

Florida International University

From the SelectedWorks of Lukas K. Danner

Fall 2015

Syllabus CPO 3103 (U02): Comparative Politics of Western Europe (Fall 2015)

Lukas K Danner, *Florida International University*



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Comparative Politics of Western Europe
CPO 3103 (U02)
Fall 2015¹

Course Information:

Meetings: Mon., Wed., Fri. (10:00—10:50 AM)
Classroom: PG-5 Market Station 134
Class no.: 91639

Instructor: Lukas K. Danner

Email: LDANNER@FIU.EDU

Office hours: Wed. from 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM (GL150)
with previous appointment

Course Description:

This course is a comparative introduction to the governmental systems and current political issues in Europe, with a concentration on Western Europe. The focus will be on a selection of European states and the European Union (EU) as overarching integration project. Through a comparative approach, domestic politics and policymaking, structures and functions of political institutions and political transitions will be analyzed with particular attention to political culture, governance and political parties. The course will include a combination of lecture and discussions as well as active learning exercises.

This class counts toward the FIU's European Studies Certificate (<http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/>) and is also a Gordon Rule core curriculum course, which means that you will be expected to write extensively through a number of assignments.

Course Introduction & Learning Objectives:

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand the current state of politics in Europe. In this course students will:

1. Gain a good understanding of the different political systems in (Western) Europe;
2. Become familiar with the workings of the European Union and its impact on member states;
3. Become equipped with conceptual tools necessary to explain and compare European political systems;
4. Improve their research and writing ability when formulating complex arguments.

¹ Last updated on October 21, 2015.

General Organization:



To successfully accomplish the learning objectives listed above, the course is organized around seven main sections. Part 1, as a way of introduction, explores the historical background of Western European politics with a focus on its traditions and transitions. Part 2, will introduce students to the basics of comparative politics, with a Europe-focus, as well—as this course does not require that students have taken a CPO course before. Part 3 is the core part of the course with a focus on important countries traditionally associated with the Western European region, i.e., the UK, France, and Germany. Part 4 will survey some all-European concepts (civil society, politics-market-relations) and the history of European integration. Part 5, as a comparison to the Western European country focus section, looks at Southern (Italy, Spain) and Northern (Scandinavia, esp. Sweden) European countries. Part 6 highlights current pan-European issues and is equally comparative in nature. Part 7 requires students to present their (comparative) research to the class, demonstrating intimate familiarity with a topic of Western European politics.

Course Requirements:

Class Preparation: In order for students to take full advantage of the class and make it more enjoyable for all, the required readings must be completed *before* each class meeting. Students are also encouraged to come to class with a set of questions that they may have encountered while preparing for the meetings, and to share them with the rest of the students at the appropriate moment. Class preparation should go both ways: as the instructor prepares the lectures and discussion sessions, every student must also dedicate, normally, about an hour of preparation prior to each class meeting. Otherwise, the instructor will sound like he is speaking an incomprehensible language. In short, prepare thoughtfully and thoroughly before each class meeting. As far as time spent reading, taking notes, revising notes, and the like, it is realistic to calculate with at least one hour preparatory work before class and at least one hour after class in order to be successful in this course.

General Class Participation & Attendance (together 10%): There is a difference between *tactical dilatory* “participation,” and *quality* participation. While normal, quality class participation is always welcome, blather and dilatory interventions are discouraged. For example, simply posing misinformed questions about the readings or the lecture—when clearly exhibiting an abject lack of proper class preparation or reading of the assigned texts—may actually end up working against, rather than in favor of, the student’s grade. In contrast, active, thoughtful, quality participation, demonstrating intimate and thoughtful familiarity with the assigned readings and class topics, is highly welcome, as it will certainly help students improve his/her overall final grade. For attendance requirements, see the course policies section of the syllabus below.

