

POSC 341: Western European Politics
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11-11:50

Instructor: Dr. Theresa Schroeder

Office Location: Russell Hall, Room 248

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 3-4:30, and by appointment

E-mail: tschroeder@radford.edu

Phone Number: 540-831-6458

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the study of European government and politics. Students will develop a critical understanding of the nature of European politics and society today and throughout the continent's development. While the course is designed to give students an overview of politics in Western Europe, students are expected to gain in-depth knowledge of at least one Western European state over the course of the semester.

Course Goals:

1. Expand knowledge of the development of the politics and society in Western Europe.
2. Increase comprehension of current events in Western Europe.
3. Develop understanding of influence of supra-national institutions on domestic politics.
4. Improve research, writing, and presentation skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Western European politics and society, both past and present.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking ability through in-class discussion, exam questions, and policy brief.
3. Demonstrate expertise in finding and using appropriate scholarly sources.
4. Demonstrate ability to effectively present material.

Required Materials:

European Politics, Edition 1, Paul Kubicek. ISBN: 978-0-205-56205-3

Research and Writing Guide for Political Science, Kristen Williams
ISBN: 978-0-19-98054-5

Earning Grades:

Participation: 10%

Exams:

Midterm Exam: 15%----*October 7*

Comprehensive Final Exam: 25%

Country Presentation: 20%

Comparative Research Paper: 30%

Research Question: ---*Must be selected by 3 pm on October 2.*

Review of Literature: 5 %-----*Due October 19 by 11:59 pm*

Final Comparative Research Paper: 25%-----*Due December 2, 11:59pm.*

Submission of Assignments:

All written assignments are to be uploaded on Blackboard under the Assignments tab by 11:59pm the date the assignment is due. There are no exceptions. Papers turned in late will receive a 10% grade deduction for each day it is late. All written assignments must be turned in as a Word document and have your name and the name of the assignment on the document. Students must use Times New Roman 12 pt. font with 1.25 inch margins.

Grading Policy

Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A 100% - 90%	B 89.9% - 80%
C 79.9% - 70%	D 69.9% - 60%
E 59.9% - 0%	

Appealing Grades

If a student wishes to appeal a grade on an assignment, they must first provide a written statement explaining why additional points should be given. This statement must be typed and does not mean a simple request for more points. The student must tell why s/he believes some specific aspect of his/her answer is correct or of more value. The instructor reserves the right to subtract points as well as to add points during the review process and to re-grade the entire exam, not just the portion under appeal.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the entire course.

Excused Absences & Make-up Exams

Attendance is not mandatory. Make up exams for either an exam or final will be permitted only under the gravest of circumstances and with appropriate documentation. Students are required to notify their instructor before the exam takes place of any reason why they are unable to take the exam at the designated time. Students will be allowed to make-up an exam due to sickness if the student can provide a doctor's note stating the dates the student should be excused from classes within. I will not give out my lecture notes even with an excused absence for a non-test day. The student is responsible for obtaining lecture notes from a fellow student.

Note: personal travel plans are not a legitimate reason for requesting to take an exam at a different time.

Academic Accommodations

If you are seeking academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act at Radford University, you are required to register with the Disability Resource Office

(DRO). To receive academic accommodations for this class, please submit your documentation to the DRO in the lower level of Tyler Hall Suites 54-69, by fax to 540-831-6525, by email to dro@radford.edu. After submitting documentation to our office, you will set up an interview with a Disability Services Specialist to discuss accommodations. You will be notified via email once your accommodation package is complete and ready to be picked up. Once you have picked up your accommodation package, you will need to meet with each course professor during their office hours to review and discuss your package. For more information and/or for documentation guidelines, visit www.radford.edu/dro or call 540-831-6350.

Description of Assignments

Participation: Students will earn participation points through a variety of means. These means include but are not limited to the following activities in order of weight: contributing to in-class group work, reading all assigned materials and being prepared to discuss them in class, and completing miscellaneous assignments given out in class. From time to time, students will be assigned particular countries to read about and report in class. These assignments contribute to the student's participation grades. To earn participation points students must be actively involve themselves in the course. Simply showing up to lecture does not earn participation points.

Exams: There will be 1 midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. The midterm exam will be a mix of multiple choice, matching, vocabulary definitions, and short answer questions. Students will be tested on the material covered in lecture and from the assigned readings. The final exam will be comprehensive and students will be tested over all content covered over the semester. This includes information from student presentations. Each group will create 5 multiple choice questions about the information they present in their presentation. Students will be allowed to bring a one page of notes, front and back, for the final exam

Group Presentation: In groups of 3, students will conduct an in-depth case study of one Western European country. Each group will present the information to the class in a 20-minute lecture. The lecture must include information on: a brief history (WWI-present), experience with democratization and development, and political institutions. The lecture must also include a discussion of current events and the most pressing issue facing the country. Students must use peer-reviewed sources and reputable news outlets to gather the information. Students will be graded on the content of the lecture as well as presentation style including how interactive the lecture is and layout of presentation. Each group will submit 5 multiple-choice questions about the information they present which will be a part of the final exam.

