

### **CPO 3103 - (West) European Politics**

#### Course Day & Times:

- Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> period (Little Hall 121)
- Thursdays 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> periods (Little Hall 121)

#### Course objectives, description and goals:

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of a wide spectrum of comparative politics topics within the general framework of European Politics. The course will cover topics including political institutions and their implications for the functioning and character of the political system. Political behavior and how behavior and institutions combine to create policy outcomes. The course also examines the impact of history, and especially the two world wars in terms of the development of contemporary Europe. The goal is to solidify and expand previous understandings of core topics in comparative politics and provide a thorough grounded knowledge of European politics in the modern era.

#### Prerequisites

While no formal requirements are necessary to take this course, students are highly encouraged to have some background in political science. Having completed CPO 2001 (introduction to Comparative Politics) will be especially useful. Awareness of current events (newspapers, new radio etc) will also aid students in gaining a more complete understanding of the contemporary European politics and the issues that are [particularly relevant in that context.

#### Attendance

Class attendance and active participation is required for this course and constitutes 10% of total grade. The professor will randomly circulate an attendance sheet, provide insider information for exams and otherwise incentivize regular attendance. Repeated absences will unquestionably affect student performance on exams since they will be based on class lectures, as well as readings. Lecture notes and other related course materials discussed or distributed during class will NOT be posted online or otherwise distributed (except in the case of an *excused* absence). According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

*For further information about the University of Florida’s attendance policy, please see the current Undergraduate Catalogue*

*(<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>).*

### Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and what the university policies are. If you have doubts, we would be happy to discuss with you.

Please refer to the current Undergraduate Catalogue for more information on the Student Honor code (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). If you have questions about these policies, we would be happy to discuss them with you

### Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office so that special arrangements can be made to accommodate you. It is your responsibility to do so at the beginning of the semester and to communicate directly with the professor during the first week of classes (or as soon as the disability occurs).

### Grading & Assessment<sup>1</sup>

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class. The professor may hold pop-quizzes at will if it appears that students are not keeping up with assigned readings (these will be factored into participation and/or midterm grades).

- There will be two midterms (25% each = 50%)
- In-class country contributions (discussion) (10%)
- Three (3) 5-page/~2,000 words “thematic” papers for country (10% each = 30%)
- Attendance and regular class participation (10%)

### In-class country contributions

All students will be responsible becoming an expert on one of the countries of Europe (to be selected from a list). Students will be required to follow the news as it relates to that country and to learn about the details of the history and political systems of that country so that they can contribute to class discussions. This means that students will be expected to be able to discuss the attributes of their country relevant for the week’s readings in class at all times. This assignment will be discussed in class during the first week.

### *Grading Scale*

94% - 100% = A  
90% - 93% = A-  
87% - 89% = B+  
84% - 86% = B  
80% - 83% = B-  
77% - 79% = C+  
74% - 76% = C  
70% - 73% = C-  
67% - 69% = D+  
64% - 66% = D  
60% - 63% = D-  
< 60% = F

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. AS MUCH ADVANCE WARNING AS POSSIBLE WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS. CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO THE SCHEDULE, ASSIGNED READING OR OTHER ASPECTS AS DEEMED NECESSARY. NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO GRADING SCALE OR CORE OF POLICIES AS NOTED ABOVE. \*\*\***

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information on both the “in-class discussion leader” assignment and the country study paper will be made available on Sakai and discussed in class.

## REQUIRED BOOK & MATERIALS

- Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver and Peter Mair, Representative Government in Modern Europe, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2011) McGraw Hill: New York, NY. ISBN: 10-0-07-712967-9
- All additional readings (as assigned below) will be available online via UF's "E-Learning" website (under resources, required readings) or on reserve in the library (ARES).

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

WEEK 1 (August 22): Introduction to the class and the study of Europe

- What is Europe
- Where is Europe
- Sovereignty in modern Europe

### *Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 1

WEEK 2 (August 27 & 29): The Making of Modern Europe

- War and Peace in Europe
- People, nations and states
- Church and State

### *Readings:*

1. Madeley, John (2003). "A framework for the comparative analysis of church–state relations in Europe" *West European Politics*, 26:1, 23-50,
2. Walker, Connor (1994), "A Nation is a nation, is a state, is an ethnic group..." Reading # 7 (pp.36-46) in Nationalism John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith (Eds), Oxford Press, Oxford UK
3. K. Kıvanç Karaman and Şevket Pamuk "Different Paths to the Modern State in Europe: The interaction between domestic political economy and interstate competition" London School of Economics, Europe in Question Working paper series: LEQS Paper No. 37/2011, May 2011.

