Politics of Western Europe
Fall 2011

Course Information

Course Name	Politics of Western Europe
Course ID & Section	CPO 3104 0W 59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2011
Location	World Wide Web

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Anca Turcu
Office	Online Webcourses Chat Room
Office Hours	Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 PM EST
E-mail	Anca.Turcu@ucf.edu You may also e-mail me by using the Webcourses e-mail/ messages system. I will use that system to send out updates, important messages or announcements. Please check your Webcourses e-mail regularly, at least once every 48 hours. If you e-mail me, I will do my best to get back to you quickly, but I may take up to 48 hours to respond.
Academic and Content Related Questions	If you have questions about the academic material or class content, do not hesitate to contact me! Questions, feedback or comments are all welcome. For non-academic (not course content related questions), please see below.
Other Contact Information	If you have questions regarding technical support or any other non-academic, non course content related issues, you have to seek help from the technical FAQ page and the Webcourses@UCF support staff. Also, you should make good use of discussion postings, chat rooms, e-

	mail, and other avenues available online so that you can get the answers you need. Many of your fellow students may already know how to resolve your issue. Post a note or send an e-mail and ask them! Chances are, someone in the class may have had the same question you do. Use the tools indicated above to find out.

Course Description

This class explores the government and politics of Western European countries, while providing a comparative insight into the institutions, electoral systems and processes that are specific to their governments. We will also examine historical contexts, political culture, social realities and policy outcomes specific to each country.

Course Objectives

On completing this course students will be able to:

1. describe and analyze the institutions and governmental systems of Western European democracies
2. discuss the implications of different electoral systems for institutional change
3. comprehend traits of political culture and social realities in Western European democracies
4. analyze the impact of institutions and government policies upon political processes and democratic stability in each country
5. discuss current developments in Western European politics and their implications

Required Texts

- European Democracies, by Crepaz, Markus M.L. and Jurg Steiner; Longman-Pearson, 7th Edition

Academic and news articles as listed under the weekly —Module Overview" section

Note: Political Science is a very dynamic subject matter. Due to ongoing elections and unfolding events, material we study is time sensitive and has to be constantly updated with the latest developments. This is why it is imperative that students use the newest textbook edition, as indicated above.

Academic Calendar

Week	Module	Topic(s)	Readings
Week 1 08/22-	Module 0	Introduction and Class Overview	Syllabus and Protocols

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Week 2 08/29-09/04	Module 1	Politics in the US and Europe: A Comparative Overview Political Parties	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 1 & 2 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 1 Overview”
Week 3 09/05-11	Module 2	The Legislative Branch: Parliaments	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 3 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 2 Overview”
Week 4 09/12-18	Module 3	The Executive: Cabinets and Heads of State	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 4 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 3 Overview”
Week 5 09/19-25	Module 4	The Judiciary: Courts	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 5 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 4 Overview”
Week 6 09/26-10/02	Module 5	Federalism and Referenda	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 6 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 5 Overview”
Week 7 10/03-09	Module 6	Social Movements	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 7 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 6 Overview”
Week 8 10/10-16	Module 7	The State and Economic Interest Groups	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 8 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 7 Overview”
Week 9 10/17-23	Module 8	Policy Outcomes	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 9 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 8 Overview”
Week 10 10/24-30	Module 9	The End of the Cold War	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 10 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 9 Overview”
Week 11 10/31-06	Module 10	Transitions to Democracy	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 11 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 10 Overview”

Week 12 11/07-13	Module 11	Nationalism and Ethnicity	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 12 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 11 Overview"
Week 13 11/14-20	Module 12	Power Sharing in Deeply Divided Societies	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 13 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 12 Overview"
Week 14 11/21-27	Module 13	The European Union	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 14 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 13 Overview"
Week 15 11/28-12/04	Module 14	Globalization and European Democracies	Crepaz and Steiner Ch. 15 Academic and news articles as specified in the —Module 14 Overview"

Course Requirements

Quizzes

Weekly quizzes will test your knowledge of the material from the module covered during the week. Your two lowest scoring quiz scores will be dropped at the end of class, leaving you with twelve quizzes, worth 2.5% of your grade each. That is, twelve quizzes will make up 30% of your final grade. If you miss a quiz, or fail to submit it on time, you will automatically be assigned a grade of 0 for that quiz. Quizzes will be available, with the rest of the content for each module, on the Monday of each week. Note that quizzes are timed—you have one hour to complete each quiz. Quizzes will close each week by Sunday evening, at 11.59PM EST and may be taken only once. Please avoid last minute submissions in order to circumvent technical difficulties.

