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Comparative Politics of Western Europe
CPO 3103 U01
Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Anjana Mishra	Office hours: By appointment
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"Without comparisons to make, the mind does not know how [illegible] proceed." Alexis de Tocqueville, 1830.
"A man who has tasted only his mother's soup has no basis to [illegible]im that [illegible]ers is the best."
African proverb.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the political institu[illegible]ns and issues in Western Europe. Using broad concepts in political science and a comparati[illegible]tical [illegible]ework, the course will explore the historical, institutional and cultural contex[illegible]within w[illegible]h current political and economic dynamics are playing out across (Western) Europe. This c[illegible]rse is o[illegible]nized thematically. It will introduce students to major historical events crucial to th[illegible]ati[illegible]f m[illegible]dern European states. It will then examine the institutions, parties and political p[illegible]cesse[illegible]hat affect political behavior in representative European democracies. The course will exp[illegible]e the Eu[illegible]ean Union's development by addressing four main dimensions: its historical developme[illegible] its political evolution, institutional framework, and its main public policies. Finally, it will explore re[illegible]nt and developing political crises in Europe including the Euro debt crisis, Brexit, mi[illegible] terrorism in Europe and the impact of the COVID-19.

This course is a;
global le[illegible] disc[illegible]ine-spec[illegible]c course that counts towards global learning graduation requirement.
Gord[illegible] Rule W[illegible]ng [illegible]iculum course, requiring extensive writing spread over several as[illegible]nments.
FIU's [illegible]ropean Stu[illegible]es Certificate course.

Course Objectives

- Recall the basic facts of European history and geography.
- Recognize how institutions influence political behavior in (western) European states.
- Discuss the formation and enlargement of the European Union.
- Analyze the impact of transnational issues and the challenges faced by European states.
- Evaluate critical problems in European domestic and international politics as well as Europe's role in the world.
- Formulate research questions and demonstrate exemplary college-level writing.

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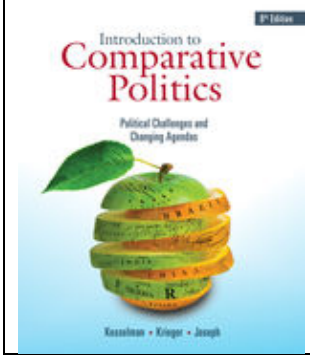
Global Learning Course Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
Global Awareness -- demonstrate knowledge of the geography of Western Europe, its interconnectedness with historical legacies and its impact on contemporary global political practices.
Global Perspective: develop a multi-perspective understanding of political trends and systems through a study of comparative politics and be conversant with local, global and intercultural issues confronting the experiment that is European Union.
Global Engagement:
demonstrate willingness to engage in problem solving by conducting research, analyzing the impact of transnational issues on local policies, develop written and oral presentation skills not only on information, ideas, problems, solutions but also their conclusions and underpinning knowledge and rationale.

Global Learning Outcomes
Textbook and Course Materials
Required

	Kesselman, Mark, and Joel Krieger, et al. **Introduction to Comparative Politics.** Cengage Learning, 2019 ISBN-13 9781337677462 (of ebook) http://www.cengagebrain.com/course/3814089 https://www.cengage.com/c/introduction-to-comparative-politics-political-challenges-and-changing-agendas-8e-kesselman/?filterBy=Student

Recommended
PDF docs or links to additional readings are available on Canvas. These readings represent diverse perspectives that will contribute to the student's global learning.
Bale, Tim. European Politics: A Comparative Introduction. Red Globe Press, 2017
Hay, C. & Menon, A. European Politics. Oxford Univ Press, 2007
Kesselman et al. European Politics in Transition. Cengage Learning, 2008
Tiersky, R. & Ownbey, E. Europe Today: A Twenty-first Century Introduction. Littlefield Publishers, 5th Edition, 2014 This book is available online free of charge via FIU Libraries on and off campus.

- Policies
- Netiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Accessibility and Accommodation
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Academic Misconduct Statement

Think tanks covering EU
These are some sources where you can find more information on current EU affairs:
European Policy Centre: www.epc.eu

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Center for European Policy Studies: www.ceps.be
Institute for Security Studies: www.iss.europa.eu
Centre for European Reform: www.cer.org.uk
European Council on Foreign Relations: www.ecfr.eu

Social Media & Media
To enhance the quality of classroom discussions it is a good idea to follow current events and the news related to developments in European politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in Europe for English speakers are the BBC and Euronews websites, The Financial Times and The Economist. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/
Social Media is increasingly becoming an important learning tool for students of European Politics. Students are encouraged to read articles/ blog posts on Reddit – https://www.reddit.com/r/europe and possibly contribute.
Any scholarly writing contributed to Reddit may be eligible for extra credit at the instructor's discretion.
Some recommended Twitter accounts to follow @ StevenErlanger, @BBeardsley
@BBC @The Economist
Keep abreast of European news through media pages
http://www.ft.com/world/europe
Euractiv: http://www.euractiv.com/en/
EU Observer http://www.euobserver.com
European Voice http://www.europeanvoice.com

