



University  
of Victoria

# POLI 311: Government and Politics in Europe

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**Instructor Summer 2023:** Claude Beaupré

**Course delivery:** In the Summer 2023 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

## **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, ideologies, electoral systems, interest groups, and institutions. We examine more current events and debates in a comparative manner, to include (but not limited to) regional integration, secessionist movements, economic policies, human 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.

## **Prerequisite:**

- Complete POLI 211, or permission of the department.

## **Course outcomes/objectives:**

- Understand the historical context of Europe as a continent
- Explore the concepts of European political institutions and governmental organization
- Develop a comparative framework of European countries and institutions
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion

## **Topics may include:**

Regional Governance

The evolution of ideologies and interests in European states

Secessionist movements

Nationalism

Human migration

International relations: security and defense

*This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.*