

# 1011 COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY: SWEDEN AND THE EU

SPRING 2017

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*Class hours:* Monday & Wednesday, 13.00–14.30  
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During the Cold War, the existence of a trans-Atlantic civilization was more or less given—no one questioned that the countries of Western Europe had more in common with the countries of North America than with their immediate neighbors behind the Iron Curtain. In the past several years, however, there has arisen a small cottage industry devoted to puncturing the post-Marshall Plan consensus. In other words, we are now told that Europe and America not only do not form a common civilization, but that they are fundamentally, irretrievably different.

This course will evaluate these competing claims, investigating the similarities and differences between Europe and America from the perspective of public policy. The course will be divided into two major sections. The first section, *This is Europe*, is an overview of the European Union and its most important policy areas and challenges. The second section, *Multiculturalism and its discontents*, is a discussion of Europe's perhaps greatest challenge: how to deal with a rapidly diversifying population and the resulting conflict between competing sets of values. At the end of the course, students should have a clear grasp of the similarities and differences between Europe and America, as well as an understanding of the perspectives that inform the policies of each.

**WEBPAGE AND FACEBOOK GROUP:** I have created a webpage and a Facebook group for the class. You can find the link to the Facebook group on the homepage: <http://sites.google.com/a/swedishprogram.org/tsppolicy/>. On the webpage you will also find the additional readings, paper topics, and lecture notes, as well as links to upload your assignments, and to useful resources for further study. The group is intended primarily as a discussion forum outside of class, although you are also encouraged to participate in extending class discussions by posting questions and links throughout the semester. I will use the group to post links to articles and books that are relevant to the class, as well as reminders of deadlines and questions I have for you as a group outside of class. The real purpose of the group, however, is for you to post your own thoughts and questions and to have further discussions.

**READINGS:** There will be two books, which will comprise the bulk of the readings. All the additional readings will be available on the course website. The two books are:

Luuk van Middelaar, *The Passage to Europe*  
Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*

**LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM:** You are welcome to use a laptop to take notes during lecture. However, please refrain from using the internet while in class: it distracts you and those around you from the classroom discussion, and current research shows that focusing on several tasks at once negatively impacts learning.

**GRADING:** Your grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

*Attendance and participation:* 10%  
*Papers:* 60%  
*Policy briefings:* 30%

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (10%):** Attendance is mandatory; you have to come to lecture to pass this course. One unexcused absence is permitted; any unexcused absence after that will lower your grade one step (e.g., from A to A-). Even more importantly, your active participation in class discussions is essential. You should also participate by posting to the course Facebook group. Please prepare for seminar by writing down the questions you have about the reading or the topic of that day's class.

**LECTURE & POLICY LABS:** Each week will be divided into a lecture and a policy lab. Monday classes will be lectures, although you are of course encouraged to ask questions and participate then as well. Wednesday classes will be what I have called policy labs: these are not discussion sections as such, but rather a space to work out and critique specific policies in a number of different policy areas using different methods. It is also during the policy labs that you will have your policy briefing.

**PAPERS (60%):** There will be **three** formal papers throughout the semester, each worth 20% of your final grade. Each paper will cover only one part of the course; i.e., the papers are not cumulative. I will give you a choice of several topics for each paper. The papers should be about 5-6 pages in length.

**POLICY BRIEFINGS (30%):** Each student will do two joint policy briefings during the semester. For these briefings, you will pair up with one other student and brief the rest of the class about a particular policy area. You will also have to write up and hand in a joint brief, which should be about 5 pages in length. Both the in-class briefing and the written brief should conform to the following model:

1. Introduction: quick summary of the brief; setting up the problems and issues related to the topic.
2. Background: overview of the topic; what is at stake; who are the stakeholders; what are the potential conflicts; what are the existing policies in this area?
3. Analysis: evaluate the current policy responses to this issue; which is more effective; which is more desirable; what are the long-term effects of these responses?
4. Policy implications: how can the current policies be revised; what consequences would those revisions have; what are the pros and cons of the different policy options?
5. Recommendations: which policy or policies do you recommend, and why?

