CPO3104 Comparative Politics of Western Europe

School of Politics, Security and International Affairs, University of Central Florida
Fall 2019

Contact Information:

Instructor	Davide Dell'Isola
Office	UCF Main Campus, Howard Phillips Hall (HPH), PhD Office, #313
Office Hours	Monday 10:00am-12:00pm Wednesday 2:00pm-4:00 pm or by appointment
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Main Department Office Number	407-823-2227
Class Meetings	Monday-Wednesday-Friday 12:30pm-1:20pm Classroom Building 1, 0122
Credit Hours	3

University of Central Florida Catalogue Description:

Credit Hours: 3
Class Hours: 3
Lab and Field Work Hours: 0
Contact Hours: 3
Prerequisite(s): ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None.

Description: An examination of the political and economic dynamics of Western Europe in the post-1945 era.

COS-POLS

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to Western European politics. We examine the evolution, structures and operation of representative institutions across Western European countries and focus on particular topics: political parties, elections, government formation, policy making and social movements across Western European countries. We also assess the recent evolutions linked to the rise of

populism Europe and the impact of immigration on Western European societies. We discuss the implications of different political institutions for different political, policy, and social outcomes in general.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Understand the structure and operation of Western European representative institutions
- Understand the implications of Western European institutions for political and policy outcomes
- Use your knowledge on Western European institutions and their implications to think analytically on issues regarding current European politics
- Use your knowledge of Western European institutions and their implications to think critically on political and policy issues in Western European democracies
- Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the types of party, electoral systems and formation of cabinets in Western Europe
- Understand and have a good knowledge of the social and economic issues linked to the rise of populism in Western Europe
- Understand the implication of the recent immigration and refugee crisis in Western European societies

Required textbooks:

Markus M.L. Crepaz. 2017. ***European Democracies*.** 9th Edition. Routledge, ISBN-13: 978-1138932494

It is very important that you use the last edition of this book. Western European politics change fast, previous editions of this same book are already outdated

Selection of articles TBA. The additional readings will be available in the Webcourses section of this class under the tab “files”.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups, Extra credit

To submit late work without penalties students will have to obtain the instructor’s permission prior to the deadline of the assignment. Permission will be granted only for officially documented reasons. All emergencies and other unforeseen circumstances must be properly documented. In all other unjustified circumstances, the penalties for lateness will be of one letter grade **per calendar day (10 points for day late).**

Recording Academic Activity Policy

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please **complete the assignments for Module One** by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but **no later than August 30th**. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course: on the online course page on Webcourses, under the tab "assignment" post a brief description (up to a paragraph) of why you are interested in taking this course.

Evaluation and Grading

Grade Categories	Requirement	Grade Weight
Participation	Attendance, Active participation	10%
First Exam	Multiple choice exam	20%
Second Exam	Multiple choice exam	20%
Final Exam	Multiple choice exam and one essay question (500-750 words)	25%
Paper	Short paper (2,000-2,500 words)	25%
Extra Credit	Online Quiz	Extra 5 points

Participation is an important aspect of this class and therefore it represents a relevant portion of your final grade. Students are expected to actively participate during classes. The participation grade takes into account the active participation of students during classes (answering and asking questions, providing comments). It also takes into account attendance and timeliness. Make sure to arrive to class on time and do not use cell phones during lectures. Participation will count for 10% of your final grade. Attendance is not mandatory but missing several classes without justification will have a negative impact on your participation grade. It will also make it harder to get a good grade in the class overall as you will miss important theoretical points that will be discussed during class.

You will be required to write **a short paper** (at least 2,000 words with flexible maximum of 2,500

words) covering a particular aspect discussed in class. I will provide a set of questions, you can either answer one of those or you instead can choose your own topic. A short-list of possible questions will be provided some weeks in advance so that you have time to prepare. If you choose your own topic you must discuss the topic with me beforehand to assess the feasibility and relevance of the paper. This option is highly suggested for students interested in pursuing graduate studies related to European politics or International Relations more broadly intended. The paper will count for 25% of your final grade. This paper must be uploaded electronically in the Webcourses section of this class. The paper is due on Friday, November 22nd at 11:59pm. The deadline to clear the research topic if you chose the second option is Monday, October 28th.

