

Comparative Politics of Western Europe
PSCI 3700.001
Summer 5 Week 2, 2012
10:00 AM – 11:50 AM MTWR

Office hours: MTW 12:00PM (noon) – 1:00PM
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The course provides an introduction to the study of Western European government and politics. The objective is to enable students to develop a critical understanding of the nature of European politics and society, to the point where they can think analytically about European politics and its role in the world. They will also gain practice in generating sound political science research. This will be a lecture course with frequent classroom discussion. You will be required to read some academic research concerning Western Europe and the European Union, and you will be asked to discuss this material in class.

Required Books

Kubicek, Paul. 2012. *European Politics*. Pearson.
Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press: New Haven, CT.

Important dates

Research question due: July 12th
Literature review due: July 17th
Theory and hypotheses due: July 24th
Current Events Questions due: July 30th
Paper presentations: August 8th
Term paper due: August 9th
Final exam: August 10th

Grades

Final exam: 35%
Final paper: 35%
Paper presentation: 10%
Homework: 15%
Current Events Questions: 5%

Grading will follow a standard scale:

A=89.5-100%
B=79.5-89.4%
C=69.5-79.4%
D=59.5-69.4%
F=0-59.4%

Communications

There are multiple ways of contacting me if you have any questions about the class. I will always be in my office during my office hours, however, I am regularly in my office, and I have an open door policy. Moreover, you may also contact me via e-mail. I am diligent in returning e-mails quickly.

Exams

There will be one exam. This exam will consist of 3 out of 5 short essays worth 10 points each and 2 long essays worth 35 points each. Since we have only one exam in this class it will be comprehensive and thus, will cover all material discussed in class. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam.

Makeup exams will only be given in light of a university excused absence or at the discretion of the instructor. Inform me of your absence before the examination date, either in person or by e-mail. You will have one class period to complete the makeup exam, which consists of answering *three long essay questions*. **All makeup exams will take place during pre-finals week. YOU MUST CONTACT ME 72 HOURS BEFORE THE MAKEUP DAY IN ORDER TO SCHEDULE AN EXAM.**

Homework

Homework will consist of three assignments that are aimed at helping you generate the beginnings of a research paper (that you will be required to turn in) by the end of the semester. You will be required to generate a working research question for the first homework assignment. **The first assignment will be worth 20% of your homework grade.** You will be required to create a literature review for the second assignment and a theory and hypothesis section for third homework assignments. **These sections will be worth 40% of your homework grade each.** These homework assignments will be explained in greater detail later in the course.

Final Paper

You will be required to turn in a final research paper on August 9th. This paper should consist of edited versions of the homework assignments, and will include a research question, a literature review, a theory presenting an answer to your research question, and at least one testable hypothesis. This paper will be explained in greater detail later in the course.

Paper Presentation

You will be required to present your research paper to the class on August 8th. This presentation should consist of a synopsis of your paper. After each presentation there will be a brief question and answer session in which fellow students or myself may ask questions regarding your paper. This will be explained in greater detail later in the course.

Current Events Questions

On Monday July 30th you will be required to submit 3 discussion questions to be used to lead class discussion on July 31st. These questions should be based upon, and cite articles that have appeared within the last month in a reputable newspaper (i.e. not a blog, or website of a cable news network). Some good sources that regularly have news concerning European politics are the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The Guardian* but most major newspapers are

reliable (if you have a question as the reliability of a news source please feel free to ask me). Synopses of these articles should also be provided with the questions. These articles and questions must be concerned with European politics. These questions should be similar to research questions.

For example (this example cannot be used as your question), a May 14, 2012 article in *The Guardian* discusses the difficulty Greece is having in forming a coalition after an election earlier in May failed to provide a majority for any party. What factors may be preventing a coalition government from being formed in Greece?

Attendance

Attendance is expected, but not required for this class. As this class is quite intensive, you will undoubtedly learn more and be more successful if you attend class.

Class Discussion and Activity

Although your grade is not dependent upon class discussion and participation in class activities, this is a small group, and discussion and activity will be a large part of the class. We will be having class discussions quite often, if not everyday, and a number of activities are also planned. Needless to say, greater engagement will make this course far more fun and interesting. Students should come prepared to discuss the readings for that day. A good way to do this is to take notes while you're reading, and jot down a few questions you have.

University of North Texas Statement of ODA/ADA Compliance

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second week of classes).

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please notify me by the second week of class. You are also encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at (940) 565-4323. The ODA makes formal recommendations regarding necessary and appropriate accommodations based on specifically diagnosed disabilities. The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the add/drop deadline.

