UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
POLITICAL SCIENCE 311
GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS IN EUROPE
CRN 22568 – POLI 311

Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Valerie D’Erman
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Email: vjderman@uvic.ca

Lectures:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 12:30-1:20pm Cornett B108

Office Hours:
Wed. 2-3pm; Thurs. 1-2pm; and by appointment.

Calendar description:
Historical backgrounds to, institutional framework for, and players involved in, political conflict in European countries. Consideration will be given to contemporary policy issues and the process of European integration.

Longer course description:
This course offers both an introduction to European politics and to comparative political analysis. We study the development of European states, their institutions, and policies in comparative perspective, examining the differences and similarities across European states, and whether or not they persist in the face of European integration. The material is laid out thematically, rather than country-by-country, and focuses on comparative governance structures.
We will look at central issues and political processes, to include political parties, elections and electoral systems, interest groups, linkage institutions, and parliaments and executives. We will also examine more current events and debates in a comparative manner, to include (but not limited to) secessionist movements, economic policies, migration, and security. Students will learn how to select cases that allow for meaningful comparisons in order to evaluate the political structures of different countries in an informed and informative way.

Learning outcomes:
At the end of this course the student should have learnt the following:
• Necessary tools and skills for writing a good research paper
• Ability to discuss new material and to analyze material critically
• Understanding the historical context of Europe as a continent
• Understanding the concepts of political institutions and governmental organization
• Comparative framework of countries and institutions
Required Readings:
This course uses one core textbook and a few additional readings. It is expected that each student has a copy of the textbook.

- **CourseSpaces readings**: All additional readings will be posted on CourseSpaces.

CourseSpaces:
In terms of communication, I will keep you informed by email and through the CourseSpaces platform about any class updates. Handouts and lecture notes will also be distributed via CourseSpaces. However, all assignments will be turned in via hard copy in-class or to my instructor dropbox in the POLI department.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Exam #1 (in-class)**: 25%
- **Exam #2 (in-class)**: 25%
- **Presentation or short essay**: 15%
- **Final research paper**: 35%

*In-class exams (Friday, Feb. 8 and Friday, March 15; each worth 25% of course grade).*
Each exam is worth 25% of the course grade and will be comprised of definitions and short-answer questions. Each exam will be held during normal class time for duration of 50 minutes. Exam #1 (Friday, Feb. 8) will cover material from the beginning of the semester to Feb. 6, inclusive. Exam #2 (Friday, March 15) will cover material from after the first exam to March 13, inclusive. More details on the exam will be covered in class.

*Presentation OR short essay* (worth 15% of course grade).
Students will prepare a 10-minute presentation along with 2-3 power-point slides. Presentations should include two country cases for a question related to the week’s topics. Lists of potential topics as well as guidelines for the presentation will be given before Reading Break. Presentations will take place during Weeks 11-13. Students who prefer not to present in class may choose to prepare a short essay (1000 words) as input for class discussions.

*Research Paper* (35% of course grade)
Paper of 3000 words (±10%), which offers a comparative analysis of two or more European countries related to one of the topics covered in this course. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss paper ideas with the instructor during office hours. It is possible to base the paper on the presentation given in class. Due on **Wednesday April 10, no later than 4pm**.

**Comments about Course Requirements and evaluation:**
Late assignments will be penalized 5%/day unless students provide valid medical documentation. For all written assignments, students must retain an electronic copy of their submitted work. *Failure to complete all course requirements will result in an ‘N’ (Incomplete) grade for the course.*
UNDERGRADUATE PERCENTAGE GRADING SYSTEM:
This course employs the UVic Percentage Grading Scale, which is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90–100</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85–89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A‐</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80–84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77–79</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73–76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B‐</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70–72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65–69</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60–64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50–59</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Failing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0–49</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0–49</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The percentage grading scale applies to all Faculties at the University of Victoria.
2. The percentage grades should be associated with a letter grading schema.
3. A percentage grade for an N grade should be assigned in the following manner:

**N grade percentage range 0-49:** In cases where a student who has not completed the exam or has not completed the course requirements but has submitted course requirements that total more than 49% of the total grade for a course, an instructor will assign a percentage grade of 49%.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:
Plagiarism and Academic Integrity (adapted from Learning and Teaching Centre material):
Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individually or as a member of a group. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution - Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their
hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

**The responsibility of the student** - Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor and/or your teaching assistant. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student’s transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found on pages 44-47 of the undergraduate calendar, through the following website: [https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/pdfs/undergraduate-201805_Part4.pdf](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/pdfs/undergraduate-201805_Part4.pdf) Any problems regarding the academic integrity of a submitted essay or quiz will be referred directly to the Chair of Political Science and University policy will be followed.