WEEK 3 (Sept 3 & 5): Political Executives

- Separation versus fusion of powers
- Head of State versus head of Government
- Leader or leader among equals – power within the executive
- The bureaucracy

### *Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 2
2. Baylis, Thomas A. (1996) . "Presidents versus Prime Ministers: Shaping Executive Authority in Eastern Europe" *World Politics*, Vol. 48, No. 3: 297-323

WEEK 4 (Sept 10 & 12): Parliaments (and Legislatures)

- The roles of legislatures
- Power within legislatures
- Executive-legislative relations

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 3
2. Kreppel, Amie (2011) "Legislatures" Chapter 7 in Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Daniele Caramani (Ed.) Oxford University Press.

WEEK 5 (Sept 17 & 19): Constitutions, Judges and Politics

- Constitutions – types and typologies
- Judges and judicial systems
- Autonomy and influence
- Politicization of judiciary in Europe

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 4
2. Stone Sweet, Alec (2002) "Constitutional Courts and Parliamentary Democracy" *West European Politics*, 25:1, 77-100

WEEK 6 (Sept 24 & 26): Review and Midterm I – IN CLASS

- Review on Tuesday and Midterm in class on Thursday

WEEK 7 (Oct 1 & Oct 3): Party Politics and Party Systems

- Eight country studies
- Fragmented versus bipolar party competition
- Parties in post-communist systems

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 7
2. Rohrschneider, R. (1993) "Impact of Social Movements on European Party Systems" *Annals of the American Academy of Political & Social Science* Vol. 528: 157-170

WEEK 8 (Oct 8 & 10): The Political Party Spectrum in Europe

- Understanding the left-right party spectrum
- Alternative interpretations (GAL-TAN) and parties that do not "fit"
- Extremist parties

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 8
2. Bale, Tim (2003) "Cinderella and her ugly sisters: the mainstream and extreme right in Europe's bipolarizing party systems" *West European Politics*, 26:3, 67-90

WEEK 9 (Oct 15 & 17): Cleavage Structures and Electoral Change

- Historical cleavages
- Cross-cutting vs. reinforcing cleavages

- Change over time

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 9
2. Henjak, Andrija (2010) "Political Cleavages and Socio-economic Context: How Welfare Regimes and Historical Divisions Shape Political Cleavages" *West European Politics*, 33:3, 474-504

WEEK 10 (Oct 22 & 24): Internal Political Party Structures

- Activists versus followers
- Internal organization structures
- Candidate selection mechanisms

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 10
2. Scarrow, Susan E. and Burcu Gezgor (2010) "Declining memberships, changing members? European political party members in a new era" *Party Politics*, 16: 823

WEEK 11 (Oct 29 & Oct 31): Elections, and Electoral Systems

- Participation
- Proportional versus majoritarian systems
- Electoral system change

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 11
2. Birch, Sarah (2001) "Electoral Systems and Party Systems in Europe East and West" *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*, 2:3

WEEK 12 (Nov 5 & 7): Making and Breaking Governments

- Government formation
- Investiture, censure and mutually assured destruction
- Types of governments

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 12
2. Laver, Michael and Kenneth A. Shepsle (1990) "Government Coalitions and Intraparty Politics" *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 20, No. 4: 489-507

WEEK 13 (Nov 12 & 14): Central, Regional and Local Government

- Levels of governance
- Devolution, and supranationalism (the emptying of the state)
- Federalism

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 5
2. Sorens, Jason (2009), "The Partisan Logic of Decentralization in Europe" *Regional & Federal Studies* 19, no. 2: 255-272

WEEK 14 (Nov 19): Review and Midterm II – TAKE HOME

- Review on Tuesday and take home Midterm

WEEK 15 (Nov 26 & 28): The European Union

- History of the EU
- Europe versus European Union
- Implications for governance in Europe

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 6
2. “Europeanness, A new cultural battlefield?” Reading # 49 (pp.316-325) by Phillip Schlesinger in Nationalism John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith (Eds.), 1994, Oxford Press, Oxford UK

WEEK 16 (Dec 3 – last day of class): Systemic Politics and Political Effects

- Conclusions
- **ALL REMAINING THEMATIC PAPERS DUE**

*Readings:*

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 13 & 14