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. 2008. Fourth Edition. ***The European Union: Politics and Policies.*** Boulder: Westview.

Evaluation Procedures

Grade Categories	Requirement	Grade Weight
Module One		10%
Modules	Five Modules (2,3,4,5,6)	70%
Research Paper	See Module #7	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 Summer 2011

Week	**Topic**	**Assignments**
May 16	Getting Started	"Learning online" see **Module #1** **Due: May 20, 11 PM**
May 23	Political Parties Parliaments: How They are Elected and How They Work	*European Democracies*: Chapters 2 and 3 See **Module #2:** • Quiz 2 (Chapter 2) • On-line discussion Due: **May 27, 11 PM**
May 30	Cabinet Formation and Heads of State	*European Democracies*: Chapter 4 See **Module #3**: • Quiz 3 (Chapter 4) • One-page Paper **Due: June 3, 11 PM**
June 6	Courts Federalism and Referenda	*European Democracies*: Chapters 5 and 6 **Quiz 4: Chapters 5 & 6** **Due: June 10, 11 PM**
June 13	Social Movements The State and Economic Interest Groups Policy Outcomes	*European Democracies*: Chapters 7, 8, and 9 **See Module #4:** • Quiz 5 (Chapters 8 & 9) • On-line discussion

		Due: June 17, 11 PM
June 20	European Integration Origins Consolidation	McC, Introduction, Chapters 1,2,4 See **Module #5:** • On-line discussion • Quiz 6 (Chapters 1, 2 & 4) **Due: June 24, 11 PM**
June 27	<u>EU Institutions</u> The Commission The Council of Ministers The Parliament The Court of Justice	McC, Chapters 5,6,7,8 See **Module #6** • One-page paper **Due: July 1, 11 PM**
July 5	<u>EU Policy</u> Interest Representation Policy Process Economic Policy	McC, Chapters 10,11,12 See **Module #7**
July 11	<u>EU Policy</u> (cont.) Agricultural and Regional Policy Environmental and Social Policy Foreign and Security Policy	McC, Chapters 13,14,15 See **Module #7** • 5-6 page research paper **Due: Thursday, July 14, 11 PM**