

POLS 3450: European Government and Politics**Credit Weighting:** 0.50**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 4.00 credits including 1
of EURO 1050, POLS
2100 or POLS 2200**Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Edward Koning, Ph.D.**Email:** ekoning@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MKCN 509**GENERAL DETAILS**

The European continent has long been of interest to political scientists. It is generally seen as the cradle of Western systems of government and it hosts some of the oldest democracies in the world. In addition, Europe appears as a fascinating laboratory for political science projects. Not only does it feature a supranational organization that is unique in its structure and scope and is therefore of large interest to scholars of international cooperation, it is also marked by a large number of Western democracies with different institutional characteristics and as such serves as indispensable material for the comparative analysis of systems of democratic governance. This class offers an introduction to European politics and systems of governance. It starts by reviewing history and key political institutions in Europe, both at the domestic level of the individual state and at the supranational level of the European Union. It then moves on to discussing the role of key players in European democracies, namely parties, voters, media, interest groups, and judicial actors. The final section engages some of the most salient policy areas and issues in European politics today, such as Brexit, immigration, and Europe's external relations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Critically engage scholarly discussions about comparative European politics
- Describe and distinguish the difference between national and supranational politics and policies
- Identify key differences between various political institutions and actors in different European countries
- Relate contemporary developments in European politics to historical and institutional contextual factors
- Take part in an informed debate about sensitive subjects in contemporary European politics

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The final grade in this class consists of six components: a trivia quiz (5 percent), two quizzes (20 percent each), a final exam (25 percent), in-class reflections (15 percent) and in-class engagement with a political controversy (15 percent).

REQUIRED READING

The following textbook presents the key material for this course: Bale, T. & Meijen, J. (2025). European Politics: A Comparative Introduction (fifth edition). Bloomsbury.

In addition, we will read a number of articles and book chapters, all of which will be freely accessible when connected to the uoguelph server.

