

**Political Science 497**  
**European Electoral Politics**  
Wednesday 4-6, 2407 Mason Hall

Professor Orit Kedar  
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**Course description:**

The seminar discusses classic issues and current topics in European electoral politics. The focus will be mostly thematic, although the issues addressed will be discussed in the context of the region. Examples of the topics discussed are: party systems, old and new political cleavages, representation, Green politics, voter attitudes toward the EU, and immigration and its effect on the party system. Once covering many of these themes, we will examine closely two case studies: Britain and Germany. Discussing electoral politics in these countries, we will apply and integrate the topics covered in previous weeks.

**Books and reading materials:**

The following books are on reserve and available for purchase at Ulrich, Michigan Union Bookstore, and Michigan Book and Supply:

Dalton, Russell J. 2002. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. New York: Chatham House.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, and Peter Mair. Fourth edition. *Representative Government in Modern Europe: Institutions, Parties, and Governments*. New York: McGraw-Hill

While our sessions will not be “chatting about politics,” I will expect you to keep up with current events and will incorporate them into our discussions. The *Financial Times* (see also: [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)) offers an excellent coverage of European (and other foreign) politics and is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you’re taking this class, you can get a student rate for either the on-line or the paper edition by filling out the form at: <http://news.ft.com/Education/Portal/docs/EJJ68X0-SEMESTER.pdf>

We will also read sections from the following books, available on reserve:

Cees van der Eijk and Mark N. Franklin. 1996. *Choosing Europe?* the University of Michigan Press.

Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger. 2002. *European Politics in Transition*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

**Assignments:**

*Attendance and participation:* attendance, participation, and contribution to the discussions are an important part of the course requirements. You are expected to attend the session having done the reading and reflected upon them and to contribute to the discussion.

Please let the instructor know ahead of time if you have to miss a session.

*Midterm exam:* in-class mid-term exam on November 2. Details to follow.

*Outline of research paper:* By November 11 at 5PM you will have to hand in one page of preliminary research about your topic and the form the paper will take.

*Final research paper:* 20 page research paper, due on the Wednesday, December 21 at 5PM.

**Grading:** the grade will be a combination of attendance and participation (15%), mid-term exam (30%), paper outline (15%), and final paper (40%).

I reserve the right to change or add assignments as necessary.

**Additional resources:**

You will find the following resources helpful for following European politics:

- The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/>)
- Lijphart's elections archive: <http://dodgson.ucsd.edu/lij/>
- Parliamentary elections around the world: <http://www.electionworld.org/>
- <http://euobserver.com/>
- International Herald Tribune <http://www.iht.com/pages/index.php>

The *European Journal of Political Research* publishes political data from various democracies in its last issue every year. The journal's webpage:  
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0304-4130>

**Course Plan**

September 7	<b>Introduction</b>
September 14	<b>Parliamentary Democracy: parliament and the executive</b> GLM, Chapters 1-3
September 21	<b>Electoral Systems</b>

GLM, Chapters 11

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 8 (Pp. 142-170)

(\*September 18, 2005 – Federal elections in Germany)

September 28     **Coalitions and Governments**

GLM, Chapter 12

Dalton, Chapter 11

G. Bingham Powell Jr. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1-2 (Pp. 3-43)

October 5     **Parties and Party Systems**

GLM, Chapters 7, 8, 10

Ware, Alan. 1996. *Political Parties and Party Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6.

Dalton, Chapter 7

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 5 (Pp. 62-89)

Kirchheimer. “The Catch-All Party.” In *The West European Party System*. Peter Mair, Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 50-60.

October 12     **Voting Patterns and Partisan Change**

GLM, Chapter 9

Dalton, Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

Inglehart. “The Nature of Value Change.” In *The West European Party System*. Peter Mair, Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp: 247-252.

Flanagan. 1982. “Changing Values in Advanced Industrial Societies.” *Comparative Political Studies* 14 (4): 403-444.

October 19     **Immigration, Elections, and the Extreme Right**

Van der Brug, Wouter, and Meindert Fennema, and J. Tillie. 2000.

“Anti-Immigrant Parties in Europe: Ideological or Protest Vote?”  
*European Journal of Political Research*, Vol 37: 77-102.

Joel S. Fetzer. 2000. *Public Attitudes toward Immigration in the United States, France, and Germany*. Chapters 8-9, pp. 123-154. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Schain, Martin S. 2000. “The National Front and the Legislative Elections of 1997.” In *How France Votes*, Michael S. Lewis-Beck, ed. Pp. 70-86. New York : Chatham House Publishers, Seven Bridges Press

October 26      **Referendums and participation**  
TBA

November 2      **Mid-term exam**

November 9      **Elections for the European Parliament**

GLM, Chapter 5

Choosing Europe? Chapters 2, 18, 19, 20.

Reif, Karlheinz, and Hermann Schmitt. 1980. “Nine 2nd-Order National Elections – A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis of European Election Results.” *European Journal of Political Research* Vol. 8 (1): 3-44.\*

November 16      **Case Study: Britain**

New Labour - TBA

*Choosing Eu. rope?*, Chapter 5 (Pp. 78-96)

Kesselman and Krieger, Chapters 6, 9, 10 (pp. 153-167, 206-230)

Jones and Kavanagh. 1998. *British Politics Today*. Washington DC, CQ Press. Chapters 7, 8, 9, 20 (Pp. 66-93, 225-233)

November 23      Thanksgiving

November 30      **Case Study: Germany**

Survey Germany. “The Burden of Normality.” *The Economist*, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Pp. 3-18.

Kesselman and Krieger, Chapters 16, 19, 20 (pp. 317-343, 379-410)

*Choosing Europe?*, Chapter 8 (Pp. 137-156)

Klingermann and Wessels. 2001. "The Political Consequences of Germany's Mixed-Member System: Personalization at the Grass Roots?" in *Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of Both Worlds?* Shugart and Wattenberg, Eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 279-296.

December 7      **Wrapping up** – details to follow