

Comparative Public Policy: Sweden and the EU

Spring 2019

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Class hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 13.00–14.30

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12.00–13.00, A987

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.

Google Classroom: The Swedish Program uses the Google Classroom platform for all its courses. On the course Classroom page, you will find the readings, assignments, and lecture notes, as well as links to useful resources for further study. The course platform is also where you will submit your assignments. It also functions as a discussion forum outside of class: you are highly encouraged to participate in extending class discussions by posting questions and links throughout the semester. I will use the course platform 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.

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:

<i>Attendance and participation:</i>	20%
<i>Papers:</i>	40%
<i>Final policy brief:</i>	25%
<i>Policy colloquium:</i>	15%

Attendance & Participation (20%): Regular attendance is mandatory. An unexcused absence may negatively affect your final grade. Your grade will not be affected if you miss a class due to illness or in the case of a (documented) emergency situation. If you have a personal or family event that conflicts with a class, and cannot be rescheduled, you may ask your instructor for an excused absence. Such a request should be made at least one week prior to the class in question. In addition to attendance, your active participation in class discussions is essential. You should also participate by posting to the course stream in Google Classroom. 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 (40%): There will be two 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.

Final policy brief (25%): Instead of a final analytical paper, at the end of the semester you will hand in a joint policy on a topic of your choosing. For the brief, you will pair up with one other student. Together, you will research your chosen topic throughout the semester, so that you can produce an authoritative introductory brief on that topic. You should also expect to be called on as the class expert on your topic during class discussions. The final policy brief should be about 10-15 pages in length.

Policy colloquium (15%): Rather than present the findings of your joint research brief to the rest of the class, you will present it during the policy colloquia, on one of the

last four class sessions of the semester. I will meet with two or three of the groups each time for the colloquium, which will consist of a focused conversation on each of the groups' chosen topics. During the colloquium, the groups that do not participate that class session will have time to work on their final policy briefs.

Course learning outcomes: At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge about the European Union, its structure and workings, and the crises currently facing it
- Acquire knowledge about a policy area of their choosing
- Compare, analyze, and critique policy options for the EU
- Draw out policy implications and come up with recommendations from empirical data
- Produce a research-based policy brief

Schedule:

1/22 *Introduction to the course*

1/24 *Policy lab: Political participation & representation*

Reading: Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?"
Achen & Bartels, "Democracy for Realists"
Levitsky & Ziblatt, "This Is How Democracies Die"
Dalton, "Citizenship Norms and the Expansion of Political Participation"
Saunders, "The Democratic Turnout 'Problem'"

1/29 *Why Europe?*

Reading: Middelaar, *The Passage to Europe*, Prologue

1/31 *Policy lab: Health care policy*

Reading: *International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2017*
Schneider et. al., *Mirror, Mirror 2017*

2/5 *EU institutions*

Reading: Middelaar, *The Passage to Europe*, chapters 1-3
The European Union Explained

2/7 *Policy lab: Corruption*

Reading: *Corruption Perceptions Index 2017*
EU Anti-Corruption Report 2014
Persson et. al., "Why Anticorruption Reforms Fail"
The State of Corruption: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine
"Corruption and Inequality"

2/12 *Theories of European integration*

Reading: Pollack, "Theorizing the European Union"
Bickerton et. al., "The New Intergovernmentalism"
Scipioni, "Failing Forward in EU Migration Policy?"

2/14 *Policy lab: Social trust*

Reading: Rothstein & Uslaner, "All for All"
Herreros & Criado, "Social Trust, Social Capital, and Perceptions of Immigration"
Rothstein, "Corruption and Social Trust"

2/19 *The Euro and European economic cooperation*

Reading: Middelaar, *The Passage to Europe*, chapters 4-6
Feroz, "The Brutal Battle over the Euro"
Hobolt & Tilley, "Fleeing the Center"

2/21 *Policy lab: Economic inequality*

Reading: Alvaredo et. al., "The Top 1% in International and Historical Perspective"
Gould & Wething, *U.S. Poverty Rates*
Immervoll & Richardson, *Redistribution Policy and Inequality Reduction in OECD Countries*
Paper 1 due!

2/26 *Brexit I: What happened?*

Reading: Middelaar, *The Passage to Europe*, chapters 7-9
Freedland, "A Howl of Rage"
Ford & Goodwin, "A Nation Divided"
Philippon: "Brexit and the End of the Great Policy Moderation"

2/28 *Policy lab: Truth and politics*

Reading: Arendt, "Lying in Politics"
Havel, "The Power of the Powerless"
Kakutani, "The Death of Truth"
Davies, "The Age of Post-Truth Politics"
Kolbert, "Why Facts Don't Change Our Minds"

3/5 *Brexit II: Now what?*

Reading: Habermas, "The Crisis of the European Union"
Garton Ash, "Is Europe Disintegrating?"
Sampson, "Brexit: The Economics of International Disintegration"

Portes & Forte: "The Economic Impact of
Brexit-Induced Reductions in Migration"
Gormley-Heenan & Aughey, "Northern Ireland and
Brexit: Three Effects on the 'Border in the Mind'"

3/7 *Policy lab: Education policy*

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, "When Public Goes Private, as Trump Wants:
What Happens?"

3/12 *Migration and Enlightenment fundamentalism*

Reading: Nail, "A Tale of Two Crises"
Garton Ash, "Islam in Europe"
Blaut, "The Theory of Cultural Racism"
Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?"
Foucault, "What Is Enlightenment?"

3/14 *Policy lab: Energy and environmental policy*

Reading: Victor & Yueh, "The New Energy Order"
McKibben, "Some Like It Hot!"
Nordhaus, "The Economic Aspects of Global Warming"
Metcalf, "Market-Based Policy Options to Control U.S.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions"

3/19 *Europe's multi-culti crisis*

Reading: Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*, chapters 1-4

3/21 *Policy lab: Gender equality*

Reading: England, "Gender Inequality in Labor Markets"
hooks, "Dig Deep: Beyond Lean In"
Wypijewski, "What We Don't Talk About When We Talk
About #MeToo"
Wright, "A Court Overturns a Burkini Ban, But Not Its
Mindset"

Paper 2 due!

3/25 Break: no class!
-4/5

4/9 *Populism in Europe*

Reading: Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*, chapters 5-7
Mudde, "Populism in Europe: A Primer"
Müller, "The Attractions of Populism for Politicians, the
Dangers for Democracy"
Beauchamp, "White Riot"

4/11 *Policy lab: Nationalism and separatism*

Reading: Kymlicka, "Multicultural Citizenship within Multination
States"
Lineira & Cetra, "The Independence Case in
Comparative Perspective"
Anderson, "Indonesian Nationalism"
Bonikowski, "Nationalism in Settled Times"

4/16 *Policy colloquium I*

4/18 *Policy colloquium II*

4/23 *Policy colloquium III*

4/25 *Policy colloquium IV*

5/2 Exam week: Final policy brief due!