UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
POLITICAL SCIENCE 311
GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS IN EUROPE
CRN 22538 – POLI 311

Spring 2020

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

Lectures:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 12:30-1:20pm Cornett A125

Office Hours:
Wed. 1:45-2:45pm 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 and email:**
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.
I do my best to respond to email within a timely manner. Generally, this means within 24 hours during the work week. When sending an email, please include “POL 311” in the subject line.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**
- Exam #1 (in-class): 25%
- Exam #2 (in-class): 25%
- Presentation in-class: 15%
- Final research paper 35%

*In-class exams (Friday, Feb. 7 and Friday, March 13; 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 (Wednesday, Feb. 7) will cover material from the beginning of the semester to Feb. 6, inclusive. Exam #2 (Friday, March 13) will cover material from after the first exam to March 12, inclusive. More details on the exams will be covered in class.

*Presentation* (worth 15% of course grade).
Students will prepare a 10-minute presentation along with 2-3 power-point slides. Presentations should ideally be comparative, and relate to a topic from the course that is timely within the syllabus. Early in the semester students will be asked to sign up for a presentation time. The instructor will provide more details and offer sample topics during class time.

*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 8, 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 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. 7
  - Introduction to the class and course material. Discussion of syllabus and of course expectations.
- W, Jan. 8
  - Europe as a focus of study.
- F, Jan. 10
  - The comparative method in Political Science.

Week 2 – Politics and society
- T, Jan. 14
  - History and the development of European nation-states.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 1
- W, Jan. 15
  - Chapter 1, continued.
- F, Jan. 17
  - Evolution of ideologies and interests in European societies.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5.
Week 3 – Parties and structures of competition
- T, Jan. 21
  - Political parties across Europe.
  - Reading: Chapter 5, continued.
- W, Jan. 22
  - Electoral systems.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 6.
- F, Jan. 24

NB: January 22 is the last day for adding courses in the Spring 2019 term

Week 4 – Organization of governance
- T, Jan. 28
  - Federalism and unitary governments; devolution.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 2.
- W, Jan. 29
  - Impact of the EU.
  - Reading: chapter 2, continued.
- F, Jan. 31
  - Parliaments and governments
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 4

Week 5 – Transitions in Eastern Europe; EXAM #1
- F, Jan. 31
  - Eastern Europe
- T, Feb. 4
- W, Feb. 7
  - EXAM #1 (in-class, 50 minutes)

Week 6 – Judiciary, constitutions, and challenges
- T, Feb. 11
- W, Feb. 12
  - Judiciary, continued.
  - Textbook, Chapter 3.
- F, Feb. 14
  - CourseSpaces: TBA (news articles on domestic judiciaries)
Week 7 – READING WEEK! All classes cancelled.
- T, Feb. 18
- W, Feb. 19
- F, Feb. 24

Week 8 – Interest groups; the European level; civil society
- T, Feb. 25
  - Interest groups, domestic and European.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 8.
- W, Feb. 26
  - The media’s role in comparative European politics.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 7.
- F, Feb. 28
  - Student presentations

NB: February 29 is the last day to withdraw from Spring 2019 courses

Week 9 – Comparative economic policies and welfare states
- T, March 3
  - Varieties of capitalism.
- W, March 4
  - Welfare states across Europe.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 9.
- F, March 6
  - Student presentations

Week 10 – Secessionist movements; migration; EXAM #2
- T, March 10
  - Secessionist movements in Europe.
- W, March 11
  - Migration into Europe; asylum.
  - Reading: Textbook, Chapter 10.
- F, March 13
  - EXAM #2 (in-class, 50 minutes)
Week 11 – International relations; security & defense

- T, March 17
  - Security and defense.
  - *Reading*: Textbook, Chapter 11.

- W, March 18
  - NATO.

- F, March 20
  - *Student presentations*

Week 12 – Nationalism, and pressures of integration/globalization

- T, March 24
  - ‘Nationalism’ as ideology in 2019 across Europe?

- W, March 25
  - Brexit, and reactions to European integration.

- F, March 27
  - *Student presentations*

Week 13 – Final paper writing; course conclusions

- T, March 31
  - *Student presentations*

- W, April 1
  - *Student presentations*

- F, April 3
  - Final paper writing discussion; course evaluations; course conclusions.

Final research paper due by **Wednesday, April 8, no later than 4pm** (printed copy to instructor office or instructor dropbox in POL department).