

POLI 659: Interdisciplinary Seminar in European Studies

POLI 659
Fall 2022
Arts W-5
Tuesdays 2:35-5:25pm

Prof. Maria Popova
Ferrier 462
Hours: Tue, 12:30-2pm or by appt
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Course Description

This course presents graduate students with the opportunity to explore cutting-edge research in contemporary European studies. It is built around the Jean Monnet Centre Montreal fall speaker series at McGill, for which students will read guest presenters' work ahead of time and serve as discussants. Students in this course will either develop their own research papers (+ write one short paper) or write 3 short papers, which can serve as comps preparation for anyone taking the comparative politics comp and selecting EU or Eastern Europe as one of the regions. Although this is the core course for the [European Studies Option](#), any graduate student with an interest in European studies is welcome to enroll.

This year our speaker series and seminar theme is *Enlargement*. We have a diverse lineup of speakers, who will present research both on the forces that bring Europe closer together and those that pull it apart. Many of the speakers will be coming to Montreal and presenting in person. A few will present on Zoom, but the class will meet in person. The Zoom presentations are marked below with an asterisk.

Course Requirements

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Seminar Participation	15%	Weekly
Review	10%	Any point during the semester
Choice between: a) One short paper during the term (25%) and a final Research Paper (50%) b) 3 short papers during the term (25% each)	75%	Short papers due one week after session they address; Final paper due December 14 th .

Readings

Readings are either downloadable and hyperlinked (be sure you are on the McGill network or VPN first) or will be distributed via email at least one week in advance of class. Given the course structure, individual readings may occasionally be added or changed in consultation with the guest speakers as the semester progresses. In no case, however, will readings be altered less than one week in advance of class, nor will students be asked to read more than five papers per class.

Participation

You should participate actively and regularly in class discussions. This means that you should attend all classes, pay attention, and ask thoughtful questions. You may miss one class session during the semester without penalty (unless you are scheduled to be a discussant on that day); further absences will affect your participation grade.

Talk review

The goal of this assignment is to write a blog-post-style summary of one of the invited talks we will have in the course. The review should summarize the presentation and the main argument and also highlight some of the main questions raised during the Q&A. The review will be 400-600 words long and you can submit one at any point during the semester, whenever inspiration hits you! Selected reviews will be published on the website of the Jean Monnet Centre Montreal (with student's permission, of course).

Short papers

The short papers will be a 2,500-3,000 words long synthesis/reflection piece on the readings assigned for each week. The goal of this assignment is to analyze how the different readings relate to each other—tension, debate, complementarity—and help us to understand a particular theoretical issue or empirical question. You don't need to weave all the readings together, but select at least two readings from the list. If you focus only on two readings from the list, it may be a good idea to go beyond and introduce some additional articles into the analysis as well. Let the theoretical/empirical question that's at the center of the paper guide you. PhD students can think of these short papers as practice comps answers. For most weeks, I will provide a sample question that the paper can address, but you are free to generate and answer alternative questions based on the readings and organize their papers around those.

You have two options: a) write 3 short papers (each worth 25% of the grade) or b) write one short paper (worth 25%) and a final research paper (worth 50% of the grade). The short papers will be due no longer than a week after the session whose readings they are addressing. The best way to approach prep for this assignment is the following: 1) do the readings before the session and come up with the question you're interested in addressing; 2) raise the question in the seminar discussion; 3) use the added insight from seminar discussion to write the paper in the week after the discussion. For example, if you want to write a paper on European Security (session 1 on Sep 6th), the short paper will be due on Sep 12th at 11pm.