Quiz (10%): The Quiz, worth 10%, will consist of multiple-choice questions and a map portion - you can ‘train’ with the help of this site: <http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/euroquiz.html>. It will not last the entire class on the assigned date, so you may expect a test lasting about 20 to 30 minutes. The multiple choice questions will be based on the assigned readings

Exams (40%): There will be one (1) partial (midterm) exams during the semester, and one (1) comprehensive final exam during final's week for a total of two (2) exams. Specific dates are listed below. Exams will include any or a combination of the following types of questions: factual short-answer questions, and multiple-choice questions. Students must take all exams, the midterm and the final in order to be able to pass this class. Make-up exams can only be granted, if a student has a valid and documented reason for not making the pre-set exam date; if you do miss an exam, you must make arrangements to make it up within ONE WEEK from the date of the scheduled exam. If you do not make up the exam within that time, you will receive a zero as a grade. The partial (midterm) exam counts fifteen (15) percent of the final grade, and the final comprehensive exam twenty-five (25) percent of the final grade—for a total forty (40) percent of your final grade. Relevant to the exams are anything learned during class lecture including students' own lecture notes, all of the required assigned readings, and PowerPoint presentations (excluding student research presentations), if used for lecture. No blue book required; students will be provided all necessary paper at time of exam. Also, there will be no supporting materials allowed during exam (i.e. no open books, no scrap paper, etc.). All assigned grades will become available in your FIU Blackboard's "My Grades" section.

Research Paper (20%): Students are expected to write a research paper for me as the primary audience on a European politics topic of their choice, which should have a clear research question, demonstrate research and a critical analysis based on the literature and knowledge gained throughout the course. It is worth 20 % of the grade. It should be around 12 pages/3,000 words in length (include page numbers), double-spaced, 'Times New Roman' or 'Palatino Linotype' font with font size 12, normal margins (one inch on each side), and follow standard writing and citation guidelines. This assignment will be due on November 16, 2015, by the end of the day (11:59pm) online via Blackboard. Late submissions will be marked as 'late' by the system and will be subject to a progressively higher penalty (depending on how late, i.e. 1 day late -10%, 2 days late -20%, etc.). Please note the departmental essay grading rubrics (p. 4) which will be the basis for grading.

Here are some recommendations for your paper research process:

1. It is advisable to choose a comparative topic with two (max. three) countries for your paper research. The paper also writes itself more easily, if you have sections describing the politics in two countries and then go on to compare them in a third part. If you wish to focus on one country and you are certain you can write twelve pages on the subject without comparing it to a similar dynamic in another country, you are welcome to focus on just one country, too.
2. Research a variety of credible sources (Green library catalogue: books & journals, electronic journals accessible through the library website, careful online search: quality newspapers (create a news alert with New York Times!), politics think tanks, official governmental documents) and supply at least five sources
3. To build a good structure, start with a research question which you try to answer. Then provide an introduction, an analytical main part (Who? What? When? Why? What could be done?), and a conclusion with your 'expert' opinion.
4. Conduct a grammar check before submission (+ no repetitions; analytical language)

Research Proposal / Paper Outline (10%): A two-page research proposal/paper outline for above mentioned research paper assignment, containing three (3) bibliographical sources that are annotated



with explanatory notes, is due after the first third of the course. It is worth 10 % of the grade. I will check-in with you several times as the submission due date approaches and I recommend for you to contact me via email about your topic, or set up an office hour appointment. Plagiarism will be checked via the *turnitin* submission link in our class Blackboard. This assignment will be due on November 2, 2015, by the end of the day (11:59pm) online via Blackboard. Late submissions will be marked as 'late' by the system and will be subject to penalty.

For creating the outline: Consider which country/ies and which contemporary Western European politics-related topic is of interest to you. Papers in the past dealt with terrorism, immigration, unemployment, church-state relations, parties in Western Europe, the impact of the Euro-crisis, nationalism, Europe's role in the world, etc. Opting for a comparative approach, make sure to compare two, max. three countries.

Topics must not be coincident with another student's topic—first come, first serve; the deadline to have notified the instructor of a topic is Monday, October 26, 2015, i.e., you must have a topic designated one week prior to the research proposal/paper outline deadline. This has to do with the fact that you will have to present your research to your peers in the last weeks of the semester, i.e., in order to avoid repetitiveness and redundancy. You will get feedback from me on your proposal/outline, once you hand it in, and you may start writing and research then, accordingly, taking the feedback into account.

