks:

Both books are required. Any additional readings are available on Blackboard.

1. Hancock, et al., 2015. *Politics in Europe* (6th edition). CQ Press. (Hereafter PiE).
2. Lelieveldt and Princen, 2015. *The Politics of the European Union* (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press. (Hereafter EU).
3. Read the news daily

University Policies

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read *The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of the Americans with Disability Act Compliance*.

Academic Accommodations The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the *Student Disability Services Office*.

Grade Policy:

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

Grading Scale:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Performance
93 - 100	A	Achievement of Exceptional or Outstanding quality.
90 - 92	A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
87 - 89	B+	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
83 - 86	B	Achievement of high quality.
80 - 82	B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
77 - 79	C+	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
73 - 76	C	Work of acceptable quality.
70 - 72	C-	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
67 - 69	D+	Work slightly below the quality expected.
63 - 66	D	Below the quality expected.
60 - 62	D-	Barely above failing.
59 or less	F	Failure

Grading:

Test I	25%
- This is an in-class exam and will consist of short-answer and essay questions.	
Test II	25%
- This is an in-class exam and will consist of short-answer and essay questions.	
Final Paper	35%
- Students must complete a 10 page research paper on a topic related to the European Union. Please email me to show that you have read this syllabus. If you do, you will receive extra credit.	
Attendance	15%
- Students are expected to attend class. Each student will receive two unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences, student's will be penalized with 1/3 letter grade deduction for attendance. You must email me for extra credit related to reading this syllabus before the 3rd class.	

Academic Honesty:

"The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants' trust that others' work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities."

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

Extra Help and Office Hours:

Please feel free to come by my office hours if you need help understanding assignments or readings. It is best to come see me as soon as possible if you need any additional help.

Important Dates:

Test I	6 October 2016
Test II	12:30 - 14:30, 16 December 2016
Final Paper	8 December 2016

Course Schedule:

23 August: Introductions

1. Course overview, general expectations, etc.

25 August: The Modern State

1. Clark, Golder, and Golder, "The Origins of the Modern State" (available on Blackboard)

30 August: The United Kingdom - Guest Lecturer Dr. Wilson. Dr. Voss will be at the American Political Science Association's Annual Meeting.

1. (TBD)

1 September: The United Kingdom - Class will not meet. Read for the following class. **Dr. Voss will be at the American Political Science Association's Annual Meeting.**

1. PiE, chapter 1 (TBD)

6 September: France

1. PiE, pp. 99-138

8 September: France

1. PiE, pp. 139-212

13 September: Germany

1. PiE, pp. 213 - 256

15 September: Germany

1. PiE, pp. 257 - 309

20 September: Russia

1. PiE, pp. 519 - 547

22 September: Russia

1. PiE, pp. 548-584

27 September: Sweden

1. PiE, chapter 5

29 September: Poland

1. PiE, chapter 7

4 October: Fall Break

6 October: Test 1

11 October: A brief history of the European Union

1. PiE, pp. 645-662
2. EU, chapter 2

13 October: The EU's institutional framework

1. PiE, pp. 663-680
2. EU, chapter 3

18 October: Decision-making within the EU

1. PiE, pp. 681-720

2. EU, chapter 4

20 October: Key actors of the EU, part 1: citizens and public opinion.

1. EU, chapter 5

25 October: Key actors of the EU, part 2: interest groups and interest representation.

1. EU, chapter 6

27 October: Key actors of the EU, part 3: political parties and the European Parliament

1. EU, chapter 7

1 November: Policy-making

1. EU, chapter 8

2. EU, chapter 9

3 November: Implementing policies

1. EU, chapter 10

2. EU, chapter 11

8 November: A European identity?

1. Brexit Bats Aside Younger Generation's European Identity

2. European Identity?: A Crisis of Construction in the 21st Century?

3. Andrea Schlenker, Cosmopolitan Europeans or Partisans of Fortress Europe? Supra-national identity patterns in the EU, 2011.

10 November: Brexit and Grexit

1. Overwhelmed by Brexit? Here are the Basics

2. Straws in the Wind: The Economic Impact of Brexit.

3. The European Union has Agreed on Two Important Questions Regarding Brexit

4. A Background Guide to Brexit from the European Union

15 November: Common Foreign and Security Policy

1. Derek Mix, The European Union: Foreign and Security Policy, 2013.

2. Philip Gordon, Europe's Uncommon Foreign Policy, 2012 (available on Blackboard).

3. Niklas Novaky, Why so Soft? The European Union in Ukraine, 2015 (available on Blackboard)

17 November: Foreign policy, part 1: Europe and the Russia

1. Charlotte Wagnsson, Divided Power Europe: Normative Divergences among the EU 'Big Three,' 2010 (available on Blackboard)
2. Michael Emerson, Just Good Friends? The European Union's Multiple Neighborhood Policies, 2012 (available on Blackboard)

22 November: Foreign policy, part 2: Europe and Africa

1. The European Union and Democracy Promotion in Africa: The Case of Ghana
2. Mary Farrell, A Triumph of Realism over Idealism? Cooperation Between The European Union and Africa, 2006 (available on Blackboard).

24 November: Thanksgiving break

29 November: Human rights

1. Lisa Conant, Compelling Criteria? Human Rights in the European Union, 2014 (available on Blackboard)
2. The European Union's 2015 World Report - Human Rights Watch
3. Human Rights in Europe

1 December: Migration and Refugees

1. Refugee Crisis in Europe
2. Migrant Crisis: Migration to Europe Explained in Seven Charts
3. The Death of the Most Generous Nation on Earth

6 December: The EU and extremism

1. The Rise of Extremism in a Disunited Europe
2. Right Response: Understanding and Countering Populist Extremism in Europe
3. The European Union and the Challenge of Extremism and Populism

8 December: The future of the EU and Europe

1. PiE, pp. 725-734
2. EU, chapter 12
3. Brexit will Fundamentally Change the Future of Europe