

CPO 3103: WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICS SPRING 2015

Classroom: Anderson Hall 134
Time: MWF Period 8 (3:00-3:50 pm)
Office hours: W 1:00-3:00 pm and by appointment

Instructor: Victor M. Olivieri
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Overview

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of a wide spectrum of comparative politics topics within framework of Western European Politics. Students will examine the impact of history, the development of political institutions, and the resulting policies, functioning, and character of political systems. The goal is to solidify and expand previous understanding of core topics in comparative politics and provide a thorough grounded knowledge of Western European politics in the modern era. The course will alternate between lecture, active discussion, and student presentations.

Prerequisites

Students are highly encouraged to have a background in political science and completed CPO 2001: Comparative Politics. Awareness of current events will also aid students in gaining a more complete understanding of contemporary European politics and the issues that are particularly relevant in the context of the class readings.

Office hours

Office hours are an opportunity for students to get further explanation on the course material and discuss any issues they might be facing. The instructor will be available during all regularly scheduled office hours, unless prior notice is given. The instructor will also be available by individual appointment, to be scheduled ahead of time via email, to accommodate for students who cannot make the regularly scheduled office hours.

Readings

Students must do the assigned readings before the daily classroom meeting time. There is not much reading for the course, but it is important that it be done thoughtfully and ahead of time. This book will serve as the main textbook and all students are required to have a copy (third edition) of it the first day of class:

- Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver, and Peter Mair, Representative Government in Modern Europe, 5th Edition (2011) McGraw Hill: New York, NY.
- Some additional readings (as assigned in the Course Schedule) will be available online via Sakai.

Supplemental readings/materials will be excerpts from journal articles, the Internet, or videos and other materials that provide historical background, explore contemporary issues, or highlight additional discussion of key topics. These will be provided by the instructor ahead of time via Sakai or email. You are responsible for checking Sakai email daily if you do not have it automatically forwarded to your UF email or other personal email provider. Ultimately, students are responsible for completing all reading ahead of the scheduled class period.

Grading Assessments

- Quizzes (6 total at 5% each) = 30%
- Final paper (10 pages) = 30%
- Final paper presentation = 10%
- In-class country presentation = 15%
- Attendance and participation = 15%

Quizzes

Six quizzes will be assigned in class at the instructor's discretion. These will be comprised of multiple-choice question, short-answer analysis, or a fill-in-the-blank map. Quizzes will test students' understanding of the material at hand and might include contemporary cases from international news coverage of the topic or country. It is imperative to understand what is going on in the world and how that relates to the material covered in class that day or week. Excused absences during a quiz day will cause the quiz grade to be removed from the calculation of the final grade.

Final Paper

The final paper will be a ten-page comparative analysis of a topic of your choice across at least two Western European countries or institutions of the European Union. Because of the dual requirement of precision and succinctness, this will likely be the most difficult ten-page paper you will ever write. Papers must be turned in by **April 10**, via the Sakai assignment link, no later than 11:59 pm. Late papers will be deducted one whole letter grade per day (i.e. the highest grade possible for papers turned in on April 11 will be a "B"). Students will present their paper to the classroom during the dates assigned. Further guidance will be provided during the first weeks of the course.

In-class Country Presentations

All students will be responsible becoming an "expert" of one country of Western Europe. Students will be required to follow the news as it relates to that country, learn about the details of the history and political systems of that country, and expected to contribute to class discussions with their expertise as it relates to the weekly readings. Students will choose a country from a list during the second week of class. In-class country presentations will take place weekly every Friday according to the sign-up list.

