

CPO 3103: Western European Politics (Spring 2019)

MWF Period 2 (8:30-9:20am), MAT 16

Instructor: Ross Cotton (rdcotton@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: AND 206, M Period 3 (9:35-10:25am) and W Period 3-4 (9:35-11:30am) and by appointment

Course Description:

As the title suggests, this course will focus on representative democracies in Western Europe. Rather than taking a thematic approach, five major Western European states that collectively represent and exemplify the wide range of democratic political institutions found across Europe will be examined: the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden. Additionally, where appropriate, the European Union and its institutions will be discussed in relation to each country case. By the end of the course, students will gain knowledge of the structure and operation of Western European representative institutions and the implications such institutions have for political and policy outcomes. This knowledge will enable students to think analytically about Western European institutions for present-day European politics, as well as to think critically regarding political and policy issues in Western European states and throughout the wider European Union.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The total points possible in this course is **1000**.

Attendance: 100 points (10%)

- Attendance will be taken prior to each class meeting. Always come to class, and please be on time. For excused absences, students must provide relevant documentation, and provide advance notice to me (within reason). Students are provided two unexcused absences over the course of the semester. However, any further unexcused absences will result in a five-point deduction (for each absence) from your participation grade.

Participation: 100 points (10%)

- Students are expected to come to class prepared to raise questions, relevant discussion topics, and to remain engaged throughout the class period. Additionally, at the beginning of each class, a few minutes of class time will be devoted to discussing the latest news from Western Europe.

Quizzes: 100 points (10%)

- Students will take 12 in-class quizzes on the assigned readings. The quiz will take place on Mondays and will focus on the week's readings. If you arrive late, you will not have the opportunity to retake a quiz. As there are 16 weeks in a semester, this also means that some weeks a quiz will not be given. The two lowest attendance quiz grades will be

dropped. **Thus, a total of 12 quizzes will be held, but only the top 10 scores will count towards your grade.**

Midterm Exam: 250 points (25%)

- An in-class Midterm Exam will be held on **February 15**. If a student cannot attend the Midterm, he or she needs to notify me as soon as possible via email. Students who fail to notify me prior to the exam will not be allowed to retake it. Written documentation explaining the reason for the absence is required for the make-up exam, and I must receive the documentation prior to a student taking it.

Final Exam: 250 points (25%)

- The Final Exam is non-cumulative and will be scheduled during the Final Exam period. There are no make-up exams for the Final.

Term Paper: 200 points (20%)

- Students must write a paper (6 to 8 pages, doubled spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font, 1-inch margins) focusing on a cross-national comparison of a pair of Western European states: the first must be selected from the five that will be discussed in-depth (the UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden), and the second must be from Western Europe, yet outside of the aforementioned five. Students must identify a state to focus on by **March 15**, and the selection must be approved by the instructor. The purpose of the paper will be (1) to compare the two selected states along a single dimension – e.g. the electoral system, executive-legislative relations, federalism vs. unitarism, political parties and party systems, political economy, etc. – and (2) to analyze how the differences or similarities between the two manifest themselves in political outcomes. In closing, papers should explain what insights this comparison brings to our knowledge of Western European democracy and its politics. More specific instructions on the term paper will be provided after the Midterm Exam.
- For students taking the course as an elective towards the EU Studies minor, your final paper will instead focus strictly on the European Union.
- The paper is due on Canvas on **April 26**.

Grading Scale:

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

Course Expectations:

This class is designed for students who have already taken Introduction to Comparative Politics (CPO 2001) and assumes familiarity with the basic institutions of modern democracies. Students are expected to complete the week's assigned readings prior to class on every Monday, and to come prepared to raise questions and relevant discussion topics in class. In addition to the assigned readings, students are responsible for keeping up with Europe-related

current events. Students should read internationally-themed newspapers and magazines regularly (e.g. the Financial Times, the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Guardian, etc.) and follow news reports online (BBC News, Deutsch Welt, France24, etc.). At the beginning of each class, a few minutes of class time will be devoted to discussing the latest news from Europe. One or more questions related to current events are likely to appear on each exam.

Academic Integrity:

Obviously, all students will be held to the University of Florida Honor Code. Cheating of any kind is unacceptable, and so is plagiarism (portraying other people's words and ideas as your own). Do not ruin your college experience by engaging in academic dishonesty. **Students violating the honor code will receive zero (0) points for the assignment or exam in question, and may receive an 'E' for the class.**

Accommodation:

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who will then need to provide this documentation to me (the Instructor). Please talk to me as soon as possible if there is any issue in this regard.