Presentation (10%): As part of the research paper assignment, you will be required to present your research findings after your submission in the last weeks of the semester between November 18 and December 2. An assignment schedule will be available for download via Blackboard starting November 4. You are required to prepare a five (5) minute overview Powerpoint presentation of your research paper for your peers—introducing them to your topic and findings and send it to the instructor by the end of the day before your assigned presentation date. Given the quantity of students in class, presentation times will have to be enforced at five (5) minutes with nine presenters per class in five sessions.

Final Grade Point Distribution and Schedule:

Attendance & Participation.....	10%
Quiz, Monday, September 14, 2015, 10:00am-10:30am, PG-5 134.....	10%
Midterm Exam, Friday, October 16, 2015, 10:00am-10:50am, PG-5 134.....	15%
Paper Outline / Research Proposal, Monday, November 2, 2015, via Blackboard (<i>turnitin</i>).....	10%
Research Paper, November 16, 2015, via Blackboard (<i>turnitin</i>).....	20%
Presentation (November 18 – December 2; see assignment schedule on Blackboard avail. Nov-4).....	10%
Final Comprehensive Exam, Monday, December 7, 2015, 9:45am-11:45am.....	25%
Total.....	100%

Grading System: The grading scale will follow FIU standards. Please note that less than a 60% average score is an automatic "F."

No incomplete grade will be granted.

A:	93-100%	B:	83-87%	C:	73-77%	D:	63-67%
A-:	90-92%	B-:	80-82%	C-:	70-72%	D-:	60-62%
B+:	88-89%	C+:	78-79%	D+:	68-69%	F:	<60%

Essay Scoring Rubrics: The following rubrics will be used for grading your final research paper:



	Poor	Good	Excellent
<p>Critical Evaluation</p> <p>Max points: 12 out of 20 (or 60%)</p>	<p>Shows little understanding of the material. Barely addresses relevant background material, no effort to draw connections among materials. Topic chosen is irrelevant or marginally relevant to assignment.</p>	<p>Shows general grasp of the material, but portions of paper or presentation may not address the question. Covers most, but not all of the relevant or assigned materials. Makes some effort to synthesize. Topic chosen is somewhat relevant to assignment</p>	<p>Shows mastery of the material. Synthesizes and integrates all of the relevant literature. Includes a wide range of published or original research and writing, and makes interesting and insightful connections and contrasts. Topic chosen is highly relevant to assignment.</p>
<p>Organization</p> <p>Max points: 2 out of 20 (or 10%)</p>	<p>Lacks coherence, few or no transitional devices, may clear topic or main idea. Information presented in unrelated bits and pieces.</p>	<p>Shows a logical progression of ideas and uses fairly sophisticated transitional devices. Some problems with clarity of topic. While the question is addressed, there may be digressions or unclear connections.</p>	<p>Clear logical structure with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Sophisticated transitional devices. Often develops one idea from the previous one or identifies their logical relations. Guides the reader through a chain of reasoning.</p>
<p>Style (incl. presentat-ion, grammar, and spelling)</p> <p>Max points: 2 out of 20 (or 10%)</p>	<p>Fails generally to follow directions, sloppy. Odd or no pagination and formatting. Little or no sections or subheadings. Contains numerous grammatical errors and typos, or poor grammar.</p>	<p>Generally follows directions, but one or two problems with formatting or pagination. Some poorly placed or obscure headings and subheadings. Well written but may contain one or two spelling and grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Headings or subheadings present and logically placed, all directions followed exactly. No spelling or grammatical errors.</p>
<p>Follows guidelines</p> <p>Max points: 2 out of 20 (or 10%)</p>	<p>Fails to follow guidelines for word length, delivery time, minimum number of sources, accurate citation of sources. Deadline(s) not met.</p>	<p>Meets some guidelines and does not meet others for word length, delivery time, minimum number of sources, accurate citation of sources.</p>	<p>Meets all guidelines for word length, delivery time, minimum number of sources, full and accurate citation of sources. Deadline(s) met.</p>
<p>Supporting Materials</p> <p>Max points: 2 out of 20 (or 10%)</p>	<p>Little or no supporting materials utilized (graphics, maps, charts, tables) are used to explain and reinforce content. Accuracy and / or neatness of supporting materials may be seriously in question.</p>	<p>Some supporting materials utilized (graphics, maps, charts, tables) are used to explain and reinforce content. Accuracy and / or neatness of supporting materials may be marginal</p>	<p>Supporting materials utilized (graphics, maps, charts, tables) are used to explain and reinforce content. Supporting materials accurate and neatly presented.</p>

