

PSC 240: European Political Systems

SUNY Buffalo State University

Fall 2024

MWF 10-10:50 a.m. – Caudell Hall 208

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.

Course Format & Instructional Method

Lecture, Discussion, Group Work/Traditional

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 (EU).
5. Consider the future of Europe.
6. Study current issues facing the EU and apply this knowledge in a simulation of a European Council summit.

Required Course Text and News Sources

1. Paul Kubicek. 2021. *European Politics*. 3rd edition. Routledge
2. *Politico – Europe*. FREE. <https://www.politico.eu/>
3. *The New York Times*
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 (especially the country you are representing), the EU, and transatlantic relations.
4. A variety of sources on Europe can be found at the Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY, [Resources](#).

Instructor	<u>Dr. Laurie Buonanno</u> (“Prof B” or “Dr. B”) She, her, hers
Department	Political Science, Public Administration, and Planning
Campus	878-5037 (voicemail)
Phone	
Campus Address	Cassety Hall 219
How to reach me:	PUBLIC: Any general questions, announcements, or opportunities (e.g., lectures, job postings) you would like to share with the class, please feel free to post to the Brightspace Activity Feed on the course homepage. PRIVATE: For private matters, email me through Brightspace.
OFFICE HOURS	Mondays 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and by appointment.

Course Requirements and Grading Structure

Table 1: Course Requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS
Reading Quizzes (online via Blackboard) (complete 10 @ 50 points each) Due on Sunday evenings by 11:59 p.m.	500
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
Representing a European country throughout the semester with respect to an issue that is before the European Union. This will be both formal (European Council summits) and informal (as part of class participation).	200
Class Attendance & Participation	100
Extra Credit – I offer extra credit opportunities throughout the course rather than making extra credit available at the end of the semester. Please take advantage of extra credit throughout the semester!	variable
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 50 points each. Combination of subjective (short answer/essay) and objective. These are housed on Brightspace in the content module. They are not timed. You can open, save, and return. But you do have to submit by the 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. See Brightspace Calendar for due dates. If you need me to open a quiz for you because you did not turn it in on time, please email me on Brightspace. (See "Late Policy for Assessments.") Always due on Sundays by 10:59 p.m.

2. Weekly Questions/Comments

Each week you will post two (2) discussion questions/comments (DQCs) to the discussion forums located on Brightspace in 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.** I can't accept late DQCs because I use these to develop my Friday lecture. Your questions/comments ensure that I am covering any material you don't understand or would like to discuss in class.

DQCs – One (1) derived from the assigned readings and One (1) from current events pertaining to the European country you are following this semester. If are having difficulty finding news about your country, you can post about the European Union or an issue involving other European countries. 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, and concise language is expected.

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

3. Your European country

You will represent your country in the role of Head of Government throughout the semester, both informally (briefing the class on any major event) and in an ongoing European Council summit. We will post the list of country assignments to Brightspace.

4. Attendance & Participation

I take attendance. I offer up to 100 points toward your final grade. This grade is based on attendance, but I consider participation for extra credit.

Late policy for Assessments

No credit for late posting of weekly questions/comments. (I need Thursday to review and incorporate your DQCs incorporate into Friday's class.)

You are permitted one **late quiz** (no more than one week late) without penalty. After that, I **subtract five points** for every day the quiz is late. Be sure to email me via Brightspace so we can keep track of the situation.

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 needs 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.

- Bengal 2 Bengal is an emergency fund offered for students in need. More information on parameters of the fund and application requirements can be found on the Dean of Student's website: <https://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/emergency-relief-programbengal2bengal-fund>.
- 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. Juliet Meade can respond to questions regarding Milligan's or the Emergency Relief Fund and is available at meadejl@buffalostate.edu or at 716-878-4618.
- [Student Conduct and Community Standards Office](#): Phone: (716) 878-3051
- [Weigel Health Center](#): Phone: (716) 878 – 6711
- [The Counseling Center](#): Phone: (716) 878-4436
- Student Resources Page: <http://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/resources-students>

Academic Misconduct

Buffalo State's [official academic misconduct policy](#) 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>

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>.

