

EURO 4160: E.U. Federalism and Multilevel Governance, Fall 2017

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EURO 4160-01U (MGA CRN: 88248): Online via USG GoVIEW.

Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 3:30–5:30 p.m., Jones 314 (MGA Macon campus).

Also available by appointment.

Course Overview: Welcome to the class! This course examines the relationship between the central European Union institutions (Commission, Parliament, Council, and judiciary) and those of its member states and political subdivisions, and compares this structure to that exemplified in prototypical federal states such as the United States, Canada, and Germany, as well as others. It also examines the prospects for the potential evolution of the EU's structures in the future to accommodate new challenges, including future expansion, Brexit, and secession within member states.

- ▶ **Catalog Description:** A comparison of multilevel governance and policymaking in the European Union with that of the United States and other federal systems.
- ▶ **Overall Model of the Course:** The approach of this course is essentially comparative; we will explore the E.U.'s structures and processes in comparison to those of established federal states that represent archetypes of federalism.
- ▶ **Course Structure:** Please note that this course is delivered completely online. While the course is not self-paced, it will not meet synchronously; instead, there will be regular assignments with deadlines and opportunities for class discussion.
- ▶ **Prerequisite:** EURO 3234 Introduction to the European Union, or your home institution's equivalent course.
- ▶ **Expected Learning Outcomes:** At the end of this course students should be able to fairly understand and explain the following:
 1. What is the necessity for federal systems and their advantages and disadvantages?
 2. What types of societies have been successful in forming federations, for example homogeneous or heterogeneous, small or large territories? Language, religion, history, and distribution of wealth.
 3. What are the necessary ingredients for a federal system to work? Examples that students can apply would be, dominant central system with weaker periphery states such as large versus small states in the U.S. and in the E.U.
 4. What are the experiences of peoples with institutions, which will include levels of political development, such as voting, and forming associations/interest groups?

These outcomes will be assessed using the examinations in the course.

Term Schedule: Please be aware that all courses delivered by GoVIEW operate on a common academic calendar, which may differ from that of your home institution. This course begins on Monday, August 14 and ends on Monday, November 29; the final exam period will be November 30–December 4.

Required Materials: There is one book required for this course:

Hueglin, Thomas O. and Alan Fenna. 2015. *Comparative Federalism: A Systematic Inquiry*, 2nd ed. Toronto: U of Toronto Press. ISBN 978-1-4426-0722-4.

It should be available, new and used, from your campus bookstore; you may also be able to rent or purchase it on-line at a discount.

Note: You are required to own, or have access to, a copy of the textbook for the duration of the course (through the final examination).

Additional readings may be assigned at my discretion; I will provide them for you in the course's Brightspace site in GoVIEW.

Technology Requirements: You are required to have access to Brightspace in GoVIEW for the duration of the

course. You will also need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone that can read Portable Document Format (Adobe PDF) files and supports HTML5 technologies for browsing the Internet.

The USG GoVIEW site can be found at <https://go.view.usg.edu/>. If you do not know your GoVIEW username, please see <https://ecore.usg.edu/current-students/what-is-my-goview-login> for instructions.

If you are unable to access the course, please let me know as soon as possible in the term.

Grades: Your final grade in this course will be based on the following elements, weighted as follows:

Midterm Exam	20%	Final Exam	30%
Participation	20%	Quizzes	30%

The overall average posted in Brightspace throughout the semester will also be weighted as above. *Your grade is not simply based on “adding up points” as it may be in some of your other courses.* You can review your current grades at any time in Brightspace.

