The Issue Under Consideration:

The Situation: Populist parties are gaining power across Europe today and have disrupted the politics of many Western societies. In some places, these parties are now in power or are about to assume power. Whether on the political left or the right, these parties are proposing ideas that challenge existing positions on economic policy, immigration policy and membership in the European Union (among other things).

The Challenge: You are a policy advisor to a leader of one of these European Populist parties. You can choose a country and a party leader that interests you. See the chart below to pick a country and party. If you would prefer a country or party not on the list, run it by me first. Your job is to advise the leader on a constructive set of policy proposals that address **two of these three areas**:

- what is/should be your party's policy about providing an economic social safety-net for citizens,
- what is/should be your party's policy regarding immigration into your country and how to manage the current migrants presently there,
- what is/should be your party's position about maintaining membership in the European Union (all the countries we are dealing with are currently members).

Do not make the mistake of thinking that all their policies are wrong or racist or that they have nothing to contribute to the political debate. These parties vary widely and many have gained credibility because mainstream parties have failed to solve long-running problems.

Many of you will not personally agree with the party or any of the positions you are recommending. Your goal is to get into the mind of the citizen who believes, for a complex set of reasons, that this is what their country needs right now. You (as this citizen) will see your party as the only or best option for a difficult set of problems. Your goal is to be **objective and persuasive**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)</td>
<td>Gerard Batten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Alternative for Germany (AfD)</td>
<td>Alice Weidel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Freedom Party of Austria (FPO)</td>
<td>Norbert Hofer or Heinz-Christian Strache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>Freedom Party (PVV)</td>
<td>Geert Wilders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Hungarian Civic Alliance (Fidesz)</td>
<td>Viktor Orban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Five Star Movement</td>
<td>Luigi Di Miao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Coalition of the Radical Left (Syriza)</td>
<td>Alexis Tsipras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>National Front (FN)</td>
<td>Marine Le Pen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Podemos</td>
<td>Pablo Iglesias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Peace and Justice (PiS)</td>
<td>Jarosław Kaczyński or Andrzej Duda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Danish People’s Party</td>
<td>Kristian Thulesen Dahl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Slovak National Party</td>
<td>Andrej Danko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>ANO 2011</td>
<td>Andrej Babis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Sweden Democrats</td>
<td>Jimmie Akesson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Your first stop for research should be the LibGuide for this course which has been developed by Fran Devlin specifically with this paper assignment in mind. Here is the link to the site: [https://guides.lib.ku.edu/eurs/eurs500](https://guides.lib.ku.edu/eurs/eurs500). There are a quite a few new books on European Populism in
print, but your most effective sources will come from academic journal articles, reports/policy papers from think tanks and journalism (long-form and weeklies). Respected journalists have been writing about these parties for a few years now and reporting on their successes and failures.

There are websites connected to the people and the parties that should be looked at and social media sources to consult. Facebook is a good place to see party members, and others, leave comments and get a sense of what matters to them. Follow your leader on Twitter.

And there are think tanks like Gatestone Europe [https://gatestone.eu/category/eu/](https://gatestone.eu/category/eu/) (out of the UK) that tend to have a policy agenda (to the right) and others, like the Brookings Institute [https://www.brookings.edu/](https://www.brookings.edu/), that attempt to maintain a more neutral position (centrist to left). You will have to consider how credible sources are and rely on them accordingly. Because a website or newspaper has a perspective, does not mean it cannot be used. But you should understand that your source has an agenda.

**Library Visit:** On April 4 we will meet at Watson Library and be instructed in research approaches by Fran Devlin, Library Specialist for European Studies.

Start by writing a **Prospectus** (The point of this is to force you to begin to narrow your topic and actually begin to consult sources. I do not expect you to have solid ideas yet, but to begin to figure out what the right questions are.)

Your Prospectus should include:

- Overview/background of the situation your country is in politically and the current status of the Party and Leader,
- briefly identify and discuss the 2 topics you have chosen,
- include bullet points of a few possible policy options for each that you might recommend (which you will flesh out later in your Policy paper),
- attach a bibliography of sources you anticipate consulting. (at least 10-you may or may not end up using all these sources and will certainly find more as you move forward)
- Approximately 3 pages, 12 pt. font, double-spaced
- **Due Tuesday 24 April 2018. Submit to Blackboard by 5:00 pm.**
- Here is the course Library Guide: [http://guides.lib.ku.edu/c.php?g=95198&p=616859](http://guides.lib.ku.edu/c.php?g=95198&p=616859)

**General Guidelines for a Policy Analysis paper** (These are general guidelines. They are not meant to force your paper into an unnatural organization.)

A policy analysis paper requires one to research in depth an issue/s of public concern. It can be an issue of ongoing political debate or an issue that has not yet gained the attention of policy makers. A policy analysis defines the problem or issue at hand, describes its background and provides a balanced assessment of options that policy makers could pursue to resolve the problem. The paper should conclude with a recommended course of action for policy makers.

**Step 1**
Introduce the problem you wish to research and analyze and articulate why it is important. Establish a set of criteria for resolving the problem in question. In other words, “What would success look like in this particular situation?” What is your country trying to accomplish?

**Step 2**
Place the issue in historical context by describing how the problem arose and outlining previous efforts, if any, to address the problem. To detail the issue and any prior policy responses, you can use a range of sources, including books, articles from scholarly journals, previous policy analyses, government reports, legislative materials, think tank reports and news articles. Summarize the results of prior policy efforts and identify the major stakeholders. These are the individuals and
groups likely to affect or be affected by new government policies taken in response to the issue under discussion.

Step 3
Identify a set of policy options government might take to resolve the issue. Be sure the options involve substantive policy measures aimed at the issue in question. This is a policy analysis, not a manifesto outlining broader social, economic or political changes. Your research on the issue and past policy actions will help you identify policy proposals and create new approaches for addressing the identified problem.

Policy papers must present several policy alternatives, and they must be serious alternatives. As a general rule, the number should be three. One serious alternative will often be to maintain the status quo. Even if the status quo seems dangerous and stupid, students should take it seriously because in the real world it will often be the most likely outcome. The alternatives presented must not be straw men that are so ridiculous they only serve to make the recommended policy look good. Of course, it is fine to go deeper into the preferred alternative than into the other options, but the other options must be given a fair presentation and analysis.

Step 4
Compare the policy alternatives outlined in the previous step, applying the specified criteria. This forms the main body of your policy analysis research paper. Discuss how each alternative would meet the criteria for issue resolution identified in your introduction. Consider political factors as well; describe how the stakeholders would be affected by the various policy alternatives.

Step 5
Recommend a policy action, based on your analysis of a set of alternatives. Articulate reasons, supported by facts and evidence, why the policy proposal you have chosen would be the best avenue for addressing the issue in question.

Final Paper
- Approximately 8-10 pages, 12 pt. font, double-spaced
- Footnotes are required and you must use Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian) Quick Guide: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
- A bibliography is required
- An electronic copy should be posted on Blackboard in the SafeAssign folder by Tuesday, 8 May 2018.