

Crisis and Change in Southern Europe: Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal

Tuesday 9-12pm (Room: 314)

Professor Kostas A. Lavdas
klavdas@alum.mit.edu

Dr. Nikos Papanastasopoulos
nickpapmsc@yahoo.gr

A. Description

This course explores the interaction of crisis and political change in Southern Europe. As the political map of contemporary Europe is changing rapidly and in dramatic ways, the course will provide the background necessary to assess current challenges and developments and understand stability, instability, crisis and change. Focusing on Italy, Greece, Spain, and Portugal in comparative perspective, the course examines the formation and subsequent development of four South European political systems in which the political element has played especially crucial roles in social, cultural and economic life. Topics covered include the historical formation of political systems, the role of ideologies such as nationalism, socialism, and liberalism in Southern Europe, and the peculiarities of state building in the region. The course aims to (a) help acquire a working knowledge of the political systems of the four states while comparing them with others in the South of Europe and the Southeast region (including Turkey); (b) situate the South and Southeast European cases in the wider context of contemporary debates in political analysis, state theory and comparative political economy; and (c) examine stateness and democracy in Southern Europe in the context of membership and (in historical terms) prospective membership in the EC/EU and participation in the continuing but contested process of European integration.

B. Requirements & assessment

Students are expected to read all assigned material (book chapters, articles, etc). They are also expected to be active class participants. Course grades will be based on (a) class participation and presentation of two brief draft papers (25% each) and (b) a final take-home exam (50%).

The brief papers will focus on topic to be agreed with the instructors. By Week 4 you should be able to identify the areas in which you would like to do some work and prepare the brief papers. Individual assistance with further literature and documentation searches will be provided.

C. Course Material

There is no required core textbook for the course. Required readings will be distributed to

participants in electronic form in Weeks 1-4. In addition, the following books will prove useful for the duration of the course and you are recommended to consider studying one or more of them, depending on your particular interests:

Colomer, J. ed., *Comparative European Politics*, 3rd ed (London: Routledge, 2008).

De Almeida, P. T. *et al.*, eds. *Who Governs Southern Europe: Regime Change and Ministerial Recruitment 1850-2000* (London/New York: Routledge, 2003).

Fukuyama, F. *State Building: Governance and World Order in the Twenty-First Century* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004).

Gunther, R. *et al.*, eds. *The Politics of Democratic Consolidation: Southern Europe in Comparative Perspective* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995).

Gunther, R. *et al.*, eds. *Democracy and the State in the New Southern Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Hill, C. *Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century*, 2nd edition (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Judis, J. B. *The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics* (New York: Columbia Global Reports, 2016).

Keating, M. *The Politics of Modern Europe: The State and Political Authority in the Major Democracies*, 2nd edition (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 1999).

Kurth, J., Petras, J. *et al.*, *Mediterranean Paradoxes* (New York: Berg, 1993).

Lavdas, K. A., Litsas, S. N. and Skiadas, D. V. *Stateness and Sovereign Debt: Greece in the European Conundrum* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books/ Rowman &, Littlefield, 2013 / paperback edition, 2015).

Müller, J.-W. *What is Populism?* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016).

Newton, K. and Van Deth, J. W. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, 3rd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Sapelli, G. *Southern Europe* (London: Longman, 1995).

You are strongly recommended to consult relevant scholarly journals, especially the following:

European Journal of Political Research

West European Politics

American Political Science Review

British Journal of Political Science

Political Studies

Comparative Politics

Comparative Political Studies

Comparative European Politics
Government and Opposition
Mediterranean Politics
South European Society and Politics
Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans
Journal of Modern Italian Studies
World Politics
Political Science Quarterly
Governance

In addition to publishing scholarly articles, the *European Journal of Political Research* publishes special issues with political data on European countries; you will find their annual reports on Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal particularly useful. *West European Politics* is also a valuable source of material on parties and on national elections. In terms of economic data for the four states, the annual and quarterly *Country Reports* and *Country Profiles* published by the EIU (London) are an accessible and reliable source.

D. Tentative Schedule (will also depend on students' interests & background)

Weeks 1-3: Southern Europe in comparative and international perspective

- Introduction to the course
- Southern Europe in comparative politics
- Attempts at periodization of political development in the region
- From personal patronage to mass party clientelism
- Cleavage lines and salient issues
- Political culture and political traditions (authoritarian, statist, monarchical, socialist, liberal, republican traditions)
- The potential for civic engagement

Week 4: State formation and political traditions in Italy

- The making of a nation and the crises of state-building
- *Clientela, parentela*, and regional cohesiveness
- The emergence of fascism as a movement
- The role of fascism as a regime form
- Ideology and Christian Democratic dominance

Week 5: The case of Italy today: Europeanization and crisis

- Italy's political system in comparative perspective
- The Northern question in political culture and national ideology
- Membership in EMU as an inclusive strategy?
- Polarization and Fragmentation?

Week 6: State formation and political traditions in Greece

- Early parliamentarism and late industrialization
- Hellenization and the role of national ideology
- Phases in state transformation
- The influx of immigrants and the new diversity

Week 7: The case of Greece today: Europeanization and Crisis

- Europeanization as an (exceptional) national strategy
- The (exceptional) geopolitical dimension
- Demise of established party politics?
- Sovereign debt crisis: background, dimensions, and implications

Week 8: Politics and the State in Spain

- Francoism and its legacy
- Modernization, the rebirth of liberalism and gradualism
- Political cleavages and economic adjustment
- Regionalism and Europeanization

Week 9: Politics and the State in Portugal

- Traumatic colonialism
- Stillborn revolution
- From the EFTA to the EEC
- Ideological diversification and Europeanization

Weeks 10-11: Presentation of student papers

Weeks 12-13: Europe, populism , and the new challenges

- Variations on populism: How much of a threat to democracy?
- Policy change and EU membership
- Policy convergence and domestic realignments
- The new political economy of Europeanization
- Sovereign debt crisis and the implications for stateness in the Eurozone
- Is there a 'Southern Europe' as an area for comparative politics in the 21st century?