Readings: Two textbooks are required for this class (see below). Textbook readings *will not* be provided to students; I will assume you have bought or rented them. Other required reading assignments, if applicable, would be provided to students through FIU Blackboard. Suggested readings will not be provided and would be the student's responsibility, if interested in reading more on the subject. Students will not be expected to have read the suggested, i.e. optional, readings. Should they be discussed during class lecture, they will indirectly become relevant for examinations, though.

Purchasing Textbooks: Significant portions of the following two books are assigned as required readings and will be available for purchase or rental through the FIU bookstore ([here](#)), or online:

- Tim Bale, *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, **Third Edition** (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). ISBN-13: 978-0-230-36294-9.
- Ronald Tiersky & Erik Jones, *Europe Today: A 21st Century Introduction*. **Fifth Edition** (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014). ISBN-13: 978-1-442-22110-9.

Keep in mind that readings complement lectures. Thus, readings will not be summarized in class and I will assume that you read them closely. Rather class sessions will be used to tease out important concepts from the assigned readings and discuss related issues.

The list of topics and readings is a general guideline or schedule. This is not a strict plan to cover at all cost. I establish my class pace based on the progress I sense from the class. Some topics may need additional coverage while others may need less. This is something that I cannot anticipate at the time of selecting the topics and readings for this course. Ultimately, the coverage of the syllabus depends on the nature and evolution of the class itself, not on the instructor's ability to rattle on material that is poorly understood by the majority of the students. My first and foremost priority is to make sure that *all* students progress uniformly when a serious effort is devoted to the class.

*At any time during the semester, the instructor may input changes to the present syllabus, as he deems necessary. The instructor reserves the right to change material on the syllabus, based on his estimation of the class caliber, comprehension, and progress. In case of any such changes, the instructor will notify the modifications in class.

Course Policies:

Fair Warnings on Exams, Paper, Class Attendance, Preparation and Participation: If you miss the midterm exam or the comprehensive final exam, without a well-certified and verifiable excuse, it will count as a zero. In this case, there will be no chance for a make-up exam. A written, verifiable, and valid excuse is required in order to request a make-up exam. If you have conflicting work schedule, adjust it ahead of time or drop the class to avoid future problems. I consider classes and exams more important than work at this time of your life. Examine closely the schedule included here. If you identify a schedule conflict, make your choice early on and decide whether to stay in the course or drop it to avoid future problems.

Attendance: In order for the classes to begin on time (and end on time, too), students should plan ahead and seriously consider coming to the classroom 5 to 10 minutes early. Attendance is mandatory and will

be taken via occasional (pop-up) signature sheet and count toward students' overall grade as 10 % of the final grade together with participation in class. Generally, it is preferred that students will let the instructor know much ahead of time, if they need to miss class. Students, who consistently miss classes, even if their performance in the exams and written assignments is satisfactory, will harm their overall class grade. Coming to class is an indispensable part of the student's training and education. Traffic, parking, or car problem excuses are not accepted.