The final grade in the course reported will be converted based on the scale below that reflects the grading practices of your home institution:

Final Average	Grade	Grade Points	Final Average	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 or above	A	4.0	97.0 or above	A+	4.3
80.0–89.9	B	3.0	93.0–96.9	A	4.0
70.0–79.9	C	2.0	90.0–92.9	A–	3.7
60.0–69.9	D	1.0	87.0–89.9	B+	3.3
59.9 or below	F	0.0	83.0–86.9	B	3.0
			80.0–82.9	B–	2.7
			77.0–79.9	C+	2.3
			73.0–76.9	C	2.0
			70.0–72.9	C–	1.7
			60.0–69.9	D	1.0
			59.9 or below	F	0.0

Numeric grades will only be reported for students in dual enrollment programs. At the college level, only the final letter grade in the course is part of your permanent record.

Although a “D” is the minimum passing grade in undergraduate courses, any grades below a “C” may jeopardize your continued eligibility for federal and state financial aid. Please refer to the “Satisfactory Academic Progress” policy on the Financial Aid website for details.

► **Grading Philosophy:** Your grades will be earned based my judgment of your performance in meeting the learning objectives of the course, and not on the basis of good intentions, whether or not you agree with my political or ideological views (you probably don’t), or how much effort you put in to the course. To judge your performance comprehensively, my grading may include both objective and subjective assessments; sometimes there is a clear “right” answer, sometimes there is no one “right” answer, and sometimes there are a number of potential responses that vary in completeness and correctness, and so my approach to grading differs based on that reality. My commitment to you is that I will assign fair and appropriate grades, in a reasonably timely manner,¹ according to this philosophy, based on the work that is presented for grading. If at any time you believe I have not met that standard, see the section on “Grade Appeals” below.

► **Midterm and Final Exams:** There will be two examinations in this course, a midterm exam and a final exam. Questions on the exams may include items relating to the textbook, lectures, and other class activities. The exams may include multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

¹ Some assignments, such as the reading quizzes online, are automatically graded, so you can expect fairly quick feedback on those. You should expect the grading of written work to generally take between 5 and 10 business days.

► **Quizzes:** Approximately every other week, there will be a quiz covering material from the assigned readings and lectures on a particular country. These quizzes may include items testing your familiarity with the geographic features of that country, as well as items that test factual knowledge or deeper conceptual understanding.

Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from your quiz average. Together, the quizzes will count as 20% of your final grade. Most quizzes will be administered online via Brightspace.

► **Exam and Quiz Content:** Questions on examinations and quizzes may be drawn from the textbook, materials presented in lecture, and/or additional materials provided by the professor as announced in class or in Brightspace.

► **Participation:** This portion of your final grade will be based on your level of participation in class discussion, which is an essential part of this course.

Contacting the Professor: My regularly-scheduled office hours are listed at the beginning of the syllabus. During those times, I generally do not schedule appointments; rather, meetings are “first come, first serve.” When I am not busy with a student in-person, I will also be available “virtually” at these times by phone or web chat. If you wish to make a confirmed appointment to see me *outside* my scheduled hours, please do so at least two business days in advance.

If you do contact me outside my office hours, please bear in mind that my other work and personal obligations may be on a different schedule than what is convenient for you; for example, I may be in class, in the midst of research, or at a meeting. Except under extraordinary circumstances, if your email includes a question or otherwise requires a response, I will always get back to you within one business day, and frequently sooner; messages that merely inform me of a class absence may not be acknowledged.

If you call my office outside my office hours, please avoid leaving voice mail or messages with university staff; it is an incredibly unproductive and inefficient means of communication. You will usually receive a much quicker response by email.

To protect the privacy of your educational records, all discussion regarding grades or other confidential information must be conducted in person, via Brightspace, or via your official university email address; I will not discuss confidential information over the phone or via any non-school email address.

When contacting me outside of class, please be sure to specify both the course and section you are in, as it will allow me to respond more quickly to you.

Class Policies: The primary expectations of all students are integrity and civility. Each student should approach his/her academic endeavors, relationships and personal responsibilities with a strong commitment to personal integrity and interpersonal civility.

I believe that for our class to be successful, we must establish a supportive and respectful environment in the course.

