CPO 3104 Politics of Western Europe

Dr. Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey

Contact Information:

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to European politics. We examine the evolution, structures and operation of representative institutions across European countries and focus on particular themes, such as political parties, elections, and governments, rather than particular countries. We discuss the implications of different political institutions for different political and policy outcomes.
The European Union has been a major feature of the domestic politics of most European states. We examine the institutions and policies of the European Union, and the effects of the EU on the politics of member states. We address the controversies surrounding membership in the EU in general, and the politics of inclusion of countries of Eastern Europe.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course you will:

- Have good knowledge of the structure and operation of European representative institutions
- Have good knowledge of the structure of European Union institutions and European Union policies
- Have good knowledge of the implications of different institutions for political and policy outcomes

- Use your knowledge on institutions and their implications to think analytically on current European politics
- Use your knowledge on institutions and their implications to think critically on political and policy issues in European democracies

Required textbooks:

Markus M.L. Crepaz and Jurg Steiner. 2011. ***European Democracies*.** Seventh Edition. Longman

John McCormick. 2011. ***European Union Politics.*** Palgrave Macmillan

Evaluation Procedures

Grade Categories	Requirement	Grade Weight
Module One		5%
Modules	Eight Modules (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)	50%
Quizzes	Five Quizzes (5, 6, 11, 12, 14)	25%
Research Paper	See Module 10	20%

- Grading information on the specific assignment will be provided in the assignment itself.
- To complete the course you ought to complete all assignments.
- The following plus/minus grading system will apply in this course.
  A = 93+, A- = 90-92, B+ = 88-89, B = 83-87, B- = 80-82, C+ = 78-79,
  C = 73-77, C- = 70-72, D+ = 68-69, D = 63-67, D- = 60-62,
  F= 59 or below.

Class Schedule Spring 2012

Week	**Topic**	**Assignments**
January 9	Getting Started	"Learning online" **see Module 1** **Due: January 13, 11 PM**
January 17	Political Parties	*European Democracies*: Chapter 2 **See Module 2:** • Quiz 2 (Chapter 2) • One-page assignment **Due: January 20, 11 PM**
January 23	Parliaments: How They are Elected and How They Work	*European Democracies*: Chapter 3 **See Module 3**: • Quiz 3 (Chapter 3) • On-line discussion **Due: January 27, 11 PM**
January 30	Cabinet Formation and Heads of State	*European Democracies*: Chapter 4 **See Module 4**: • Quiz 4 (Chapter 4) • One-page Assignment **Due: February 3, 11 PM**

February 6	Courts Federalism and Referenda	*European Democracies*: Chapters 5 and 6 **<u>Quiz 5</u>: Chapters 5 & 6** **Due: February 10, 11 PM**
February 13	Social Movements	*European Democracies*: Chapter 7 **<u>Quiz 6</u>: Chapter 7** **Due: February 17, 11 PM**
February 20	The State and Economic Interest Groups Policy Outcomes	*European Democracies*: Chapters 8, 9 **See Module 5:** • Quiz 7 (Chapters 8 & 9) • On-line discussion **Due: February 24, 11 PM**
February 27	End of Cold War Transitions to Democracy	*European Democracies:* Chapters 10, 11 **See Module 6:** • Quiz 8 (Chapters 10 & 11) • On-line discussion **Due: March 2, 11 PM**
March 5	**Spring Break**	

March 12	Nationalism and Ethnicity Deeply Divided Societies	*European Democracies:* Chapters 12, 13 **See Module 7**: • Quiz 9 (Chapters 12 & 13) • On-line discussion **Due: March 16, 11 PM**
March 19	European Integration Origins Building a Single Market	McC, Introduction, Chapters 1,4,5 **See Module 8:** • Quiz 10 (Chapters 1, 4, & 5) • On-line discussion **Due: March 23, 11 PM**
March 26	The Way to European Union To Lisbon and Beyond	McC, Chapters 6, 7 **<u>Quiz 11</u> (Chapters 6, 7)** **Due: March 30, 11 PM**
April 2	<u>EU Institutions</u> Commission Councils	McC, Chapters 10, 11 **<u>Quiz 12</u> (Chapters 10 & 11)** **Due: April 6, 11 PM**

April 9	<u>EU Institutions</u> (cont.) Parliament Court of Justice	McC, Chapters 12, 13 **See Module 9** • Quiz 13 (Chapters 12 & 13) • One-page assignment **Due: April 13, 11 PM**
April 16	<u>EU Policy</u> Public Policy Economic Policy The Euro	McC, Chapters 18, 19, 20 **<u>Quiz 14</u>** (Chapters 18, 19 & 20) **Due: April 20, 11 PM**
April 23	<u>EU Policy</u> (cont.) Managing Resources Cohesion Policy	McC, Chapters 21, 22 **See Module 10** • 5-6 page research paper **Due: April 27, 11 PM**