Research Paper: Students will write a 6-8 page double spaced research paper that investigates a question using the comparative method. Students will select a research question and two European countries to examine this question. Students must have selected a research question and have discussed it with the instructor by October 2. The paper must include an introduction, rationale for the case selection, literature review about the topic, and concluding remarks for the differences or similarities in outcome

variable in the two countries selected. It is expected that students will seek guidance from the professor throughout the process of writing the paper. **Students must use a minimum of 5 peer-reviewed sources (books and journal articles), include in-text citations in Chicago Style format, and a full bibliography.** The use of non-peer reviewed sources will result in a lower grade. Students must use Times New Roman font. Students must turn in an annotated bibliography that includes the full citation in proper format and 3-5 sentences about the content of the source and how it applies to the research question. A review of literature is due October 17 and the entire paper is due December 2. I will read and give comments on the full draft if received by November 9, 11:59pm.

A list of possible research questions be found on the course website. Students may use questions not on the list. **All research questions must be approved by the professor prior to beginning the research process.** Students will be graded on the use of content, style, grammar, and formatting. Content include using sources that are relevant to the question. Using 5 peer-reviewed sources that are not relevant to the research question will result in a lower grade.

Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to make alterations to the syllabus and course schedule, including but not limited to additional readings, as needed. Any alternations will be announced **in class**.

History & Political Culture

Week 1

August 31: Intro to the Class

Sep. 2: What is Europe
Reading: Chp 1

Sep. 4: Industrialization & Democratization
Reading: Chp 2: pgs 25-42

Week 2

Sep.7 : Industrialization & Democratization cont

Sep. 9: Industrialization & Democratization cont

Sep. 11: Political Culture
Reading: Chp 9

Week 3

Sep. 14: Political Culture cont

Reading: Chp 10: pgs 267-286

Ferrera, M. (1996). "The 'Southern Model' of Welfare in Social Europe." *Journal of European Social Policy* 6,1:17-37

Sep. 16: Political Culture cont

Sep.18: Comparative Case Selection: How to choose states to compare/ Review
Reading: TBD

Week 4

Sep. 21: European Union
Reading: Chps 3

Sep. 23: European Union cont

Sep. 25: European Union cont
Reading: **Rachman, Gideon. "The Death of Enlargement." *The Washington Quarterly* 29, no. 3 (2006): 51-56.**

Week 5

Sep. 28: European Union cont
Reading: Chp 4
Hardin, Garrett. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162, no. 2 (1968): 1243-48.

Sep. 30: European Union cont

Oct. 2: European Union cont

Students must have discussed their research question and case selection with the instructor by this date.

Week 6

Oct. 5: No Class: Poli Sci Days

Oct. 7: Catch-up/Review

Institutions

Oct. 9: Mid-term Exam

Week 7

Oct. 12: Parliaments & Electoral System

Reading: Chp 5
Chp 6, Pgs 154-163

Oct. 14: Parliaments & Electoral System cont
Reading: Chp 1, Gallagher, Michael, and Paul Mitchell. *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Oct. 16: Parliaments & Electoral System cont
Reading: **Chapters To Be Assigned,**
Gallagher, Michael, and Paul Mitchell. *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Week 8

Oct. 19: Presidential Systems
Reading: Chp 6, pgs 163-171; 172-173--"Is Europe One?"

Assignment: Review of Literature Due

Oct. 21: Party Politics
Reading: Chp 8

Oct. 23: Party Politics
Reading: Chp 8

Week 9:

Oct. 26: Gender Quotas
Reading: Dahlerup, Drude. "No Quota Fever in Europe." in *The Implementation of Quotas: European Experiences*. Pgs 18-24

Oct. 28: Gender Quotas cont
Reading: Selected country cases from *The Implementation of Quotas: European Experience*; chapters to be assigned

Oct. 30: Representational Equality
Reading: **Lijphart, Arend. Chapter 16, in *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.**

Week 10

Nov. 2: Representational Equality
In class discussion: Does representational equality matter?
Reading: **Mansbridge, Jane, Miki Caul Kittilson, and Mark Jones. "Critical**

**Perspectives on Gender and Politics: Gender Quotas I." *Politics and Gender*
1, no. 4 (2005): 621-52.**

Nov. 4: Group Presentations

Nov. 6: Group Presentations

Contemporary Issues

Week 11

Nov. 9: Group Presentations

Nov. 11: Group Presentations

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Nov. 13: Group Presentations

Week 12

Nov. 16: Immigration

Reading: Chp 12

Nov. 18: Film: Young, French, & Muslim

Nov. 20: Film: Young, French, & Muslim

Week 13: Thanksgiving Break, No Class

Nov. 23- Nov 27

Week 14

Nov. 30: Immigration cont

Dec. 2: Terrorism

Chp 11: pgs 303-319

Final Paper Due by 11:59pm

Dec. 4: Terrorism

Week 15:

Dec. 7: TBD

Dec. 9: Course Wrap-up

Dec. 11: Review

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 16, 2:45-4:45