Research Paper

The research paper must be 5,000-8,000 words long (excluding the bibliography) on a topic approved by the instructor. The papers are due by December 14, although I encourage you to submit them earlier if possible. *To pass the course you must receive a B- or higher on the research paper or approved alternative assignment.*

Grading Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A	4.0	>3.85
A-	3.7	3.51-3.85
B+	3.3	3.16-3.50
B	3.0	2.86-3.15
B-	2.7	2.51-2.85
C+	2.3	2.16-2.50
C	2.0	1.86-2.15
D	1.0	1.0-1.85
F	0.0	<1.0

This course uses the standard 4.0 system for grading. An A on an assignment is worth 4 points, an A- is worth 3.7 points, etc. To calculate your final grade, I will first multiply the grade points you have earned on each assignment by the relative weight of that assignment (e.g. 0.4 for the research paper) and then add all of the scores together to get your final grade-point average. That average will determine your final letter grade for the course (refer the grade range column). For example, if your overall grade-point average is a 3.4, you would earn a B+ in the course.

McGill Policy on Plagiarism

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (for more information see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

McGill Policy on Language

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

Course Schedule

Week One (September 6) – European Security

Guest speaker: Alexander Lanoszka (University of Waterloo)

Talk Title: Thank Goodness for NATO Expansion

Readings:

On Scenarios and Predictions

Scoblic, J. Peter, and Philip E. Tetlock, "A Better Crystal Ball: The Right Way to Think about the Future," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 99, no. 6 (2020): 10-19. 10 pages.

Early 1990s Predictions and Prescriptions

Mearsheimer, John J. "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War," *International Security*, vol. 15, no. 1 (1991): 5-56. 50 pages.

Kupchan, Charles A., and Clifford A. Kupchan, "Concerts, Collective Security, and the Future of Europe," *International Security*, vol. 16, no. 1 (1991): 114-161. 48 pages.

A Look Back

Lanoszka, Alexander. "Thank goodness for NATO enlargement," draft book chapter based on 2020 *International Politics* article.

Recommended Readings:

Posen, Barry R., "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival*, vol. 35, no. 1 (1993): 27-47. 21 pages.

Gaddis, John Lewis, "The Cold War, the Long Peace, and the Future," *Diplomatic History*, vol. 16, no. 2 (1992): 234-246.

Hoffmann, Stanley, Robert O. Keohane, and John J. Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future, Part II: International Relations Theory and Post-Cold War Europe," *International Security*, vol. 15, no. 2 (1990): 191-199.

Week Two (September 13) – The Eastern Enlargement

Guest speaker: Milada Vachudova (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Talk Title: Reviving EU Power: Enlargement and Liberal Democracy in response to Russia's War against Ukraine

Readings:

Sjursen, H., 2002. Why expand?: The question of legitimacy and justification in the EU's enlargement policy. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 40(3), pp.491-513.

Sophie Meunier and Milada Anna Vachudova (2018). "Liberal Intergovernmentalism, Illiberalism and the Potential Superpower of the European Union," *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 56, 7: 1631-1647.

Milada Vachudova, *Europe Undivided*, Cambridge University Press, 2005, Chapter 5 required; reading the whole book is recommended.

[Ulrich, Sedelmeier. "Europeanization in New Member and Candidates States." *Living Reviews in European Governance* 6, no. 1 \(2011\).](#)

Week Three (September 20) EU's soft power

Guest speaker: Juliet Johnson (McGill University)

Talk Title: Aspirational Iconography: Waving the EU Flag in Non-Member States

Readings:

Week Four (September 27) EU Conditionality and Minority Rights Protection

Guest Speakers: Kristina Kallas (Tartu University Narva College)*

Talk Title: Memory conflicts with Russians: liberation narrative meets occupation narrative

Readings:

Kelley, Judith. "International actors on the domestic scene: Membership conditionality and socialization by international institutions." *International organization* 58, no. 3 (2004): 425-457.

Csergő, Z. and Regelman, A.C., 2017. Europeanization and collective rationality in minority voting: Lessons from Central and Eastern Europe. *Problems of Post-Communism*, 64(5), pp.291-310.

Kallas, K. (2016). "Claiming the diaspora: Russia's compatriot policy and its reception by Estonian-Russian population" in *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)*, Vol 16, Issue 3.

