

POL 307, EUROPEAN POLITICS

SPRING 2018 / TR, 3:55–5:15 / 204 MAHAR HALL / DR. CRAIG WARKENTIN

What's this course about?

POL 307 examines the political institutions, dynamics, and processes of contemporary Europe, covering topics such as integration, policymaking, governmental structures, political parties, elections, the media, civil society, political economy, and immigration. The course is primarily intended as a broad survey of European politics, but we'll also do a simulation exercise to explore some issues in greater depth.

What can I learn from this class?

If you complete assignments and actively participate, by the end of the semester you should be able to

- recognize the key issues, actors, and dynamics of contemporary European politics;
- discuss the main structures and processes of European politics, economics, and culture;
- forward workable prescriptions for effecting constructive change in Europe and the EU; and
- articulate an informed, personal understanding of contemporary European and EU politics.

Of course, these goals can only be accomplished if we work together to create a classroom environment conducive to learning. With that in mind, be sure to familiarize yourself with SUNY Oswego's [Non-Discrimination Policy](#).

What books do I need?

- *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, 4th ed., by Tim Bale (Palgrave, 2018; ISBN 9781137581334)
- *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press, 2013; ISBN 9780226816388)

We'll read Bale's book cover to cover, and you'll need both textbooks to successfully complete this course. Physical copies are strongly recommended, but eBooks are okay if you fully adhere to my electronics policy (below).

Should I also pay attention to the news?

It's always good to know what's going on in the world, especially when you're taking a class about countries other than your own. If you're a reader, the [Associated Press](#) and [Reuters](#) offer the best starting points for global news coverage. If you'd rather watch your news, [Agence-France Presse](#) and [Al Jazeera English](#) provide excellent reportage via their YouTube channels.

Can I use my phone in the classroom?

Phones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be silenced and stowed out of reach at all times, whether or not class is in session and whether or not I'm physically present in the room. Excepted from this rule are tablet devices, which are allowed during class if they're used solely to access course materials and don't cause a distraction.

If you violate this policy, I may do one or more of the following: (1) reduce your course participation grade; (2) invalidate any accrued extra credit points; or (3) dismiss you from the classroom for part or all of the period.

You occasionally might need to use a device during class, in which case(s) I'll let you know in advance so you can plan accordingly.

What other scary stuff should I know?

We might watch some videos in this class that contain violence, disturbing images, coarse language, or other adult content. If this poses a problem for you, let me know before Thursday, February 8 (after which I'll assume it's not an issue).

You also need to familiarize yourself with this syllabus, remember that you're responsible for whatever happens in class (whether or not you attend), and act accordingly.

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, but I'll consult you before making changes that could affect your grade and announce any notable revisions in class.

I can't find this class on Blackboard.

We won't be using Blackboard for POL 307. The course syllabus and other materials are posted on the class website, at warkentin.xyz/307.

What's your attendance policy?

I expect you to attend class and participate. Stuff happens, of course, but circumstances seldom warrant more than a couple absences (if any) during the semester. (Keep in mind that you can't participate if you're not present, and excessive absences can harm your course grade.) If you do miss a class, I'll trust you to make whatever arrangements you deem necessary.

In the event of inclement weather, prioritize your personal safety over class attendance. Of course, I'll let you know (via email) if I can't make it to campus and have to cancel class. Unless otherwise instructed, stay on schedule with readings and deadlines if we miss a class session (for any reason); we'll catch up and make adjustments if needed when we return.

How will my grade be calculated?

Your course grade will be determined by the number of points you accrue during the semester:

470-500 = A	400-419 = B-	335-349 = D+
450-469 = A-	385-399 = C+	320-334 = D
435-449 = B+	370-384 = C	300-319 = D-
420-434 = B	350-369 = C-	000-299 = E

Required assignments and point values:

- Participation (100 points) - Attendance rate and classroom contributions
- Papers (300 points) - 3 personal responses to parts of Bale's textbook
- ICONS (100 points) - Participation and a paper for the ICONS simulation

Detailed requirements and expectations for each assignment will be discussed in class, with supporting information posted on the class website.

Do you accept late assignments?

I reserve the right to give you a zero on any late or missed assignment. Submissions that don't meet stated requirements and expectations are subject to a score reduction or other penalty, to be levied at my discretion.

What happens if I cheat or plagiarize?

