Course Description

This course is a comparative introduction to the governmental systems and current political issues in Europe, with a concentration on Western Europe. The focus will be on a selection of European states and the European Union (EU) as overarching integration project. Through a comparative approach, domestic politics and policymaking, structures and functions of political institutions and political transitions will be analyzed with particular attention to political culture, governance and political parties. The course will include a combination of lecture and discussions as well as active learning exercises.

Course Objectives

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand the current state of politics in Europe. In this course students will:

1. gain a good understanding of the different political systems in (Western) Europe;
2. become familiar with the workings of the European Union and its impact on member states;
3. become equipped with conceptual tools necessary to explain and compare European political systems.

Required Texts: (available in the FIU bookstore or through online booksellers)


*Strongly Recommended:* In order to keep up with current events:
The New York Times [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (also available in print on campus), The Economist, [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) or any other quality newspaper/magazine

*Plus:* A style-grammar guide (eg. Schaum’s guide to writing great research papers, MLA Handbook)
Course Requirements:

Class Participation and Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. Each student is expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to actively participate in classroom discussions. If you cannot attend class because of emergencies or special circumstances, let the instructor know about it in advance. Attendance and participation will account for 10% of the final grade.

Mid-Term Examination (& Quiz)

The Quiz, worth 10%, will consist of multiple-choice questions and a map portion - you can ‘train’ with the help of this site: http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/euroquiz.html. The midterm examination will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice and essay type questions, which will be held in class. This examination accounts for 25% of the final grade. The midterm and the final exam need to be taken on the scheduled days. A makeup exam will only be allowed if the student provides documentation of an ‘official’ scheduling conflict, serious illness or family emergency. Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.

Make sure you can access the virtual class-site on Moodle, https://ecampus.fiu.edu!

Research Paper

Students are expected to write a research paper on a contemporary West European politics topic of their choice, which should demonstrate research and a critical analysis based on the literature and knowledge gained throughout the course. It is worth 25% of the grade. It should be around 12 pages/min. 3,000 words in length, double-spaced, with page no’s and follow standard writing and citation guidelines. A 1-page outline, containing 2-3 bibliographical sources, is due after the first third of the course. Plagiarism (= citing of text without a source or copying from the internet) is unacceptable and online submission to ‘Turnitin’ (www.turnitin.com) is mandatory! Class ID: 3708540, PW: Europe.

If you are a senior student, you need to present in 5 minutes your topic in class, using powerpoint. These presentations will be filmed & used for FIU’s assessments.

Final Examination

The final examination will cover all materials presented during the course but will focus on the material covered after the mid term through the end of the course, again consisting of a mix of short answer, essay and multiple-choice questions. This examination is worth 30%.

Evaluation Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10% (or 10 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid term exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25% (seniors: 20 paper, 5 pers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>
Total 100% = 100 pts

Grading/Evaluation System:

Students will be evaluated on the following grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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Reading Assignments and Examination Outline

MON, 1/10: Course overview

WED, 1/12: Introduction: Europe – idea & reality

FRI, 1/14: World War II, the Marshall Plan, and European Post-War Recovery
Check: [www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,4906039,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,4906039,00.html)

Mon, 1/17: MLK Day – University closed

WED, 1/19: Traditions and Transitions in European Politics

Reading: Almond, et al., 1-22; Bale, Chapter 1

FRI, 1/21: Governments and Constitutions

Reading: Almond, et al., 58-79; Bale, Chapter 3

MON, 1/24: Democracy and Political Parties

Reading: Almond, et al., 23-57; Bale, Chapter 5

WED, 1/26: Democracy and Political Parties continued

Reading: Bale, Chapter 5

FRI, 1/28: Electoral Processes

Reading: Bale, Ch. 6

MON, 1/31: Governments & Coalition-building
**WED, 2/1:** Introduction to European Integration  
Reading: Almond, et al., 417-438; Bale, Chapter 2

**FRI, 2/4:** European Union – Enlargements and Institutions + QUIZ  
Reading: [http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm](http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm)