Important Information
Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- Policies
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Accessibility and Accommodation
- Academic Misconduct Statement
- Panthers Care: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Expectations of this Course

Students are expected to:

- review the Canvas Tutorials located in the course modules
- review the syllabus, follow the course calendar, and meet all deadlines
- take the Practice Round quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas
- introduce yourself to the class during the first week by creating a Profile
- submit assignments by the corresponding deadline to the respective assignment modules on Canvas
- interact with instructor and peers

The instructor will:

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- respond to emails within 1-2 days.
- grade assignments within 10 business days of the submission deadline.
- **not** grade assignments submitted through email or Canvas Inbox.

Additional Course Policies

- Please check the FIU Academic Calendar (Links to an external site.) to determine the last day to add courses, drop courses or withdraw from the University without incurring financial liability.
- All times and deadlines are given in the United States Eastern Standard Time (EST).
- No Incomplete grades are given.

- No make-up allowed as all assignments are available for a week. Set reminders on your phone for all deadlines and turn in the work on time. The course will not be customized for anyone.
- If the instructor is unable to open an attachment, it must be resubmitted within 48 hours or the assignment will be issued a zero.
- Always check the uploaded attachment is correct. After the deadline passes, the content submitted will be used for grading.
- Medical emergencies generally don't count as excuses for not submitting assignments, taking tests or discussion posting, as assessments are open for several days, sometimes weeks and therefore students have much leeway in deciding when to take the assessment or submit the assignment. The only exception would be a truly grave medical emergency/accident. In such a case, check the requirements for documentation with the instructor.
- **There is a time lag from when you submit an assignment and when Canvas accepts it. Avoid submitting in the last 15 minutes of the deadline.**
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus for clarity, should the need arise.

Course Communication

If you have a course related query non-urgent in nature, please use the message feature of Canvas, Canvas Inbox. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial or Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Discussions, and the Inbox. I try to respond to messages promptly, within 24 hours (sometimes, even over weekends). I am available to meet by appointment.

Important: If you have any technical issues during this course, please contact FIU Online Support Service (Links to an external site.) using email, live chat, phone, or walk-in services. This will also help document any issues. Keep in mind, Canvas maintains a log of student activity in the course and any phone calls made to the support staff at FIU Online.

Late Assignment and Makeup Policy

Students can submit an assignment late. Canvas will automatically deduct 5% of the grade for every day after the submission date. No make up allowed as all assignments are available for a week. Set reminders on your phone for all deadlines and turn in the work on time. **The course will not be customized for anyone.**

Grading Scale

Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)

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A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Details of the Course Requirements

Non Graded Exercises

Practice Quiz

Take the Practice Quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas. In order to minimize any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

Practice Geo Quiz - There is a fun (IMO) geo quiz available. Take it to familiarize yourself with the Geo Quiz format.

Assessments and Assignments

Home Page:

Introduce yourself to the class, post a self-introduction and a picture in the appropriate forum, on Canvas.

Geo Quiz (2):

There are 2 Geo Quiz in this course. They are based largely on the information in the PPT. 20 questions to be completed in 20 minutes. The Geo Quizzes are based on the graphs, maps and information in the PPT. The best way to prepare for it is to go through the PPT, identify and familiarize yourself with the information mentioned in the maps or graphs/data.

Exams (3):

There are 3 non cumulative exams. Each exam has 30 multiple choice, 20 true and false questions, and 10 matching questions drawn from a database of more than 200 questions, to be completed in 80 minutes. These questions are based on the textbook and PPT and readings/video, some prior knowledge. You will have multiple attempts at each exam. Higher of the 2 grades will be used by Canvas to compute the final grade. Scheduled exams are taken online and must be completed during their respective window of availability. Once you begin to take the exam, try to complete and submit within the given time frame. If you leave the quiz suspended for too long after you start it, your Internet service provider may think you are inactive and automatically log you out. If that happens you will not be able to retake it unless the instructor resets it. Please don't expect the instructor to be able to unlock it in time for you to retake it if you get locked out late on the last day of its availability. Also, do NOT have additional windows open while taking any assessment.

Country File:

Students will be introduced to the European countries in the first 2 topics. You will be allotted one country each, you will write an essay about your country, submit it to the discussion forum and do a

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short presentation on your country. Details on Canvas assignment page. This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Awareness.