Electronic Devices: The use of mobile electronic devices, such as cell-/smartphones, MP3 players, and other such electronic devices goes against FIU's professional student demeanor policy and is not allowed inside the classroom during class time, and should be turned off and stored away before the beginning of each class. Don't wait to be admonished in public for such prohibited use in class. If in need of making a phone call or texting, please quietly step outside of the classroom—it is your right. Laptop computers, eReaders, or tablets may be allowed for note taking or book reference, if using the eBook-copy of the textbooks. Students are generally encouraged to take notes by hand, though. Under no circumstances will the instructor send out PowerPoints to lectures before class; PowerPoints, if used during class, would be available after class in the class's Blackboard. Finally, the instructor permits no recording of the classes. Please adhere to these policies.

Academic Integrity: Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

It is also to be noted that academic dishonesty is a violation of FIU's Student Code of Conduct Procedures. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation of one's work. These are academic offenses that will result in failing the course, as per the Student Code of Conduct Procedures.

DRC-Registered Students: The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

Syllabus: The syllabus is also available online in this course's Blackboard (<http://fiu.blackboard.com/>). Please check the class's Blackboard and your FIU email account for possible communication regarding changes to the syllabus.

Course Communication: I do not email students to personal email addresses, except when replying to students' specific questions. Please check your FIU email (<http://panthermail.fiu.edu/>) regularly, as well as the course's blackboard (<http://fiu.blackboard.com/>) for announcements (announcements in

Blackboard are simultaneously sent to your student email address. If you like to continue to use your private email address, I recommend you set up forwarding in your FIU email account to your preferred email account.



Extra Credit Assignments: All extra credit assignments are granted universally to the entire class; there are no individual extra credit assignments. Taking advantage of extra credit may help students improve their grade by one letter grade, e.g., from B+ to A-, however, not more than to the next letter grade (no matter how many EC opportunities are taken advantage of by one student).

Course Schedule:

Important Dates:

Please note the following holidays when FIU is closed and other important dates in the class:

1. Monday, August 24: Classes Begin.
2. Monday, August 31: Last Day to Add, Drop or Swap courses without incurring financial liability.
3. Monday, September 14: Quiz (10:00am-10:30am).
4. Friday, October 16: Midterm Examination (10:00am-10:50am).
5. Monday, October 26: Last Day to announce your designated topic to instructor.
6. Monday, November 2: Last Day to drop a course with a DR grade.
7. Monday, November 2: Two-page Research proposal / paper outline due via Blackboard (turnitin) by end of day (11:59pm).
8. Monday, November 16: Twelve-page Research paper due via Blackboard (turnitin) by end of day (11:59pm).
9. Wednesday, November 18 – Wednesday, December 2: Student presentations of research papers (assignment schedule will be distributed on November 4 downloadable via Blackboard).
10. Wednesday, November 25, and Friday, November 27: (Pre-)Thanksgiving Holiday.
11. Monday, December 7: Final Comprehensive Examination during Finals Week as per FIU exam schedule, 9:45am-11:45am
12. Thursday, December 17: Grades available on My.FIU.edu (starting 9:00am).

Class Session Schedule:

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>CLASS ORDER:</u>	<u>CLASS TOPIC:</u>
August 24 (Mon)	Course presentation	Introduction, outline, administrative points

Part One: Historical Background

August 26 (Wed)	Class meeting 1	} 1. Traditions and Transitions in European Politics
August 28 (Fri)	<i>---No Class</i>	

Part Two: Basics of Comparative Politics

August 31 (Mon)	Class meeting 2	}	2. Democracy and Political Parties
September 2 (Wed)	Class meeting 3		3. Electoral Processes (1/2)
September 4 (Fri)	Class meeting 4		Electoral Processes (2/2)
September 7 (Mon)	<i>---No Class</i>		<i>----Labor Day Holiday</i>
September 9 (Wed)	Class meeting 5	}	4. Governments and Coalition-Building
September 11 (Fri)	Class meeting 6		5. Governments and Constitutions