Important contact information for university counseling services and mental health services: 352-392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>. For the University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Required Text:

- Donald Hancock et. al. Politics in Europe, 7th Edition. CQ Press, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1506399096

Schedule:

I reserve the right to modify the schedule in any way I see fit as the semester progresses

Module 1: The United Kingdom

Week 1:

- 1/07 – Syllabus and Course Mechanics
- 1/09 – The UK: A Multinational State
- 1/11 – The British Constitution

- **Readings:**

- Hancock et. al.: Intro & The Context of British Politics (p. xix – xxxiii; 3 – 21)

Week 2:

- 1/14 – Constitutional Monarchy and Parliamentary Democracy
- 1/16 – British Political Parties and the Electoral System
- 1/18 – Regional Parties and Devolution
- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: Where is the Power? & Who Has the Power? (p. 22 – 71)

Week 3:

- 1/21 – (No class, MLK Day)
- 1/23 – The British Policy-Making Process
- 1/25 – Brexit & Northern Ireland
- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: How is Power Used? & What is the Future? (p. 72 – 94)

Module 2: France

Week 4:

- 1/28 – How to Effectively Conduct Academic Research w/ Dr. Schweider
- 1/30 – France: The First Modern Nation-State
- 2/01 – Revolution & Regime Change
- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: The Context of French Politics & Where is the Power? (p. 99 – 139)

Week 5:

- 2/04 – Semi-presidentialism & Cohabitation
- 2/06 – The Administrative State
- 2/08 – French Political Parties
- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: Who Has the Power? (p. 142 – 184)

Week 6:

- 2/11 – French Presidential Power & Bureaucratic Politics
- 2/13 – The Future of French Politics & Midterm Review
- 2/15 – Midterm
- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: How is Power Used? & What is the Future? (p. 185 – 213)

Module 3: Germany

Week 7:

- 2/18 – Germany: From Authoritarianism to Democracy
- 2/20 – German Federalism
- 2/22 – German Reunification & Legacy of Communism

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: The Context of German Politics (p. 217 – 241)

Week 8:

- 2/25 – The Bundestag & Bundesrat
- 2/27 – German Political Parties
- 3/01 – Proportional Representation

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: Where is the Power? & Who Has the Power? (p. 242 – 285)

Week 9: Spring Break

- 3/04 – No Class
- 3/06 – No Class
- 3/08 – No Class

Week 10:

- 3/11 – Germany's Multiple Political Power Centers
- 3/13 – Germany & the Eurozone Crisis
- 3/15 – Work on Final Paper (No Class)

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: How is Power Used? & What is the Future? (p. 287 – 314)

Module 4: Italy

Week 11:

- 3/18 – Italian Unification in the Late 19th Century
- 3/20 – The Ceremonial Head of State
- 3/22 – Work on Final Paper (No Class)

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: The Context of Italian Politics & Where is the Power? (p. 317 – 358)

Week 12:

- 3/25 – Regional Socioeconomic Divergence
- 3/27 – Italian Political Parties
- 3/29 – The Electoral System & Cabinet Instability

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: Who Has the Power? (p. 359 – 411)

Week 13:

- 4/01 – Multilevel Governance & Policy Formation
- 4/03 – The Future of Italian Politics
- 4/05 – “The Middle Way”

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: How is Power Used? & What is the Future? (p. 414 – 447)

Module 5: Sweden

Week 14:

- 4/08 – The Riksdag, the PM, and the Monarch
- 4/10 – A Consensual Democracy
- 4/12 – Work on Final Paper (No Class)

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: The Context of Swedish Politics & Where is the Power? (p. 453 – 473)

Week 15:

- 4/15 – Swedish Political Parties
- 4/17 – Swedish Interest Groups
- 4/19 – Economic Performance & the Welfare State

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: Who Has the Power? (p. 474 – 491)

Week 16:

- 4/22 – The Future of Swedish Politics & Final Exam Review
- 4/24 – Work on Final Paper (No Class)
- 4/26 – Term Paper Due (No Class, Reading Day)

- **Readings:**
 - Hancock et. al.: How is Power Used? & What is the Future? (p. 492 – 513)