The paper must assess a particular debated aspect of Western European politics and it must cite relevant sources: the articles listed in this syllabus and relevant textbook material must be cited. You should also cite additional reliable material, either from academic sources and peer-reviewed journals and **reliable** media sources. The paper should cite at least five academic journal sources and it should have ideally at least ten sources in total.

The first and second exams will consist of multiple-choice questions only. **The final exam** will have multiple choices and an open-ended essay question, which must be between 500 and 750 words). The first two exams will count for 20% of your final grade. The final exam will count for 25% of your final grade. The first exams will be held the 20th of September, the 2nd exam will be held on the 25th of October. The final exam will be held on the 6th of December, from 10:00am to 12:50pm.

During the last week of class, students can take the **extra-credit online quiz**. This will be an online quiz composed of five questions, each question will be worth one point. Students can increase their grade by five points taking this optional extra-credit quiz. The deadline for the extra-credit quiz is Monday, the 25th of November

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- The following plus/minus grading system will apply in this course.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Rounding policy: if the total grade at the end of the class is not an integer number, the grade will be rounded up if the first decimal is .5 or higher, and rounded down if the first decimal is .4 or lower.

Examples: if the final grade is **89.5 then the grade will be rounded up to 90. If the final grade is 89.4 the grade will be rounded down to 89.** This rule applies for all rounding policies.

Course Correspondence: All correspondence with the instructor will be via Webcourses. I will usually respond to students' emails within 48 hours on business days. However, please avoid sending last second questions few hours before the deadlines, as they **will not** be answered. In this class we will have plenty of times for clarification, so make sure to clarify your doubts well in advance.

Course Prerequsites/Corequisites: ENC 1102 (Composition 2) or **POS 2041** (American National Government) or C.I. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None.

UCF Academic Integrity Statement: Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in.

Here are some clarifications regarding academic misconduct (this is not a complete list, to see the complete list check the web address linked in the paragraph above regarding UCF rules of conduct). Violating these rules will at least constitute a strong penalty in this class, and will be reported to the UCF Office of Student Conduct for further assessment. Violating these rules can get you expelled from the University, so make sure to avoid doing the following:

Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor
Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity
http://academicintegrity.org

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, The Golden Rule <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>. For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

In-Class Recording Policy
Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/ (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Academic Resources: If you find that you are struggling with the concepts of this class, you are more than welcome (in fact, you are highly encouraged) to come see me during my office hours. Additionally, there are resources available on campus to help you succeed. You can reach out to the **Student Academic Resource Center (SARC)** on campus to improve your studying skills. Their phone number is **407-823-5130**, the building is located on Howard Phillips Hall (HPH), room 113.

UCF Counseling Center: Students experiencing stress, anxiety, depression or facing similar challenges should contact this office on campus to get help. The number is **407-823-2811**,

building 27 on the Main Campus, next to the Physical Sciences Building. For physical health issues contact the **Student Health Center** on campus at **407-823-2701.** Please take care of your physical and mental health as a top priority. **Always remember that your personal health, both mental and physical, is more important than grades or classes.**

Campus Safety Statement: Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to https://my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk).

University Writing Center: Address and contact info: Colbourn Hall 105**;** Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library, Online**;** 407-823-2197 http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu. The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Tutors provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix or edit papers, but to teach writing strategies that can be applied to any writing situation. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by clicking the Success Resources tab on Webcourses, calling the UWC at 407-823-2197, or through the UWC website.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious observances: Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy.

Class Schedule Fall 2019

Day	**Topic**	**Assignments**
Monday 08/26	Introduction to class: What is “Western Europe”?	
Wednesday 08/28	Introduction to basic topics of Western European Politics	**Drop/Swap deadline is Thursday 08/29**
Friday 08/30	Path to modernity in Europe and the US (ch.1)	**Financial Aid assignment is due at noon**
Monday 09/02	**LABOR DAY-NO CLASS**	
Wednesday 09/04	Difference in politics between US and Western Europe (ch.1)	
Friday 09/06	Type of political parties in Western Europe (ch.2)	
Monday 09/09	Type of political parties in Western Europe (ch.2)	
Wednesday 09/11	Political party families in Western Europe Europe (ch.2)	
Friday 09/13	Electoral systems (ch.3)	
Monday 09/16	Electoral systems (ch.3+IDEA article)	