Student Accessibility Services

Accommodations: Students who need accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability are invited to make their needs known to the [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) Office, E. H. Butler Library 160, (716) 878-4500, email sas@buffalostate.edu or complete their request by filling out the [Initial Accommodation Request form](#).

Students registered with SAS should use the [Accommodate Portal](#) to submit their "[Semester Request](#)" (Letter of Accommodation) every semester. This letter informs faculty of the student's academic accommodations.

Title IX

My priority as your professor is to ensure a safe, respectful education environment where all students can learn and thrive. The University does not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment (including sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking) based on protected characteristics (e.g., sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, pregnancy, etc.) or related retaliation. All faculty and teaching assistants are considered mandated reporters by the University, which means that if they observe or learn of sex-based harassment/ discrimination or related retaliation, they are obligated to immediately share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator. This obligation, grounded in law and policy, is designed to protect the safety of students and the broader Buffalo State community, as well as ensure that students receive information about available supportive measures and resolution options to enable them to make informed choices. Supportive measures include reasonable academic accommodations available with or without the filing of a formal complaint.

If you need academic accommodations due to sex discrimination, harassment, or related retaliation, you may:

On Campus Resources:

- Contact the TIX Coordinator directly (titleix@buffalostate.edu or 716-878-5212), without sharing any personal information with me.
- If you would like to speak with a confidential counselor about sexual misconduct, The Counseling Center provides 24/7 confidential support for students via the Bengal Support Line (833-823-0260), or by scheduling an appointment at 716-878-4436.
- If you are a student with a disability and require reasonable accommodations to meaningfully participate in this course, please contact the University's Student Accessibility Services at your earliest convenience (sas@buffalostate.edu or 716-878-4500), as SAS is responsible for processing and approving such requests.
- If you are pregnant, have recently experienced childbirth, and/or have medical needs related to childbirth, please contact our Title IX Coordinator for assistance.

· You can file an anonymous report with our University Police Department: 716-878-6333, police@buffalostate.edu

Off Campus Resources:

- Crisis Services: 24/7 hotline, 716-834-3131
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- Family Justice Center: 716-558-7233, safe@fjcsafe.org

Table 3: Learning Modules

LEARNING MODULES+	Dates	Required Textbook Readings
Introduction to the Course	8/26-8/28	
<i>Module 1</i> What is Europe?	8/30, 9/4-9/6 No class 9/2 - Labor Day	Kubicek, Chapter 1
<i>Module 2</i> Political & Economic Development in Western and Eastern Europe	9/9-9/13	Kubicek, Chapter 2
<i>Module 3</i> Institutions and Polices of the European Union	9/16-9/20	Kubicek, Chapter 3
<i>Module 4</i> Parliaments & Electoral Systems	9/23-9/25 No class September 27*	Kubicek, Chapter 4
<i>Module 5</i> Executive Authority in Europe	9/30-10/04	Kubicek, Chapter 5
<i>Module 6</i> Legal Structures & Judicial Systems	10/07-10/11	Kubicek, Chapter 6
Fall Recess, No Class 10/14		
<i>Module 7</i> Political Parties & Elections	10/16 & 10/18	Kubicek, Chapter 7
European Council Summit #1	10/21-10/25	Model EU Guidelines, Agenda Item
<i>Module 8</i> Political Culture & Citizen Politics	10/28-11/01	Kubicek, Chapter 8
<i>Module 9</i> Economic Issues in Europe	11/04-11/08	Kubicek, Chapter 9
<i>Module 10</i> Immigration and Multiculturalism	11/11-11/15	Kubicek, Chapter 10
<i>Module 11</i> European Security & Foreign Policy	11/18-11/25	Kubicek, Chapter 11
11/27 & 11/29 No classes: Thanksgiving Break		
European Council Summit #2	12/2-12/4	Agenda Item
Course Wrap-up	12/06	

+Students post discussion questions/comments by Wednesdays 11:59 p.m. Quizzes due on Sundays by 11:59 p.m. and cover a learning module. See Brightspace assessments & calendar for quiz due dates and links. *Buonanno is in Albany attending the UUP Delegate Assembly.