Cheskin, Ammon. 2015. Identity and Integration of Russian Speakers in the Baltic States: A Framework for Analysis, *Ethnopolitics*, 14 (1): 72-93. doi: 10.1080/17449057.2014.933051

Week Five (October 4) – Refugees in Europe

Guest Speaker: Volha Charnysh (MIT)

Talk Title: "Uprooted: How post-WWII Population Transfers Remade Europe"

Readings:

Week Six (October 14) – Western Balkans Enlargement

Guest Speaker: Ognen Vangelov (University American College Skopje)*

Talk title: (North) Macedonia's Road to the EU

Readings:

Kmezić, Marko. "EU rule of law conditionality: Democracy or 'Stabilitocracy' promotion in the Western Balkans?." In *The Europeanisation of the Western Balkans*, pp. 87-109. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2019.

Pavlović, Srđa. "Montenegro's 'stabilitocracy': The West's support of Đukanović is damaging the prospects of democratic change." *LSE European Politics and Policy (EUROPP) Blog* (2016).

Week Seven (October 17) – EU governance

Guest Speaker: Stefan Auer (University of Hong Kong)*

Talk Title: European Disunion: Democracy, Sovereignty, and the Politics of Emergency

Readings:

Stefan Auer, *European Disunion*, Oxford University Press, 2022

Csergo, Zsuzsa, and James M. Goldgeier. "Nationalist strategies and European integration." *Perspectives on Politics* 2, no. 1 (2004): 21-37.

Week Eight (October 25) – EU and Migration

Guest Speaker: Justin Gest (George Mason University)

Talk Title: “Nostalgic Deprivation and Populist Party Support in 19 European Countries”

Readings:

Bélanger, Marie-Eve, and Frank Schimmelfennig. "Politicization and rebordering in EU enlargement: membership discourses in European parliaments." *Journal of European public policy* 28, no. 3 (2021): 407-426.

Justin Gest, *The New Minority*, 2016, Chpts 3 and 4

Week Nine (November 1) – Democratic backsliding

Guest Speaker: Marko Klasnja (Georgetown University)

Talk Title: "Political Outsiders and Democratic Backsliding"

Readings:

[Svolik](#), Milan W. "When Polarization Trumps Civic Virtue: Partisan Conflict and the Subversion of Democracy by Incumbents." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 15, no. 1 (2020): 3-31.

Hollyer, James R., Marko Klasnja, and Rocío Titiunik. "Parties as Disciplinarians: Charisma and Commitment Problems in Programmatic Campaigning." *American Journal of Political Science* 66, no. 1 (2022): 75-92.

Scheppele, Kim Lane. "How Viktor Orbán Wins." *Journal of Democracy* 33, no. 3 (2022): 45-61.

Bermeo, Nancy. "On democratic backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27, no. 1 (2016): 5-19.

Waldner, David, and Ellen Lust. "Unwelcome change: Coming to terms with democratic backsliding." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21, no. 1 (2018): 93-113.

Week Ten (November 8) – Extremism and democracy

Guest Speaker: Cas Mudde (University of Georgia)*

Talk Title: “The fourth wave: Challenges for the study of the far-right”

Readings:

Cas Mudde, *The Far Right Today*, Polity Press, 2019

Anna Vachudova, Milada. "Ethnopolitism and democratic backsliding in Central Europe." *East European Politics* 36, no. 3 (2020): 318-340.

Bustikova, Lenka. "Revenge of the radical right." *Comparative Political Studies* 47, no. 12 (2014): 1738-1765.

Week Eleven (November 15) Gender

Guest Speaker: Dorit Geva (Central European University)

Talk Title:

Readings:

Week Twelve (November 22) – Ukraine’s EU future

Guest Speaker: Olha Onuch (University of Manchester)*

Talk Title: The Zelensky Effect

Readings:

Olha Onuch and Henry Hale, *The Zelensky Effect*, Oxford University Press, 2022.

Week Thirteen (November 29) Transitional justice and democracy

Guest Speaker: Monika Nalepa (University of Chicago)

Talk Title: After Authoritarianism: Transitional Justice and Democratic Stability

Readings:

Monika Nalepa, *After Authoritarianism*, Cambridge University Press, 2022