Wednesday 09/18	Electoral systems: case studies: France and United Kingdom 2017 (articles TBA)	
Friday 09/20	Formation of government and cabinets (ch.4)	
Monday 09/23	Formation of government and alliances (ch.4)	
Wednesday 09/25	Formation of government and alliances (ch.4)	
Friday 09/27		**FIRST EXAM**
Monday 09/30	Court systems (ch.5)	
Wednesday 10/02	Court systems (ch.5)	
Friday 10/04	Referenda and social movements (ch. 6-7)	
Monday 10/07	Referenda and social movements (ch. 6-7): Case study: 2015 Irish referendum on same-sex marriage (see articles)	
Wednesday 10/09	Immigration and the welfare state (ch.8)	
Friday 10/11	Immigration and the welfare state (ch.8)	

Monday 10/14	Immigration and the welfare state (Freeman article)	
Wednesday 10/16	Welfare state and policy outcomes (ch.12)	
Friday 10/18	Welfare state and policy outcomes (ch.12)	
Monday 10/21	Different conceptions of welfare state in Europe and the US (ch.12)	
Wednesday 10/23	Political culture in US and Europe (ch.9 and Norton article)	
Friday 10/25		**SECOND EXAM**
Monday 10/28	The EU: overview (ch.10)	**Topic of research paper must be approved before today.**
Wednesday 10/30	The European Union: The European Parliament (ch.10)	
Friday 11/01	The Greek Debit crisis and 2008 downfall (ch.11) **WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE**	
Monday 11/04	The European Union: Brexit (ch.10+Hobolt article)	
Wednesday 11/06	Nationalism and ethnicity in Europe: war in the Balkans (ch.13)	

Friday 11/08	Nationalism and Ethnicity in Europe: Northern Ireland and Basque Country (ch.13)	
Monday 11/11	**VETERANS DAY-NO CLASS**	
Wednesday 11/13	Power Sharing in divided societies (ch.14)	
Friday 11/15	Rise of populist parties in Europe (see articles)	
Monday 11/18	Globalization and future challenges for Western Europe (ch.14) **Review and Q&A for paper**	
Wednesday 11/20	Globalization and future challenges: the state of Brexit (articles TBA in October)	
Friday 11/22	Globalization and future issues for Western Europe: the EU and the state of the economy (articles TBA)	**Paper due at 11:59pm on Webcourses**
Monday 11/25	Globalization and future challenges for Western Europe: the terrorist threat (article from Roy)	**Extra credit quiz due 11:59pm**
Wednesday 11/27	**Thanksgiving Wednesday-No Class**	
Friday 11/29	**Thanksgiving Weekend-No Class**	

Monday 12/02	Current events, summary of relevant topics in new developments	
Wednesday 12/04	Review of requirements for final exam, current events	
Friday 12/06	**FINAL EXAM**	**From 10:00am to 12:50pm, CB1, 0122**

Grades will be available on MyUcf on December 16th at the latest

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.

Additional reading material, available through Webcourses under the tab “files”:

http://www.parties-and-elections.eu/countries.html, this very useful website keeps track of the most recent elections and government formation in Europe, we will use it for examples and case studies

Electoral systems: Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, “Electoral Systems Design: The New International IDEA handbook”, 2005, extracts: pp. 27-30, 35-44, 57-71 (excluding case studies)

Brexit: Sara B. Hobolt (2016) “The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent”, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23:9, 1259-1277, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2016.1225785

Welfare State: 1) Freeman, Gary (1986), “Migration and the Political Economy of the Welfare State”, *Annals*, *The American Academy of Political and Social Science*

2) Norton, Michael I. and Dan Arieli (2011), “Building a Better America-One Wealth Quintile at the Time”, *Perspectives on Psychological Science,* 6(1) 9-12

Social Movements and Referenda: 1) BBC, “Huge Republic of Ireland vote for gay marriage”, 05/23/2015, bbc.com

2) Weeks, Liam. “Rule by referendum is not the best way to make decisions”, *The Irish Times*, 06/02/2015

Populism: Goodwin, Matthew. “Europe’s populist are here to stay”, *The Wall Street Journal*, 06/14/2019

Terrorist Violence: Roy, Olivier. “Who are the new jihadis”?, *The Guardian*, 04/13/2017