Attendance

Class will begin promptly at 3:00 pm. Every student is accountable during classroom meetings to exercise their understanding and build a stronger foundation of their knowledge. Meetings will be comprised of part lecture and part discussion, challenging students to demonstrate familiarity with the readings rather than merely summarizing the material from the readings. Attendance will be taken regularly and participation points will be assigned daily. Discussion slides will not be disseminated unless student has 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>

Grading Scale

A = 93.0+
A- = 90.00-92.99
B+ = 87.00-89.99
B = 83.00-86.99
B- = 80.00-82.99
C+ = 77.00-79.99
C = 73.00-76.99
C- = 70.00-72.99
D+ = 67.00-69.99
D = 63.00-66.99
D- = 60.00-62.99
E = 59.99 and below
I*/I = Incomplete
W/WF = Withdrawal/Withdrew failing

For information on UF's grade policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades>

Academic Calendar

For all holidays, academic deadlines (e.g. drop/add), and official school breaks, see UF's Approved 2014-2015 Academic Calendar Year:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/calendar1415.pdf>

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

WEEK 1 (January 7 and 9): 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 (January 12, 14, 16): 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:
4. "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.

MLK Holiday (January 19): **NO CLASS**

WEEK 3 (January 21 and 23): Political Executives

- Separation versus fusion of powers
- Head of State versus Head of Government
- Power within the executive – Leader or leader among equals
- 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* 48(3): 297-323.

WEEK 4 (January 26, 28, 30): 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*, Daniele Caramani (Ed.) Oxford University Press.

WEEK 5 (February 2, 4, 6): 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 (February 9, 11, 13): 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 7 (February 16, 18, 20): 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 8 (February 23, 25, 27): 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.

***PAPER TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK**

SPRING BREAK (March 2 – 6): **NO CLASS**

WEEK 9 (March 9, 11, 13): 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 10 (March 16, 18, 20): Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referendums

- 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 11 (March 23, 25, 27): 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*, 20(4): 489-507.

WEEK 12 (March 30, April 1 and 3): Governance within and outside various institutions

- Levels of governance
- Devolution, and supranationalism (the emptying of the state)
- Federalism
- Politics outside parliaments and legislatures

Readings:

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapters 6 and 13.
2. Sorens, Jason (2009), "The Partisan Logic of Decentralization in Europe" *Regional & Federal Studies* 19(2): 255-272.

WEEK 13 (April 6, 8, 10): The European Union

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

Readings:

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, Chapter 5.
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.

***FINAL PAPERS DUE AT MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 10**

WEEK 14 (April 13, 15, 17): Paper Presentations

WEEK 15 (April 20 and 22): Paper Presentations

Student Conduct and Honor Code

Students must not behave in any way that will interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program.

The use of electronic devices, except computers or tablets used for note-taking purposes, is not allowed during the classes. Unauthorized use of social media sites (e.g. Facebook, twitter) will result in the use of pen and paper to take notes for the remainder of the term. Please turn off or silence (not vibrate) all electronic devices prior to entering the classroom.

The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students within the system receive the benefits of the academic pursuit of knowledge, free from the obstacles of lying, cheating, and stealing. In return, the Academic Honesty Guidelines demand that students act with integrity in all of their endeavors. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to also act with integrity. Every student who approaches their studies with honesty and forthrightness suffers when another student attains an unfair advantage by cheating. The instructor will do everything within his powers to uphold the Academic Honesty Guidelines. For more information on both the Student Conduct Code and Student Honor Code, students should visit:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. These students are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC), at Reid Hall. Please be sure to complete registration and provide the documentation to the instructor no later than the end of the first week of class to ensure appropriate accommodation. The instructor will do everything within his powers to ensure all students have the best classroom environment possible. For more information, students should visit: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability/> or <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking career and academic goals, which might interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

- University Counseling Centre, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Centre, 392-1171
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Centre, 392-1161

For more information, students should visit: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

Make-up Quizzes and Assignments

No make-up quizzes will be allowed. If you missed class and it was not an excused absence, you will miss out on the quiz points as well.

Make-up assignments (e.g. presentations, final paper) will only be scheduled under the following conditions:

1. There is a good and documented reason, in the judgment of the instructor, for missing the regularly assigned date.
2. In cases where an absence is foreseeable or scheduled, request for a make-up must be received in writing (via email) in sufficient time **PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DATE** to make alternative arrangements to take the make-up **BEFORE** the regularly scheduled date.
3. In cases where an absence is not foreseeable but documented, request for a make-up must be received in writing (via email) **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Please note that giving the final presentation after the due date might result in having to receive an incomplete “I*/I” grade for the course until the grades can be changed.

The course instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time