Part Three: Western European Country Focus – Past and Present

September 14 (Mon)	Class meeting 7	}	6. <i>----Quiz</i> + U.K. – Intro to British Parliamentarism
September 16 (Wed)	Class meeting 8		7. U.K. – Tories, Tony Blair, Terrorism
September 18 (Fri)	Class meeting 9		8. U.K.’s ‘new’ issues: Devolution, Brexit, Coalition Politics
September 21 (Mon)	Class meeting 10	}	9. France – Presidents: De Gaulle to Sarkozy (1/2)
September 23 (Wed)	Class meeting 11		France – Presidents: De Gaulle to Sarkozy (2/2) + (10.) France – Presidents: Hollande under pressure (1/2)
September 25 (Fri)	Class meeting 12	}	10. France – Presidents: Hollande under pressure (2/2)
September 28 (Mon)	Class meeting 13		}
September 30 (Wed)	Class meeting 14	Germany – the weight of history (2/2) + (12.) Germany- Merkel, Merkel ueber alles? (1/2)	
October 2 (Fri)	Class meeting 15	12. Germany – Merkel, Merkel ueber alles? (2/2)	

Part Four: All-European Concepts & Short History of the EU

October 5 (Mon)	Class meeting 16	}	13. Civil Society & Politics over Markets, or Markets over Politics? (1/2)
October 7 (Wed)	Class meeting 17		Civil Society & Politics over Markets, or Markets over Politics? (2/2) + (14.) Introduction to European Integration/EU (1/2)
October 9 (Fri)	<i>---No Class</i>		<i>----Instructor at AACS Annual Conference in Houston</i>
October 12 (Mon)	Class meeting 18	}	14. Introduction to European Integration/EU (2/2)
October 14 (Wed)	Class meeting 19		15. Review

October 16 (Fri) Class meeting 20 } ----Midterm Examination

Part Five: Northern & Southern European Country Focus– Past & Present

October 19 (Mon)	Class meeting 21	}	16. Italy – from Mussolini to Berlusconi
October 21 (Wed)	Class meeting 22		----Lecture by Hon. Dr. P. Christer Persson, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden on "Swedish Politics and the European Union"
October 23 (Fri)	Class meeting 23	}	17. Italy in Crisis
October 26 (Mon)	Class meeting 24	}	18. Spain – from Franco to Zapatero
October 28 (Wed)	Class meeting 25		19. Spain – Rahoy and the crisis
October 30 (Fri)	Class meeting 26		20. Sweden and Scandinavia – the 'ideal' European country/region?
November 2 (Mon)	---No Class	}	----2-page Paper outline / Research proposal due in Blackboard (turnitin) – including three sources (no class meeting; work on submitting paper outline / research proposal by end of the day [23:55pm])

Part Six: All-European Issues and Comparisons

November 4 (Wed)	Class meeting 28	}	21. Migrants and Minorities
November 6 (Fri)	Class meeting 29		22. Europe's Security and Foreign Policy
November 9 (Mon)	Class meeting 30		----Lecture by Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands on "The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Reunification of East and West Germany"
November 11 (Wed)	---No Class	}	-----Veterans Day Holiday
November 13 (Fri)	Class meeting 31	}	23. Europe's Political Economy and the Global Financial Crisis (2/2) + (24.) European Laws
November 16 (Mon)	Class meeting 32		25. Central- and Eastern European Comparisons: Poland + 12-page Research paper due in Blackboard (turnitin) (deadline by end of the day [23:55pm])

Part Seven: Student Research Presentations

November 18 (Wed)	Class meeting 33	}	26. Student presentations I
November 20 (Fri)	Class meeting 34		Student presentations II
November 23 (Mon)	Class meeting 35		Student presentations III

November 25 (Wed)	---No Class		----- <i>(Pre-)Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
November 27 (Fri)	---No Class		----- <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
November 30 (Mon)	Class meeting 36	} } }	Student presentations IV
December 2 (Wed)	Class meeting 37		Student presentations V
December 4 (Fri)	Class meeting 38		27. Review
December 7 (Mon)	Final Exam	} }	---- <i>In-class Final Comprehensive Exam, 9:45am-11:45am, PG-5 Market Station 134 (as per FIU Exam Schedule)</i>
December 17 (Thur)	Grades available online starting 9:00AM (https://my.fiu.edu)		

Readings:

Course Presentation (Aug-24)

No required readings.

