

PSC 240

European Political Systems

SUNY Buffalo State

Fall 2022

Department of Political Science & Public Administration

Instructor	Dr. Laurie Buonanno (“Prof B” or “Dr. B”) https://politicalscience.buffalostate.edu/faculty/laurie-buonanno
Department	Political Science & Public Administration
Office	878-5037(voicemail), but Bb My Messages the best way to reach me
Phone	
Office	Cassety Hall 219
Private Matters	How to reach me: Please communicate about private matters via <i>My Messages</i> . (Located on the Navigation Bar.) Private matters are those that would typically be asked during my office hours (about your grades, class absences – that concern you only and not the class).
Public Matters	For any correspondence such as assignment due dates, a broken web link, questions regarding expectations concerning assignments – that can’t wait until our next class meeting – post to the INTERNET CAFÉ.
Office Hours	Mondays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on by appointment.

Course Description

The structure and dynamics of politics in major European countries with emphasis on political behavior and political processes; issues of economic and political integration.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Define “Europe.”
2. Examine institutions, politics, interests, and electoral systems in European countries.
3. Gain expertise in current issues relevant to European countries.
4. Understand the relationship between European countries and the European Union.
5. Consider the future of Europe.

Required Course Text and News Sources

1. Paul Kubicek. 2021. *European Policies*. 3rd edition. Routledge
2. John McCormick. 2021. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. 8th edition. Bloomsbury/Red Globe Press.
3. Politico – Europe. FREE. Daily reading. <https://www.politico.eu/>
4. Students should read *The New York Times* regularly. *The New York Times* online is free to members of the Buffalo State community. To sign up for your FREE online subscription, <https://libanswers.buffalostate.edu/faq/177914>. Focus on articles about Europe, the EU, and transatlantic relations.
5. European Union Resources: <https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/resources>.

Course Requirements and Grading Structure

Table 1: Course Requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS
Reading Quizzes (online via Blackboard) (complete 10 @ 25 points each) Due on Sunday evenings by 11:59 p.m.	250
Weekly Discussion Questions/Comments – 1 on assigned readings for that week, 1 on current events relating to your regional group (10 weeks, 10 points each, 2 posts = 200 points) (Due Wednesday evenings by 11:59 p.m.)	200
Regional Groups – Weekly Reports to Class followed by Q & A (can be any session depending upon what’s happening in Europe)	250
Formal Debate & 2-page team briefing paper considering pro & con, includes references (last week of classes)	200
Class Attendance & Participation	100
TOTAL	1000

Table 2: Points and Grade Chart

Use this chart to compare accumulated points on Bb gradebook with your letter grade.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E
≥930	900	870	830	800	770	730	700	670	630	≤590

Course Assessments

1. Reading Quizzes

There are 10 in this class valued at 25 points each. Combination of subjective (short answer/essay) and objective. These are housed on Bb (click “Assessments” tab). They are not timed. You can open, save, and return. But you do have to submit by due date. I allow one late

quiz without penalty. After that, I won't grade late quizzes because we have moved on to the next subject matter.

2. Weekly Questions/Comments

Each week you will post two (2) discussion questions (DQCs) to the discussion forums located on Bb for the current learning module. Each DQC can earn a maximum of 10 points. There are 10 learning modules with DQCs for a total of 200 points.

The discussion questions/comments will be due on **Wednesday evenings by 11:59 p.m.**

DQCs – One (1) derived from the assigned readings and One (1) from current events pertaining to the European region you are following this semester. These questions serve as the basis for Friday's in-class discussions.

Each DQC should be approximately 50-100 words. A DQC should pose a question or be written in the form of a comment, provide background (e.g. comment), and state clearly the reading from which the question is derived (text, p. # and URL for the current event). Proper grammar, clear syntax, concise language is expected.

DQCs are due on Wednesdays by 11:59 p.m.

3. Regional Groups (in-class reporting & one weekly question/comment)

- The European Union
- Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal
- The UK, France, and Ireland
- Austria, Germany, Switzerland
- Poland, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus
- Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Benelux
- Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro
- Ukraine covered by all of us.

4. Formal Debate

Potential Debate Topics – will be discussed as the semester progresses

Proportional Representation vs. Plurality Electoral System: Which is the best way to run elections?

Constitutional Monarchy vs. Republic - which is best?

The U.S. Should Send Troops to Ukraine

The UK Should Rejoin the EU

Which is better – the US economic system or the European “mixed economies”?