**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

(all readings are required, and are found in the textbook or on CourseSpaces)

**Week 1 – Introduction; history; Europe and the comparative method**
- **T, Jan. 8**
  - Introduction to the class and course material. Discussion of syllabus and of course expectations.
- **W, Jan. 9**
  - Europe as a focus of study.
  - *Reading: Textbook (Bale 2017, Palgrave), Introduction (pp. xiii-xix).*
- **F, Jan. 11**
  - The comparative method in Political Science.

**Week 2 – Politics and society**
- **T, Jan. 15**
  - History and the development of European nation-states.
  - *Reading: Textbook, Chapter 1*
- **W, Jan. 16**
  - *Chapter 1, continued.*
- **F, Jan. 18**
  - Evolution of ideologies and interests in European societies.
  - *Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5.*

**Week 3 – Parties and structures of competition**
- **T, Jan. 22**
  - Political parties across Europe.
  - *Reading: Chapter 5, continued.*
• W, Jan. 23
  o Electoral systems.
  o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 6.

• F, Jan. 25

NB: January 23 is the last day for adding courses in the Spring 2019 term

Week 4 – Organization of governance
• T, Jan. 29
  o Federalism and unitary governments; devolution.
  o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 2.
• W, Jan. 30
  o Impact of the EU.
  o Reading: Chapter 2, continued.
• F, Feb. 1
  o Parliaments and governments.
  o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 4.

Week 5 – Transitions in Eastern Europe; EXAM #1
• T, Feb. 5
• W, Feb. 6
• F, Feb. 8
  o EXAM #1 (in-class, 50 minutes)

Week 6 – Judiciary, constitutions, and challenges
• T, Feb. 12
  o Courts and judiciary.
• W, Feb. 13
  o Judiciary, continued.
  o Textbook, Chapter 3.
• F, Feb. 15
  o Interactions between EU and domestic levels.
  o CourseSpaces: TBA (news articles on domestic judiciaries)
Week 7 – READING WEEK! All classes cancelled.
  • T, Feb. 19
  • W, Feb. 20
  • F, Feb. 22

Week 8 – Interest groups; the European level; civil society
  • T, Feb. 26
    o Interest groups, domestic and European.
    o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 8.
  • W, Feb. 27
    o The media’s role in comparative European politics.
    o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 7.
  • F, March 1
    o New issues with social movements.
    o No readings.

NB: February 28 is the last day to withdraw from Spring 2019 courses

Week 9 – Comparative economic policies and welfare states
  • T, March 5
    o Varieties of capitalism.
  • W, March 6
    o Welfare states across Europe.
    o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 9.
  • F, March 8
    o Comparative economic policies, continued.
    o CourseSpaces: TBA (austerity measures and public finances in different countries)

Week 10 – Secessionist movements; migration; EXAM #2
  • T, March 12
    o Secessionist movements in Europe.
  • W, March 13
    o Migration into Europe; asylum.
    o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 10.
  • F, March 15
    o EXAM #2 (in-class, 50 minutes)

Week 11 – International relations; security & defense
  • T, March 19
    o Security and defense.
    o Reading: Textbook, Chapter 11.
- **W, March 20**
  - NATO.

- **F, March 22**
  - Foreign policies compared – examples.

**Student presentations as needed**

**Week 12 – Nationalism, populism, globalization and pressures of integration**

- **T, March 26**
  - ‘Nationalism’ as ideology in 2019 across Europe?

- **W, March 27**
  - Rise of populist far-right across Europe.

- **F, March 29**
  - Brexit, and reactions to European integration.

**Student presentations as needed**

**Week 13 – Final paper writing; Course Conclusions**

- **T, April 2**
  - Final paper writing strategies (class discussion); course evaluations.
  - Student presentations as needed

- **W, April 3**
  - Course conclusions. Final POL 311 class for the semester.

- **F, April 5**
  - Class cancelled – instructor will hold extra office hour.

Final research paper due by **Wednesday, April 10, no later than 4pm** (printed copy to instructor office or instructor dropbox in POL department).