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	Four Modules (2, 3, 4, 5)	40%
Quizzes	Two Quizzes (8 & 9)	15%
Library Assignment	One Assessment	10%
Research Paper	See Module 6	30%

- 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 Summer 2012

Week	**Topic**	**Assignments**
May 14	Getting Started	"Learning online" **see Module 1** **Due: May 18, 11 PM**
May 21	Political Parties Parliaments: How They are Elected and How They Work	*European Democracies*: Chapters 2 & 3 **See Module 2:** • Quiz 2 (Chapter 2) • Quiz 3 (Chapter 3) • On-line discussion Due: **May 25, 11 PM**
May 28	Cabinet Formation and Heads of State Courts Federalism and Referenda	*European Democracies*: Chapters 4, 5 & 6 **See Module 3**: • Quiz 4 (Chapter 4) • Quiz 5 (Chapters 5 & 6) **Due: June 1, 11 PM**
June 4	The State and Economic Interest Groups Policy Outcomes	*European Democracies*: Chapters 8, 9 **See Module 4:** • Quiz 6 (Chapters 8 & 9) • On-line discussion **Due: June 8, 11 PM**

June 11	Organizing a Postwar Europe Building a Single Market The Way to European Union To Lisbon and Beyond	McC, Introduction, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 **See Module 5:** • Quiz 7 (Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7) • On-line discussion **Due: June 15, 11 PM**
June 18	<u>EU Institutions</u> Commission Councils Parliament Court of Justice	McC, Chapters 10, 11, 12 & 13 **<u>Quiz 8</u>** (Chapters 10, 11, 12 & 13) **Due: June 22, 11 PM**
June 25	<u>EU Policy</u> Public Policy Economic Policy The Euro	McC, Chapters 18, 19, 20 **<u>Quiz 9</u>** (Chapters 18, 19 & 20) **Due: June 29, 11 PM**
July 2	<u>EU Policy</u> Managing Resources Cohesion Policy	McC, Chapters 21, 22 **See Module 6** • 5-6 page research paper **Library Assignment (Due July 6, 11 PM)**
July 9	<u>Research Paper</u>	**Due July 13, 11 PM**