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EUS 4930/POS 4931
Dates: tba

Majoritarian and Consensus Democracy in Europe and beyond
Office Hours online: tba

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SUBJECT TO CHANGES UNTIL FIRST COURSE WEEK

Description

This course will examine the history and contemporary shape of European democracies from the perspective of Arend Lijphart's theory on majoritarian and consensus models of democracy. Based on this concept, it will take a comparative view on the evolution, the functional principles as well as problems and conflicts of majoritarian and consensus democracies in Europe and beyond. The course will introduce and discuss the dimensions of Lijphart's concept in detail, analyzing types of government, parliament, electoral systems, party systems, and the federal structure of the state. Furthermore, problems of majoritarian and consensus democracy will be discussed, namely questions of legitimacy, policy output, and capacity to reform.

Requirements

Attendance (10% of grade).

One unexcused absence over the course of the semester is allowed; after that, unexcused absences count against your attendance grade. Excused absences do not count against your grade, but these require prior consultation with the instructor. 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>).

Active participation (10% of grade)

Students are expected to attend class and participate actively, share their opinions and questions and take part in discussions. Required texts will be addressed in the discussions and their reading is mandatory. Furthermore, the grade consists of the extent to which students engage in class discussions individually (5%) and their presentations following group discussions (5%). Student participation is a very important component of this course. Full and active engagement with the readings, lectures, and discussions in the class is expected. In the interests of fairness and given the size of the course, there will be no extra credit assignments.

Weekly Tuesday Quizzes (15% of grade)

Short quizzes are taking place weekly on Tuesdays, testing student's knowledge about the mandatory readings for each week, which are going to be discussed in the Wednesday sessions. The aim of the quizzes is for students to encourage reading and to self-check on their knowledge.

Oral presentation (20% of grade)

The idea of oral presentations is to provide additional thoughts on the topic of each week. Each student shall give an oral presentation on a subject related to the overall topic of the respective week, starting week 3. Presentations will take place on Fridays (or Wednesdays if there is no regular class on Friday) and should take approx. 10-15 minutes per student. Depending on class size, some presentations may likely be done in pairs or threes, which might extent their duration. Presentations will address major questions on the topic that was discussed during the week and shall provide further research, different perspectives, and inspire discussions in class. To stay on track, it is highly recommended to talk about your ideas during the office hours, where also additional texts for the presentation can be provided.

Midterm paper (20% of grade)

The midterm paper will consist of one specific question to be answered, covering content from the first 7 weeks of the course. Questions will be assigned to each student randomly by week 8; the paper is due by the Friday 11:59pm of week 9. The paper shall be no shorter than 3 and no longer than 5 pages, (double-spaced), including 1 to 2 pages of bibliography.

Final paper (25% of grade).

In the final paper, which is due by Friday 11:59 pm of week 13, students shall reflect on (1) a specific text discussed in class, (2) a research question that touches upon several readings of the course, or (3) another topic related to the course. The paper shall consist of 5 to 6 pages (double-spaced), including 1 to 2 pages of bibliography. Discussing the idea of the final paper in the office hours is not required but highly advisable.

Office hours

Unless announced otherwise, office hours take place via Zoom (schedule tba). A Zoom link will be provided through the Canvas calendar.

Policy on Exam Make-Ups

I will only schedule exam make-ups for students who contact me by email at least one hour before the exam and who can provide official documentation why they were physically unable to take the exam.

Grading Scale

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	E Below 60
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Texts

The required texts and most other readings will be available on-line through CANVAS. The required texts are to be read at each course week. All further readings are optional. The reading schedule below is subject to change depending on the pace of progress and unforeseen scheduling changes. Please refer to the online syllabus for the latest version.

** indicates required readings for each week.*

Readings tba

Final Notes

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).

Honor Code: 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 please discuss with the professor immediately. After the infringement is too late. Please refer to the current Undergraduate Catalogue for more information on the Student Honor code (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). Students who have questions about these policies, should contact the undergraduate advisement center for additional information.