Suggested Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, introduction (pp. 1-6).
2. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, introduction (pp. 1-16).

Part One: Historical Background

1. Traditions and Transitions in European Politics (Aug-26)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 1.

-----**Instructor at ECPR, Montréal (no class August 28)**-----

Part Two: Basics of Comparative Politics

2. Democracy and Political Parties (Aug-31)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 5.

3. Electoral Processes (Sept-2 & Sept-4)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 6.

-----Labor Day Holiday (no class September 7)-----

4. Governments and Coalitions-Building (Sept-9)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 4.

5. Governments and Constitutions (Sept-11)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 3.

-----Quiz (September 14)-----

Part Three: Western European Country Focus – Past and Present

6. U.K. – Introduction to British Parliamentarism (Sept-14)

No required readings.

7. U.K. – Tories, Tony Blair, Terrorism (Sept-16)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 2 (-p. 69).

8. U.K.'s 'new' issues: Devolution Brexit, Coalitions Politics (Sept-18)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 2 (p. 69-end).

9. France – Presidents: De Gaulle to Sarkozy (Sept-21 & Sept-23)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 1 (-p. 37).

10. France – Presidents: Hollande under pressure (Sept-23 & Sept-25)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 1 (p. 37-end).

11. Germany – the weight of history (Sept-28 & Sept-30)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 3 (-p. 104).

12. Germany – Merkel, Merkel ueber alles? (Sept-30 & Oct-2)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 3 (p. 104-end).

Part Four: All-European Concepts & Short History of the EU

13. Civil Society & Politics over Markets, or Markets over Politics? (Oct-5 & Oct-7)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 8
2. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 9.

14. Introduction to European Integration/EU (Oct-7 & Oct-12)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 2.
2. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 9.

-----**Instructor at AACCS, Houston (no class October 9)**-----

15. Review (Oct-14)

No required readings.

-----**Midterm Examination (October 16)**-----

Part Five: Northern and Southern European Country Focus – Past and Present

16. Italy – from Mussolini to Berlusconi (Oct-19)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 4 (-p. 139).

----- Lecture by Hon. Dr. P. Christer Persson, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden on “Swedish Politics and the European Union” (October 21)-----

17. Italy in Crisis (Oct-23)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 4 (p. 139-end).
2. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 11.

18. Spain – from Franco to Zapatero (Oct-26)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 6 (-p. 208).

19. Spain – Rahoy and the crisis (Oct-28)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 6 (p. 208-end).

20. Sweden and Scandinavia – the ‘ideal’ European country/region? (Oct-30)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 5.

-----Two-Page Paper Outline / Research Proposal due (November 2)-----

-----No class meeting on November 2 (finish paper outline)-----

Part Six: All-European Issues and Comparisons

21. Migrants and Minorities (Nov-4 & Nov-6)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 13.
2. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 10.

22. Europe's Security and Foreign Policy (Nov-6 & Nov-8)

Required Readings:

1. Bale, *European Politics*, chapter 11.
2. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 14.

----- Lecture by Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands on “*The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Reunification of East and West Germany*” (November 9)-----

-----Veterans Day Holiday (no class November 11)-----

23. Europe's Political Economy and the Global Financial Crisis (Nov-13)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 10.
2. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 11.

24. European Law & Politics (Nov-13)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 12.

-----Twelve-Page Final Research Paper Assignment due (November 16)-----

25. Central- and Eastern European Comparisons: Poland (Nov-16)

Required Readings:

1. Tiersky & Jones, *Europe Today*, chapter 8.

Part Seven: Student Research Presentations

26. Student presentations sessions I-III (Nov-18, Nov-20, Nov-23)

No required readings:

----- (Pre-)Thanksgiving Holiday (no class November 25 & 27) -----

26. Student presentations sessions IV-V (Nov-30, & Dec-2)

No required readings:

27. Review (Dec-4)

No required readings.

-----Final Exam (Monday, December 7, 9:45am-11:45am, PG-5, room 134)-----