► **Online environment:** The online environment will be new and challenging for many of you but it is vital that you complete all of the readings and assignments *on time*. You should check for instructor announcements, email, and discussion boards on a regular basis. I recommend setting up the notification system in GoVIEW so you receive text messages or emails when there are updates.

► **Extra credit:** To be fair to all students, I do not offer individualized extra-credit opportunities. If you believe you might benefit from extra credit, I strongly advise you take advantage of any opportunities offered to the whole class as they are announced over the term.

► **Revisions to the syllabus:** While I will make every effort to follow the syllabus as-written, if unforeseen circumstances arise during the semester I reserve the right to amend any policy in this syllabus.

► **Make-ups:** Make-up examinations must be scheduled in advance in the case of an unavoidable planned or reasonably-foreseeable absence; otherwise, make-ups will be given only in the case of an illness or other emergency that is properly documented, after the fact. To be fair to all students, make-up exams must be completed within two weeks of the originally scheduled exam date; also, make-up exams may be administered in a different format than the original exam offered to the rest of the class, at my sole discretion.

Make-up quizzes will not be arranged under any circumstances. There are also no make-ups for missed classes; however, students with an excused absence will receive credit for attending any classes missed with a valid excuse (such as student illness or participation in class-related or sponsored activities), and any missed in-class quiz will be dropped from the grade.

To be fair to all students in the class, students are responsible for *all assignments*, regardless of their date of initial enrollment in the course.

Late Assignments: A late penalty of 10 percentage points per day will apply to work turned in after the deadline for the assignment to be completed. Notwithstanding this policy, any work received more than 48 hours after the scheduled final examination may not be graded, resulting in a zero (0) on any assignments outstanding at that point in the semester. (Please refer to the policy on incomplete grades, discussed below, for exceptions.)

► **Grade Appeals:** Like everyone else, I am fallible and sometimes make mistakes. If I simply misrecorded a grade (for example, if I enter “70” in the gradebook when you earned an “80”) or made an arithmetic error, please bring me the returned assignment, and I will immediately correct the error.

If you believe you received an *unjust* grade, I am happy to discuss the grading of the assignment with you, in-person during regular office hours or at a scheduled appointment; please bring the graded assignment with you so we can have a productive conversation. If you remain unsatisfied with my explanation of the grade, to give us both ample time to consider the dispute, you will need to type a brief (one-page) explanation of your position and turn it in, along with the original graded assignment, *at least one week after* the assignment was originally returned to you. I will then consider your appeal and make a determination. Appeals must be submitted in hard copy format; no appeals submitted via email will be considered. Please refer to the Student Handbook and Catalog for policies regarding appeals of *final letter grades*.

► **Academic Misconduct:** You are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by your institution’s Student Code of Conduct.

I take academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, cheating on exams and plagiarism of written work) very seriously. So does the E.U. Studies Program.

In this course the *minimum* penalty for academic misconduct is a grade of zero (0) on the assignment in question, with no opportunity to repeat the assignment, along with referral to the testing center to complete an examination on plagiarism, cheating, and the Student Code of Conduct. Second or subsequent violations, or egregious misconduct (for example, an organized effort to cheat involving multiple students, or academic misconduct that causes harm to other students), will automatically be referred to your institution’s Office of Student Affairs for a university-level resolution which may include a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, and/or academic suspension.

I offer some free advice, drawn from past experience as both a student and a professor: do not turn in plagiarized work because you have run out of time and feel as if you need to turn in *something*—taking the late penalty is better than the sanctions for academic misconduct. Similarly, if you forgot to study, it’s better to get a low grade on the exam than the zero you’ll get if you cheat.

One of the early computer programmers, Admiral Grace Hopper, is reported to have said that “[i]t’s easier to ask forgiveness than it is to get permission.” That advice *does not* apply in this situation. If you have the slightest doubt about whether something is academic misconduct, *ask me before handing in the assignment for grading*.