Format for team debates is as follows:

Procedure:

1. Student volunteer reads the question.
2. Audience vote taken – pro/con/neutral
3. Coin toss
4. Debate
5. Audience vote taken – pro/con/neutral

Pro Speech

5-minute opening speech

Con Speech

5-minute opening speech

Audience Question Period--5 minutes

--audience questions directed in order at both teams (student volunteer presides)

Con Rebuttal--5 minutes

Pro Rebuttal—5 minutes

5. Attendance & Participation

I take attendance. I offer up to 100 points toward your final grade. This grade is based on attendance, but I give extra consideration for participation in class discussions.

Late policy for Assessments

No credit for late posting of weekly questions/comments. (I need Thursday during the day to review and incorporate into Friday's class because I teach a class on Thursday evenings.)

You are permitted on **late quiz** (no more than one week late) without penalty. After that, I dock one letter grade for every day that the quiz is late.

Academic Misconduct

Buffalo State's [official academic misconduct policy](http://academicstandards.buffalostate.edu/misconduct) states that "all students at the college are expected to display honesty and integrity in completing course requirements and following college academic regulations." "Academic misconduct" refers to any form of plagiarism or cheating on examinations or assignments, and is inconsistent with the aims and goals of the State University College at Buffalo. Source: <http://academicstandards.buffalostate.edu/misconduct>

Course Accessibility

Please refer to <http://sas.buffalostate.edu/information-faculty> for the policy I follow regarding course accessibility.

Regarding Services Provided by the Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office helps students navigate the college experience, particularly during difficult situations such as personal, financial, medical, and/or family crises. If you or someone you know is in need of support, services are available. For a list of support services and information, please visit <http://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/>, 716-878-4618 or stop by 311 Campbell Student Union during business hours.

Other resources:

[Student Conduct and Community Standards Office](#): Phone: (716) 878-3051

[Weigel Health Center](#): Phone: (716) 878 – 6711

[Weigel Health Promotions](#): Phone: (716) 878-6711, *Health Promotions also provides in class presentations. You can find out more at: <http://weigel.buffalostate.edu/node/254>*

[The Counseling Center](#): Phone: (716) 878-4436

[Sexual Violence Prevention information and resources](#)

Food Insecurity

The [Milligan's Food Pantry](#) is an excellent resource for students on campus. Milligan's provides students who are food insecure with the opportunity to get non-perishable food from a campus source.

Tutoring

FREE and UNLIMITED academic support for all students is available, both in-person and online. Students can get assistance through the Math Center, Writing Center, and Tutoring Services located in Butler Library. After-hours online support is available through STAR-NY. Students in EOP may also seek support through the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) in Butler Library. Schedule your appointment today on the [Bengal Success Portal](#) (Find us under Your Services)! For more details check the tutoring website: <https://academicsuccess.buffalostate.edu/tutoring>.

Table 3: Learning Modules

LEARNING MODULES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQC posted on Wednesdays by 11:59 p.m. – see Bb discussion forums • Quizzes due on Sundays by 11:59 p.m. – see Bb assessments & calendar 	Dates	Required Readings
<i>Module 1</i> Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Science and Public Administration • Comparative Politics & Government and International Relations • The comparative method • Terms 	8/29-9/2	
<i>Module 2</i> What is Europe?	9/5 Labor Day – no class 9/7-9/9	Kubicek, Chapter 1 McCormick, Chapter 1
<i>Module 3</i> Political & Economic Development	9/12-9/16	Kubicek, Chapter 2 McCormick Chapters 2 & 3
<i>Module 4</i> European Governance – confederal, federal, or “unidentified political object” (<i>sui generis</i>)?	9/19-9/23	McCormick, Chapters 4 & 5
<i>Module 5</i> Parliaments & Electoral Systems	9/26-9/30	Kubicek, Chapter 4
<i>Module 6</i> Executive Authority in Europe	10/3-10/7	Kubicek, Chapter 5
<i>Module 7</i> Legal Structures & Judicial Systems	10/10 Fall Recess - no class 10/12-10/14	Kubicek, Chapter 6
<i>Module 8</i> Political Parties & Elections	10/17-10/21	Kubicek, Chapter 7
<i>Module 9</i> Political Culture & Citizen Politics	10/24-10/26 No class 10/28	Kubicek, Chapter 8 McCormick, Chapter 5
<i>Module 10</i> Economic Issues in Europe	10/31-11/4	Kubicek, Chapter 9 McCormick, Chapter 7
<i>Module 11</i> Europe in the World	11/7-11/11	Kubicek, Chapter 11 McCormick, Chapter 9
<i>Module 12</i> Immigration and Multiculturalism	11/14-11/21	Kubicek, Chapter 10
<i>Thanksgiving Break - No classes</i>	11/23-11/25	
<i>Module 13</i> Conclusions & the Future	11/28-12/2	Kubicek, Chapter 12 McCormick 199-202
<i>Module 14</i> Formal Debates	12/5-12/9	