Class Presentation - Understanding Brexit:
Students will be assigned a subtopic on the issues of Brexit. Students will research the topic submit a written report, share it and educate their peers.

Reading Quiz and Class Debate: Terrorism
Students will read the assigned readings, take a short quiz and get ready to debate the issue of Terrorism. Details on Canvas page. The Class Debate will serve as an assessment of Global Perspective.

Travel Blog and Class Presentation:
Undertake a virtual journey as a Syrian Migrant, enter Europe and write your travel blog and share it with the class. Details on Canvas assignment page. This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Engagement.

Class Debate - European Union:
Read the assigned readings and get ready to discuss it in class.

Extra Credit
1. Reflective Blog-Post course analysis.
2. SPOTS submission page

Writing Resources
Students are expected to use expressive vocabulary, and project their thoughts with authority. Writing quality in terms of clarity of thought, exposition, substance, is of utmost importance and will be graded accordingly. Visit the writing resources page for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

All assignments for this class require adherence to these specifications:

- Font size: 1
- 1" margins on all sides of the document
- Double space. Citations, no plagiarism.
- Use transitions, paragraphs.

Roadmap of this course
Module 1 will start the course with a short overview of the geography, history of Europe and the basics of Comparative Politics.
Module 2 will look at the Political Institutions and Political Parties of Britain, Germany, France, the Issues in European Politics: Brexit, Terrorism, Migration.
Module 3 will explore Political Institutions and Political Parties of Italy Spain. EU, its historical evolution, founding treaties, integration, transformation, institutional development and issues in European Politics; Euro Zone Crisis and COVID-19.

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Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Non Graded Exercises - Practice Quiz Practice Geo Quiz	N/A	N/A	0
Homepage - Introduce yourself **Written + Class Presentation**	1	1	1+1
Geo Quizzes	2	8	16
Exams	3	10	30
Country File **Written + Class Presentation** This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Awareness.	2	5+3	8
Attendance	1	5	5
Participation	1	5	5
Travel Blog **Written + Class Presentation** This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Engagement.	2	7+3	10
Understanding Brexit **Written + Class Presentation**	2	5+3	8
Terrorism **Quiz + Debate**	1	4+6	10

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Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
The class debate will serve as an assessment of Global Perspective.			
Class Debate EU	1	6	6
Extra Credit: Reflective Blog	1	1	1 (Extra Credit)
Extra Credit: SPOT's	**1**		1 (Extra Credit)
Total	**16**	100	100 + 2 Extra Credit Points

Course Calendar

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Week 1 (Aug 26)

Topic/Description:

- Welcome to CPO 3013

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- Syllabus & Course Overview
- Introductions

Activities/Assignments:

- Read the Syllabus
- Set up your Homepage by Aug 26
- Introduce yourself to the class on Aug 26
- Take the Practice Quiz (optional)

Module 1

Module 1 - Learning Goals and Objectives:

- List and identify the countries that make up Europe.
- Examine the physical demographic, cultural, and political, characteristics of Europe. Review the historical origins of Europe.
- Review the historical origins of Europe.
- Discuss political, technological, and economic developments that led to the modern European state system.
- Analyze why the state system is changing and examine whether or not the modern state system is in decline or stronger than ever.
- Discuss the major turning points in world politics in the last two decades and understand why they constitute turning points.
- Differentiate comparative politics from the other subfields of political science in terms of focus and methods.

Week 2 (Sep 2)

Topic/Description:

Topic 1
Mapping of Europe.

- Reading "Europe: Human Geography"

Activities/Assignments:

- Take the Practice Geo Quiz (optional)
- Work on Assignment 1 Country File Due Sept 16

Week 3 (Sept 9)

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Topic/Description:

Topic 2
Europe: An Introduction - From Then to Now
Reading:

- Bale, T. "Europe – a continent in the making" European Politics: A Comparative Introduction.
- *"The history of an idea."* The Economist Dec 2003

Activities/Assignments:

- Geo Quiz 1 on Topic 1 & 2 (Sept 9 -16)

Week 4 (Sept 16)

Topic/Description:

Topic 3
Introduction to Comparative Politics

Reading:

- Kesselman, M. et al. Introduction to Comparative Politics. "Introducing Comparative Politics" p. 1

Activities/Assignments:

- Country File Written Report
- Assignment 1 Country File - PowerPoint presentation in class.
- Exam 1 on Module 1 (Sept 16-30)

Module 2

Module Learning Goals and Objectives:

1. Identify different political systems in Western Europe.
2. Compare and contrast political systems of Britain, France and Germany.
3. Discuss topics directly related to important questions about Western European politics.
4. Analyze current Western European political trends through a theoretical (comparative) lens.