Written Assignments

Please complete written assignments as requested/described within each individual module, by Sunday evenings at 11.59 PM EST (excluding week 1). All written assignments/ projects must be submitted to: www.turnitin.com. Please create an account with this site using the class ID: 4186773 and the password: wepolfall11. This site is designed to help me identify plagiarism, so make sure to take all necessary measures needed to avoid plagiarism. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take this UCF library tutorial:http://infolit.ucf.edu/students/modules/#article116 Students who plagiarize will receive and automatic F grade for the entire class. Please allow for plenty of time to complete the assignment, so that you avoid last minute submissions and the technical difficulties that sometimes accompany them. Assignments cannot be submitted late. Any missed assignment will be given a grade of 0.

Students will have to submit a written assignment every week, excluding week 1. Instructions for each assignment will be found under the —Module Overview" section posted weekly for each individual module. Two of your submitted assignments will be randomly selected by the professor and graded. The first written assignment grade will be posted by 10/23 and the second written assignment grade will be posted by 12/07. Since the professor will randomly choose which written assignment to grade, complete all assignments to the best of your ability. Follow the written assignment instructions in each module! These written assignments will each make up 20% of your final grade, for a combined total of 40% of your final grade.

Final Project

Students will have to submit a final project by 11/27 2011 at 11:59 PM. This project will be worth 30% of the final grade. Details about this project will be posted online and/or e-mailed to students by week 3 of the semester at the latest.

Due Dates

Quizzes: due every Sunday evening by 11:59 PM

Weekly project assignments: due every Sunday evening by 11:59 PM (except week1)

Final project: due by 11/27 2011 at 11:59 PM

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

I will not grant extensions if you fail to submit your work due to technical difficulties. You are solely responsible if you fail to submit a quiz or an assignment due to technical difficulties, save for a major natural disaster (i.e. a hurricane). In the event of a hurricane, which causes power outages and evacuations, do not panic about your online assignments. Your safety and that of your family is your first priority. When power is restored, contact your instructor. She will work with individual students to determine the best course of action. Remember, your instructor could be experiencing the same or similar problems in the event of a hurricane! Other circumstances, which may be considered —unavoidable", are medical or legal emergencies. Pertinent documentation, deemed acceptable by the instructor, will be required for any delayed assignment.

E-mail Protocols

E-mail will be an integral part of this course. Make sure you:

1. Check your e-mail at least once every 48 hours (more often is better).
2. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply.
3. Include —Subject" headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.

4. Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
6. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered —shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).
7. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
8. Sign your e-mail messages.
9. Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would mind seeing on the evening news.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (good ones include McAfee or Norton).

Also, back up your files: —My hard drive crashed." —My modem doesn't work." —My printer is out of ink." These are today's equivalents of —My dog ate my homework." These events really do occur and they are really inconvenient when they do. However, these are not valid excuses for failing to get your work in on time.

Technical Assistance

For specific problems in any of the areas below or for further information go to the corresponding link for assistance.

- UCF Home Page will help find UCF resources
- UCF Service Desk – You can also call the Service Desk at 407-823-5117.
- Learning Online This site provides information on study skills for distance learners, the library and the writing center.
- Buying a new computer or upgrading your current equipment – http://www.cstore.ucf.edu/
- Hardware/Software Requirements
- Technical Discussion Topic: If you have technical questions and/or problems, please post a message to the Technical Discussion Topic. I encourage members of the class who are technically proficient to also monitor this discussion topic and assist your classmates.
- If your equipment problems prevent you from using e-mail from home, there are many computer labs on campus and virtually every public library offers Internet access.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Quizzes (12)	30%
Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	20%
Final Project	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points
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
F	59 and below

Grading Formula

(assignment1 *.20) + (assignment2 * .20) + (final project*.30) + [(sum of twelve highest scoring quizzes/12) *.30]= final grade

Attendance Policy

This course is web-based, fully online and considered a "W" course. Students are expected to fully participate in all online activities and to complete all assignments by the due date.

Participation and a timely completion of work and assignments are both considered similar to attendance in a face-to-face class. Assignments that are not turned into Webcourses by the due date, will receive 0 points.

Academic Honesty

Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records.

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take this UCF library tutorial: http://infolit.ucf.edu/students/modules/#article116

Students who cheat, plagiarize, falsify records or practice any other form of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic F grade for the class.

More details can be found at: http://regulations.ucf.edu/~regs/pdf/notices/5.015StuAcademicBehaviorStandards_newJul09_001.pdf

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Important Disclaimer

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I will provide notification of such changes in a timely manner.