Policies on Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Incidents of plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a failing grade for the class and further penalties per the University's judicial process.

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located online (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf). Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

Students may appeal any decision under the policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 "Student Standards of Academic Integrity."

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, see the professor. Finally, students agree that, by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to www.turnitin.com or a similar plagiarism prevention system.

The UNT Department of Political Science Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: The UNT Policy on Academic Integrity defines cheating as the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to: use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments; acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belong to a faculty or staff member of the University; dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor; any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment. Plagiarism is defined as use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to: the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation; the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials. Forgery is defined as altering a score, grade or official academic University record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student. Fabrication is defined as falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise. Facilitating academic dishonesty is defined as helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty. Finally, sabotage is defined as acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

The following academic penalties may be assessed at the instructor's discretion upon determination that academic dishonesty has occurred. Admonitions and educational assignments are not appealable:

A. Admonition. The student may be issued a verbal or written warning.

B. Assignment of Educational Coursework. The student may be required to perform additional coursework not required of other students in the specific course.

C. Partial or no credit for an assignment or assessment. The instructor may award partial or no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic dishonesty, to be calculated into the final course grade.

D. Course Failure. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the course. Should the procedure for appeal of a case of academic dishonesty extend beyond the date when the instructor submits course grades for the semester, the student will be assigned a grade that reflects the penalty, which shall be adjusted, as appropriate, at the conclusion of any appeal process. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Policy on Academic Integrity.

Initial meeting: Introduction

July 10th and 11th : European History and Culture

Required reading:

July 10: Kubicek, Ch. 1 and Ch. 2

July 11: Rokkan, Stein. 1999[1975]. *State-Formation, Nation-Building and Mass Politics in Europe*. Edited by Peter Flora, Stein Kuhnle, and Derek Urwin. (Pages 153-170).

**These readings will be supplied as photocopies.*

July 12th - 17th: Parliamentary government

Required reading:

July 12: Kubicek, Ch. 5 & Ch. 6

July 16: Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press: New Haven, CT. (Chs. 1 and 2)

July 17: Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press: New Haven, CT. (Ch. 3)

HOMEWORK: Research question due Monday, July 12th

IN-CLASS PROJECT: Assign political parties, July 16th

July 18th – 24th: Political parties and elections

Required reading:

July 18: Kubicek, Ch. 8

July 19: Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press: New Haven, CT. (Ch. 8)

July 23: Riker, William H. 1982. "The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science." *The American Political Science Review* 76(4): 753-766.

July 24: Mair, Peter, and Cas Mudde. 1998. "The Party Family and Its Study." *Annual Review of Political Science* 211-229.

HOMEWORK: Literature Review section due Tuesday July 17th

IN-CLASS PROJECT: Campaign speech, July 23rd

July 24th – 30th: Public opinion, political behavior, and culture

Required reading:

July 24: Kubicek, Ch. 9

July 25: Inglehart, Ronald. 1988. "The Renaissance of Political Culture." *The American Political Science Review* 84(4): 1203-1230.

July 26: Granato, Jim, Ronald Inglehart, and David Leblang. "The Effect of Cultural Values on Economic Development." *American Journal of Political Science* 40(3): 607-631.

July 30: Jackman, Robert W., and Ross A. Miller. 1996. "A Renaissance of Political Culture?" *The American Political Science Review* 40(3): 632-659. (Read, but do not be overly concerned with the math).

HOMEWORK: Theory and Hypothesis section due Tuesday July 24th

DUE: 2 Questions Based Upon Current Events due Monday July 30th

July 31st: Current Events Discussion

August 1st and 2nd: The European Union: origins and institutions

Required reading:

August 1: Kubicek, Ch. 3 & Ch. 12

August 2: Tsebelis, George & Geoffrey Garrett. 2001. "The Institutional Foundations of Intergovernmentalism and Supranationalism in the European Union." *International Organization* 55 (2): 357-390.

IN-CLASS PROJECT: Campaign debate, August 1st

August 6th and 7th: The European Union: public opinion

Required reading:

August 6: Gabel, Matthew. 1998. "Public Support for European Integration: An Empirical Test of Five Theories." *Journal of Politics* 60 (2): 333-354.

August 7: Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2007. "Sources of Euroscepticism." *Acta Politica* 42: 119-127.

IN-CLASS PROJECT: Election, August 6th

IN-CLASS PROJECT: Government formation, August 7th

August 8th: PAPER PRESENTATIONS

August 9th: REVIEW

PAPER: Final Paper due Thursday, August 9th

Final Exam: Friday, August 10th (Check the Registrar's website for time and location)