



## **GOVT 3350 CURRENT TOPICS IN THE EU**

---

**Instructor:** Professor Dr. Patrick Dua (M.A., Dr. phil.)

**Office Hours:** by appointment

### **Course Description**

---

The dawn of the modern era has been dominated predominantly by developments centered on the European continent and its conflicting interests at home and abroad. However, as far as a general survey of the entire state-systems of Europe are concerned, it has never been easy in general to label any different groups of states according to their individual merits. For a continent betraying so much diversity in terms of histories, cultures, developmental peculiarities as well as traditional allegiances, any process of classification would need to consider a significant volume of literature and factors cutting across the width and breadth of all the social sciences.

This course will seek to investigate into the concept of Europeanness as a form of shared cultural identity and the underlying realities of perceptions and self-perceptions that may be accounted to validate our understandings of that notion.

Much emphasis will be placed on issues of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that contributed essentially to the remodeling of the Europe found currently in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As in the case of any course or undertaking of this kind, the main focus of the individual class agenda will be driven to highlight the comparative and transitional factors of European politics, institutional developments, processes of government and their impact on general international and economic relations in conjunction with their overall implications for the contemporary global social fabric at large.

#### **METHOD:**

The scope of the course will presuppose a general background knowledge of world affairs. Less familiar terms will be defined as they are introduced. The dominant feature will be presented as an interdisciplinary focus on the European states-system, global issues and the post-War history of Europe, international organization and institutions.

The course will also proceed on certain theoretical assumptions of interest peculiar to the general discipline of political science. As an essential aid to the understanding of the standard principles and common propositions governing the subject, the accompanying textbook will serve a very useful purpose as sources of complementary information.

### **Course Objectives**

---

After regular participation in this course and the successful completion of assignments and self-assessment questions constructed in conformity with the syllabus specifications, students should be able to comprehend, define and analyze – among other things:

- (a) the historical affinities across territorial borders, between cultures and the intrinsic beliefs of belonging existing in Europe;
- (b) place-related, symbolic and other values-bound identities mapping out the shared histories of the continent;
- (c) origins of transformational trends in Europe of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century;



- (d) efforts to reinvent Europe after two catastrophic World Wars;
- (e) key influential points of US Foreign Policy towards Europe;
- (f) the parameters of policy options and limitations of action programs to promote pan-European solidarity and welfare;
- (g) Europe's socio-political and economic advantages, deep-seated cooperative instincts, and obligations toward the rest of the world.

By the end of the course, successful students will be expected to have participated fully and consistently in all class sessions. The lecture topics (*listed below within the confines of the projected class agenda*) are not intended to reflect the organizational structure(s) of the accompanying textbook; neither will they coincide necessarily with any preparatory readings done in advance by students.

The ability to digest and appreciate the contents of the course literature is, in principle, the student's own responsibility. The interaction between the lectures and the literature is aimed primarily to provide students with instruction in the skills to be developed, namely: private reading for supplementary information, thinking, research, and academic analysis. Students are advised to seek to generate class discussions by articulating themselves freely on any questions of relevance to the subject.

### Class Schedule and Sequence of Instruction

---

[Sample] Spring, early January to early May 2014 (Thursdays, 18:00 - 20:45)

Lecture	Date	Content
1	Week I	Syllabus Analysis: General Introduction, and Definition of Theme; Brief Introduction to Europe of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
2	Week II	US European Policy in the Inter-War Years
3	Week III	US and Europe after World War II
4	Week IV	Post-War Reconstruction in Europe
5	Week V	Desire for Democracy and Peace
6	Week VI	Survey of the Political History of the EU
7	Week VII	The EU and the Mutual Management of European Affairs
8	Week VIII	The European Model: An Attractive Appeal
9	Week IX	Mid-term Progress Examination
10	Week X	Institutions of the European Union
11	Week XI	Institutional Forms of Governance in Selected Countries
12	Week XII	Analysis of some Past Challenges
13	Week XIII	Some Current & Future Challenges
14	Week XIV	Ranges and Levels of Social Policies
15	Week XV	Conclusions! Ranges and Levels of Social Policies cont.
16	Week XVI	Final Examination (Research Papers due!)

### Required Textbooks and Materials

---

As prescribed (European Politics in Transition, M Kesselman, J Krieger, inter al.; Houghton Mifflin)

How do students deal with their textbooks?

- Without waiting to be told, students are expected to begin reading all chapters of their textbooks (from Chapter 1 to the end) by starting early at their own pace!

### Student Responsibilities:

By the end of the course, successful students will be expected to have participated fully and consistently in all class sessions. The lecture topics (*listed below within the confines of the projected class agenda*) are not intended to reflect the organizational structure(s) of any accompanying textbook(s); neither will they coincide necessarily with any preparatory readings done in advance by students.

The ability to digest and appreciate the contents of the course literature is, in principle, the student's own responsibility. The interaction between the lectures and the literature is aimed primarily to provide students with instruction in the skills to be developed, namely: private reading for supplementary information, thinking, research, and academic analysis. Students are advised to seek to generate class discussions by articulating themselves freely on any questions of relevance to the subject.

### Grading

---

Grade	Descriptive Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points
A	Excellent Scholarship	93-100	4.00
A-	Excellent Scholarship	90-92	3.70
B+	Good Scholarship	87-89	3.30
B	Good Scholarship	83-86	3.00
B-	Good Scholarship	80-82	2.70
C+	Satisfactory Scholarship	77-79	2.30
C	Satisfactory Scholarship	70-76	2.00
D+	Poor Scholarship	67-69	1.30
D	Poor Scholarship	63-66	1.00
D-	Poor Scholarship	60-62	0.07
F	Failure	Less than 60	0.00

### Exams

---

A mid-term progress examination and a final examination will be administered. These will entail a set-pattern of in-class essays and other short responses to certain relevant questions. Both will be based on the lectures and contents of the accompanying text to cover the standard duration of a class session.

The computation and distribution of actual individual grades in terms of A, B, C, D etc. will depend on the overall criteria of individual performance and the discretion of lecturer as follows:

Midterm Progress Examination	25 %
Degree of in-class interaction	5 %
Ability to apply textbook principles	5 %
Research Project	15 %
Final Examination	50 %

#### Categories of Passing Grades:

- \* A, B+ = First Class Pass
- \* B, B-, C+ = Second Class Pass
- \* C, C- = Third Class Pass

## Paper and Presentation

---

### Research Project (*Reflection Paper*):

Students are expected to be prepared -

- to do web and library research and to submit a 10-page case study reflective of the current affairs of any particular European country of interest to themselves; and
- to relate the basis of their individual projects to the following:
  - 1) governance forms and policy orientations since 1945;
  - 2) popular responses to governance forms and social issues;
  - 3) bilateral relationships with any extra-European state entities;
  - 4) role of personalities and contrasting leadership approaches;
  - 5) issues related to challenges and opportunities of living in Europe.
- The submission of the research project will be due in the last week of the semester.

Professor: Dr. Patrick Dua (M.A., University of Heidelberg/1978; PhD., University of Heidelberg/1980) obtained the above degrees in the subject-combination of Political Science, International Law and Philosophy; is an adjunct professor of the University of Maryland since 1979; publicized works include the following: a book on the "Third World"; various research projects on social planning for senior citizens and young children; a number of articles related to the "North-South Dialog" and Human-Right issues; functions as a freelance copy editor in various fields of academic literature, as well as a consultant on social policy planning to governmental agencies in Germany.

My Homepage: <http://www.crosslace.com>

© 2014 – Patrick Dua, MA., Dr. phil.