A plagiarism prevention service is used in evaluation of written work submitted for this course. As directed by the professor, students are expected to submit or have their assignments submitted through the service in order to meet requirements for this course. The papers will be retained by the service for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

► **Disability Accommodations:** While you are welcome to discuss any special needs with me in private, to be fair to all students, accommodations are only provided when supported by appropriate documentation from your institutional Disability Services office.

The following policies apply to Middle Georgia State University students enrolled in this course:

► **Campus Emergencies:** In the event of a closure or delayed opening of the university due to inclement weather or

other emergency, you should monitor the Knight Alert system for updates; sign up for these alerts at <http://www.mga.edu/police/alert.aspx>. You should expect communication via email and/or Brightspace regarding any assignments to be completed or revisions to the schedule while we are unable to meet.

In the event of an emergency situation on campus, call 9-1-1 and/or campus police at 478-471-2414.

• **HB 280 (Campus Carry Legislation):** For information on how this law affects your rights and responsibilities, please see <http://www.mga.edu/police/campus-carry.aspx>.

• **End of Course Evaluations:** Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a unique link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous and completion of evaluations are voluntary.

Withdrawal Deadlines: The last day to drop the course without it appearing on your transcript is Friday, August 18. Students may withdraw from the course and earn a grade of “W” up to and including the midterm date, on Wednesday, October 4. After this point, students who withdraw will receive a grade of “WF,” which is calculated in the GPA as an “F.”

“No-Shows” and Informal Withdrawals: Students who have not attended any classes as of the reporting period (generally, during the second week of classes) may be reported as a “no-show” and may lose financial aid as a result. In addition, if you stop coming to class without withdrawing, it may jeopardize your eligibility for financial aid in future terms.

Incomplete Grades: An incomplete grade (grade I) will only be assigned in cases where the student had a lengthy illness or an unexpected obligation, such as extended military service or jury duty. The grade of I will not be assigned because the student is not satisfied with a low grade. It will only be assigned in cases where the student could not complete a substantial part of the course work due to factors beyond the student’s control.

Course Outline: Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and will be posted to the course calendar and in Brightspace. We will not necessarily read chapters in the order they appear in the textbook; please be sure you read the correct chapters *in advance of* the designated class dates. While I may periodically remind students of upcoming scheduled events, it is ultimately **your responsibility** to be familiar with this schedule and any changes to it.

As you can see below, the course is generally divided into *modules* of 2–3 weeks. Each module will have several associated discussion questions in Brightspace that will be available for around a week each. In addition, there are several quizzes and examinations spaced across the course.

In the schedule below, *Hueglin and Fenna* refers to chapters from the main text. You are also responsible for completing the readings linked in Brightspace for each module.

Aug 14–Aug 20 Introduction and orientation to the course.

Aug 21–Sep 3 Module 1: What is federalism? How did it develop? What are its strengths and weaknesses?
Readings: Hueglin and Fenna, chapters 1–2.

Aug 31–Sep 3 Quiz 1 Available

Sep 4–Sep 17 Module 2: Types of federal states; the evolution of federalism in Europe and European integration.
Readings: Hueglin and Fenna, chapters 3–5.

Sep 14–Sep 17 Quiz 2 Available

Sep 18–Sep 27 Module 3: Theories of European Integration.

Sep 24–Sep 27 Quiz 3 Available

Sep 28–Oct 1 Midterm Examination Available

Oct 2–Oct 15 Module 4: Political systems and institutions.
Reading: Hueglin and Fenna, chapters 8–11.

Oct 16–Oct 29 Module 5: The division of powers and responsibilities in federal systems and the European Union.
Readings: Hueglin and Fenna, chapters 6–7.

Oct 26–Oct 29 Quiz 4 Available

Oct 30–Nov 12 Module 6: Politics in the United States and the European Union: parties, interest groups, the media, and public opinion.

Nov 9–Nov 12 Quiz 5 Available

Nov 13–Nov 29 Module 7: The future of federalism and European integration.

Reading: Hueglin and Fenna, chapter 12.

Nov 30–Dec 4 Final Examination Available