**SCHEDULE:**

1/23	<i>Introduction to the course</i>	Room 133
1/25	<i>Policy lab: Political participation &amp; representation</i> Reading: Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?" Pitkin, "Representation and Democracy" Dalton, "Citizenship Norms and the Expansion of Political Participation" Saunders, "The Democratic Turnout 'Problem'"	133

1/30	<i>Why Europe?</i>	133
	Reading: Middelaar, <i>The Passage to Europe</i> , Prologue	
2/1	<i>Policy lab: Health care policy</i>	133
	Reading: <i>International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2014</i>	
2/6	<i>EU institutions</i>	328
	Reading: Middelaar, <i>The Passage to Europe</i> , chapters 1-2 <i>The European Union Explained</i>	
2/8	<i>Policy lab: The welfare state</i>	328
	Reading: Esping-Andersen, "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State" Judt, "What Is Living and What Is Dead in Social Democracy?" Hacker, "Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State"	
2/13	<i>Unifying Europe</i>	336
	Reading: Middelaar, <i>The Passage to Europe</i> , chapters 3-4	
2/15	<i>Policy lab: Energy and environmental policy</i>	133
	Reading: Victor & Yueh, "The New Energy Order" Nordhaus, "The Economic Aspects of Global Warming" Metcalf, "Market-Based Policy Options to Control U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions"	
2/20	<i>The Euro and European economic cooperation</i>	133
	Reading: Middelaar, <i>The Passage to Europe</i> , chapters 5-6	
2/22	<i>Policy lab: Economic and labor policy</i>	328
	Reading: Bonoli, <i>The Political Economy of Active Labor Market Policy</i> <b>Paper 1 due!</b>	
2/27	<i>A European public sphere?</i>	133
	Reading: Middelaar, <i>The Passage to Europe</i> , chapters 7-9 Habermas, "The Crisis of the European Union"	
3/1	<i>Policy lab: Education policy</i>	320
	Reading: Sahlberg, "Education Policies for Raising Student Learning" Darling-Hammond, "What PISA Can Tell Us about U.S. Education Policy" Delblanco, "The Two Faces of American Education Policy" Ravitch, "The Myth of Chinese Super Schools"	
3/6	<i>Migration, security, and the future of Europe</i>	133
	Reading: Ignatieff, "The Refugees & the New War" Bollfrass et. al., "Don't Fear Refugees" Heisbourg, "The Strategic Implications of the Syrian refugee crisis"	
3/8	<i>Policy lab: Economic inequality</i>	320
	Reading: Alvarado et. al., "The Top 1% in International and Historical Perspective" Gould & Wething, <i>U.S. Poverty Rates</i> Immervoll & Richardson, <i>Redistribution Policy and Inequality Reduction in OECD Countries</i>	

3/13	<i>Enlightenment fundamentalism</i>	328
	Reading: Garton Ash, "Islam in Europe" Blaut, "The Theory of Cultural Racism" Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?" Foucault, "What Is Enlightenment?"	
3/15	<i>Policy lab: Criminal justice</i>	320
	Reading: Western & Pettit, "Incarceration and Social Inequality" Nelkin, "Comparative Criminal Justice"	
3/20	<i>Integration and tolerance</i>	320
	Reading: Buruma, <i>Murder in Amsterdam</i> , chapters 1-2	
3/22	<i>Policy lab: Social trust</i>	320
	Reading: Rothstein & Uslaner, "All for All" Herreros & Criado, "Social Trust, Social Capital, and Perceptions of Immigration"	
	<b>Paper 2 due!</b>	
3/27	<b>Break: no class!</b>	
3/29	<b>Break: no class!</b>	
4/3	<i>Proxy talk</i>	133
	Reading: Buruma, <i>Murder in Amsterdam</i> , chapters 3-4	
4/5	<i>Policy lab: Gender equality and LGBT rights</i>	133
	Reading: England, "Gender Inequality in Labor Markets" Warner, "Normal and Normaller" Fassin, "Same Sex, Different Politics"	
4/10	<i>Islam in Europe</i>	133
	Reading: Buruma, <i>Murder in Amsterdam</i> , chapters 5-6	
4/12	<i>Policy lab: 21<sup>st</sup>-century populism</i>	133
	Reading: TBD	
4/17	<b>Break: no class!</b>	
4/19	<b>Break: no class!</b>	
4/24	<i>The rise of the radical right</i>	133
	Reading: Buruma, <i>Murder in Amsterdam</i> , chapter 7	
4/26	<i>Policy lab: Choice topic</i>	133
	Reading: TBD	
5/3	<b>Exam week: Paper 3 due!</b>	<b>320</b>