**MON, 2/7:** United Kingdom – Westminster Model  
Reading: Almond, et al., 81-111

**WED, 2/9:** United Kingdom – Tories, Tony Blair, Terrorism  
Reading: Almond, et al., 112-127

**FRI, 2/11:** UK continued (Discussion, Exercise)

**MON, 2/14:** France – Semi-Presidential System, Cohabitation  
Reading: Almond, et al., 129-149

**WED, 2/16:** France – Rise of the Right, Sarkozy’s new style  
Reading: Almond, et al., 149-177

**FRI, 2/18:** France continued (Discussion, Exercise)

**MON, 2/21:** Germany – History, Bundestag, Bundesrat  
Reading: Almond, et al., 179-204

**WED, 2/23:** Germany – After reunification  
Reading: Almond, et al., 205-228

**FRI, 2/25:** Germany cont’d: *Paper outline due!! (incl. 3 sources+news alert)*

**MON, 2/28:** Review

**WED, 3/2:** Midterm Examination

**FRI, 3/4:** No Class- (EU Studies Association Conference, Boston)

**MON, 3/7:** Italy–History, post-war DC dominant
Reading: Bale, pp. 136-138

**WED, 3/9:** Italy – Northern League & Berlusconi’s reign  
Reading: Handout + [http://www.economist.com/topics/silvio-berlusconi](http://www.economist.com/topics/silvio-berlusconi) (12/16/10 etc)

**FRI, 3/11:** Italy continued

**3/13-19:** **SPRING BREAK**

**MON, 3/21:** Spain – Gen. Franco, Constitutional Monarchy  
Reading: Almond, et al., 231-254

**WED, 3/23:** Spain – Aznar to Zapatero, Terrorism  
Reading: Almond, et al., 254-277

**FRI, 3/25:** Spain continued

**MON, 3/28:** Sweden – the ‘ideal’ European country?  
Reading: Bale, p. 267, 187 + Handout

**WED, 3/30:** Sweden & the Scandinavian region  

**FRI, 4/1:** Sweden & Scandinavia continued

**MON, 4/4:** Participation & pressure politics  
Bale, Ch. 8

**WED, 4/6:** Politics over Markets? Europe’s ‘Third Way’ economies  
Bale, Ch. 9

**FRI, 4/8:** Issues in West European Politics: Migrants & Minorities  
[http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,614065,00.html#ref=nlint](http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,614065,00.html#ref=nlint)  
Reading: Bale, Ch. 10

**Paper due!!**
MON, 4/11: Poland/CEE Europe–Democratization & Civil Society (Guest speaker)
           Reading: Almond, et al., Chapter 10 or 11 (TBD)

WED, 4/13: How states pursue EU-internal policies
           Reading: Almond, et al., 438-461

FRI, 4/15: How states pursue EU-external policies
           Reading: Bale Ch. 11

MON, 4/18: Comparisons (between East & West): the quality of democracy

WED, 4/20: Presentation of Senior Research Projects

FRI, 4/22: Review

Final Exam:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPO 3103-U01 (12951)</td>
<td>Politics Of W Europe</td>
<td>4/29/2011, Friday</td>
<td>9:45AM - 11:45AM</td>
<td>Ziff Education Bldg 150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A few tips for a good research paper:
For the outline: consider which country/ies & which contemporary politics(!)-related topic is of interest to you. Papers in the past dealt with terrorism, immigration, unemployment, church-state relations, parties in various countries in Western Europe etc (see Heywood et al., ‘Developments in European Politics’, Palgrave 2006)

1. **Research a variety of credible sources** (Green library catalogue: books & journals, electronic journals accessible through the library website, careful online search: quality newspapers (register & create a news alert with NYT!), European politics think tanks, official governmental documents) and supply at least 5 sources for the paper
2. **In the outline, start with an introduction, an analytical main part** (who? What? When? Why? what can be done?), and a conclusion with your ‘expert’ opinion.
3. **Conduct a grammar check before submission** (no repetitions, analytical language)
4. Don’t get started on the last day/night: you need time to read, identify cases & concepts, evaluate them and to review your paper.