

Political Science 3380
West European Politics
Spring Semester 2022

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This class is designed to focus on Western Europe's historical experience, the organization of national and international decision-making institutions, and electoral and related politics after 1945, with a significant contemporary emphasis. The country or countries that receive the most attention will vary from topic to topic. The end of the Cold War means the sharp division of Europe into Western and Eastern sections has dissipated in important respects, though not disappeared completely. In general, the approach will be comparative across countries. This course will explore the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the former primarily economic, the latter primarily military. We will examine the history, structures, policies, and likely future developments of supranational organizations involving Europe, including these two along with others, such as the United Nations (UN) and the relatively new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

There will be a detailed calendar schedule to guide, but not restrict, our discussions. The first weeks of the course will focus on history, with attention to philosophical and cultural roots of Europe today. The last weeks of the course will have a much more modern and contemporary focus.

There will be mid-term and final examinations, a term paper, and other written work, along with emphasis on active class participation. The course grade will be based on the following elements: 30% exams, 25% term paper, 25% class discussion and presentations, 20% written exercises. These are approximate percentages. Areas of a student's strength will be given heavier relative weight. Extra credit is strongly encouraged, and every student initiative is greatly appreciated.

Principal Course Text:

William Drozdiak, *Fractured Continent – Europe's Crises and the Fate of the West*,
New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2017