Week 5 (Sept 23)

Topic/Description:

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Topic 4
Politics of Britain

Reading:

- Kesselman, M. et al. "Britain" p. 39

Activities/Assignments:

- Work on Class Presentation: Understanding Brexit

Week 6 (Sept 30)

Topic/Description:

Topic 5
Issues in British Politics: Brexit

Suggested Readings:
Mueller, B. "What Is Brexit? And What Happens Next?"
NYT. Jan. 31, 2020.
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/world/europe/what-is-brexit.html

Reading: Colchester, M. & Norman, L. "Brexit Is a Test of De-Globalization in a World of Covid-19." WSJ, June 29, 2020.

GRAHAM WATSON & YVES BERTONCINI The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Brexit.pdf April 16, 2020

Max Colchester & Laurence Norman "Brexit Is a Test of De-Globalization in a World of Covid-19." June 29, 2020 (LINK)

Brexit Is a Test of De-Globalization in a World of Covid-19 - WSJ.pdf

Mendes, A. "*The constitutional crisis in British politics, explained.*" The Washington Post, Aug 2019

Activities/Assignments:

- Understanding Brexit - Written assignment due Sept 30
- Understanding Brexit - Class Presentation

Week 7 (Oct 7)

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Topic/Description:

Topic 6: Politics of France
Reading:

- Kesselman, M. et al. "France" p. 84

Activities/Assignments:

- Quiz on Terrorism Reading available (Oct 7-14)

Week 8 (Oct 14)

Topic/Description:

Topic 7: Issues in European Politics

Terrorism in Europe
Readings:
Ganor, Boaz. "Defining Terrorism: is one man's terrorist another man's freedom fighter?" Policy, Practice and Research, 2002, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 287-304

http://www.rageuniversity.org/PRISONESCAPE/UK%20ANTI-TERROR%20LAW/One-Mans-Terrorist.pdf
Activities/Assignments:

Take the Quiz on Terrorism (Oct 7-14)

Debate on Terrorism - "One Man's Terrorist is Another Man's Freedom Fighter" (Oct 14)

Additional Readings:

- Country Report on Terrorism for France
- Jytte Klausen, "Why Jihadist Attacks Have Declined in Europe And Why Europe Shouldn't Get Comfortable Yet." December 2018. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/2018-12-19/why-jihadist-attacks-have-declined-europe

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Week 9 (Oct 21)

Topic/Description:

Topic 8: Politics of Germany
Reading:

- Kesselman, M. et al. "Germany" p. 133

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Activities/Assignments:

- Work on Travel Blog

Week 10 (Oct 28)

Topic/Description:

Topic 9
Issues in German Politics: Migration Crisis
Reading:

- The European Union: Ongoing Challenges and Future Prospects. CRS Publication
- Divac, Natascha. "In Shrinking East German Towns, Some See Migrants as Salvation." WSJ, May 2016.
- Witte, G and Beck, L. "The refugees Merkel welcomed to Germany are starting to help its economy." Washington Post, May 2019

Activities/Assignments:

- Travel Blog - Written Assignment Due
- Travel Blog - Class Presentation

Module 3

Module 3 - Learning Goals and Objectives

1. Identify different political systems in Western Europe
2. Compare and contrast political systems of Italy and Spain
3. Understand the relationship between Western European countries and the European Union
4. Discuss current transnational issues confronting the European Union
5. Use college level research and writing skills when formulating complex arguments
6. Analyze current non-European issues

Week 11 (Nov 4)

Topic/Description:

Topic 10
Politics of Italy
Issues in Italian Politics
Covid - 19 and its Impact on Italy & Spain

Reading:

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- Kesselman, et al. *European Politics in Transition,* "Italian Politics in Transition," p. 313 Reading available on Modules Page.

Activities/Assignments:

- Exam 2 on Module 2 (Available Nov 4 - 18)

Week 12 (Nov 11)

Topic/Description:

Topic 11: Politics of Spain

Reading:

- Hay & Menon. European Politics, p. 102. Reading on Modules Page

Activities/Assignments:

- No assignment due

Week 13 (Nov 18)

Topic/Description:

Topic 12: European Union

Reading: Kesselman, M. et al. "European Union." p. 183.

Activities/Assignments:

- EU Debate
- Get ready for Geo Quiz 2

Week 14 (Dec 2)

Topic/Description:

Topic 13: Issues in European Politics, EU/Euro Crisis

Reading:

- Kesselman, M. et al. "European Union." p. 183.

Activities/Assignments:

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- Geo Quiz 2 on European Union (Nov 25 - Dec 7)

Week 15 (Dec 7-13)

Topic/Description:

Exam Week

Activities/Assignments:

Exam 3 on Module 3

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