As a SUNY Oswego student, you must fully adhere to the [College Policy on Intellectual Integrity](#), according to which you're personally responsible "to assist in protecting the integrity of the degrees which this College grants by (1) not participating, either directly or indirectly, in intellectual dishonesty in any form, (2) actively discouraging intellectual dishonesty by others, and (3) reporting to the course instructor in a timely manner any known incidents of intellectual dishonesty."

Submission of your first graded assignment in this class serves as your formal acknowledgement that you fully understand the College Policy on Intellectual Integrity, including relevant definitions, consequences, and procedures. If you engage in proscribed behavior, I reserve the right to take any punitive action allowed by the university.

What if I have questions or need help?

I'll assume you're doing as well as you'd like to in this class unless you tell me otherwise. If you do need some extra help, just let me know and I'll do my best to assist you; I'll be glad to discuss with you any course-related questions or concerns you might have. You're always welcome to stop by during my office hours, catch me after class, or schedule an appointment.

If you have a disabling condition that could interfere with your ability to successfully complete this class, please contact [Disability Support Services](#) (155 Marano Campus Center, 315.312.3358, dss@oswego.edu).

What (and where) are your office hours?

Hours: 1-2 p.m. on Tue/Thu, 1:30-3 p.m. on Wed, and by appointment

Office: 435 Mahar Hall

Phone: 315.312.4080

Email: craig.warkentin@oswego.edu

Website: warkentin.xyz/307

How should I prepare for class?

Complete assigned readings before coming to class on the indicated dates (below). Always bring your textbook (or some other copy of the reading) and be prepared to discuss what you read.

TUE, JAN 23

Turabian: Ch. 7, Drafting Your Report (73–83); Ch. 15, General Introduction to Citation Practices (135–143); Ch. 18, Author-Date Style: The Basic Form (216–228)

THU, JAN 25

Bale: Introduction (xiii–xix); Ch. 1, Europe—a continent in the making (1–10)

TUE, JAN 30

Bale: Ch. 1, Europe—a continent in the making (10–38)

THU, FEB 1

Bale: Ch. 2, The end of the nation state? (39–53)

TUE, FEB 6

Bale: Ch. 2, The end of the nation state? (53–70)

THU, FEB 8

Bale: Ch. 3, From government to governance—running the state, making policy and policing the constitution (71–86)

TUE, FEB 13

Bale: Ch. 3, From government to governance—running the state, making policy and policing the constitution (86–104)

THU, FEB 15

TBA

TUE, FEB 20

Bale: Ch. 4, Governments and parliaments—a long way from equality (105–124)

THU, FEB 22

Bale: Ch. 4, Governments and parliaments—a long way from equality (124–142)

TUE, FEB 27

Bale: Ch. 5, Parties—how the past affects the present, and an uncertain future (143–167)

THU, MAR 1

Bale: Ch. 5, Parties—how the past affects the present, and an uncertain future (167–186)

TUE, MAR 6

Bale: Ch. 6, Elections, voting and referendums—systems, turnout, preferences and unpredictability (187–203)

THU, MAR 8

Bale: Ch. 6, Elections, voting and referendums—systems, turnout, preferences and unpredictability (203–223)

TUE, MAR 20

ICONS

THU, MAR 22

ICONS

TUE, MAR 27

Bale: Ch. 7, The media—player and recorder (224–241)

THU, MAR 29

Bale: Ch. 7, The media—player and recorder (241–261)

TUE, APR 3

Bale: Ch. 8, Participation and pressure politics—civil society, organized interests and social movements (262–275)

THU, APR 5

Bale: Ch. 8, Participation and pressure politics—civil society, organized interests and social movements (275–292)

TUE, APR 10

Bale: Ch. 9, Politics over markets: does politics—and left and right—still matter? (293–312)

THU, APR 12

Bale: Ch. 9, Politics over markets: does politics—and left and right—still matter? (312–326)

TUE, APR 17

Bale: Ch. 10, Not wanted, but needed—migrants and minorities (327–338)

THU, APR 19

Bale: Ch. 10, Not wanted, but needed—migrants and minorities (338–363)

TUE, APR 24

Bale: Ch. 11, Protecting and promoting—Europe's international politics (364–380)

THU, APR 26

Bale: Ch. 11, Protecting and promoting—Europe's international politics (380–396)

TUE, MAY 1

Film

THU, MAY 3

Film