

CPO3103

Comparative Government and Politics: Western Europe

Marielena Dias

Spring 2020
January 6—May 1, 2020

E-mail: mdias@fsu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment only

Office: BEL 564

Web: <https://marielenadias.com/> & <https://canvas.fsu.edu/>

Class Hours: T/R 12:30-1:45pm

Class Room: BEL 0115

Course Description

This is an upper-level Comparative Politics course that applies the basic concepts of comparative political science to the political systems of Western Europe. This course focuses on political behavior and institutions in Britain, Germany, France, and other European countries and transnational developments in Europe, such as European integration. We will use comparisons within Western Europe as well as comparisons between Western Europe and Eastern Europe and other advanced democratic nations around the world to explore issues of political representation and accountability. We will heavily focus on identity, European integration, nationalism in Europe, immigration, and support for the EU. Some of these topics will be familiar from the Introduction to Comparative Politics course and other political science courses.

Course Materials

Required Reading

The following book is required reading and is found at the FSU bookstore and online:

Tim Bale. 2016. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, 4th Edition, Red Globe Press.

You will be responsible for obtaining this textbook before class starts. If you get any previous editions, you will be responsible for any differences in reading assignments.

In addition to the assigned textbook, this course includes other outside readings that will consist of academic articles relevant to course topics. These will be listed in the course schedule and made available through Canvas. We will be using Canvas extensively in this course, where you will find and complete assignments, view grades, and receive announcements and emails from your instructor. It is your responsibility that you have access to **Canvas**.

Assessments and Grading Policy

Please read this section carefully. Registration in this course implies that you agree with all elements of evaluation herein described. Though I reserve the right to modify this syllabus with advance notice to students, I will not do so with respect to the parameters of student evaluation or the final examination schedule. In order to accomplish the above stated course goals and ensure your success in the course, I strongly encourage you to do the following (at a minimum):

Student Responsibilities

- Complete all reading in advance of the class period and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. **We will not necessarily cover all the reading in class, so it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings before the final exam;**
- Come to class, take good notes, ask informed and pertinent questions of your instructor;
- Engage with the material and participate in class discussions;
- Contact your instructor early and often if you have questions or concerns about course materials, course expectations or your grade;
- Refrain from negative participation, defined as classroom behavior that is disrespectful to other students or the instructor.

Your grade will be determined by the following four components: (total of 100 points)

- Participation (10 points)
- Exam 1 (30 points)
- Exam 2 (30 points)
- Exam 3 (30 points)

This course is designed to ensure your ability to pass it. Those who attend class regularly, and excel in two of the three exams will receive a 70 or C– in the course. **I do not believe in busy work.** All of the assessments in this course are designed to enhance your academic and professional abilities.

Attendance and Participation — 10 points

This course has no mandatory attendance policy or requirement of time the student must remain in the classroom per session. You are the adults here, and therefore free to miss class, leave class early, or arrive late—without requesting my permission or alerting me. There are two caveats to this: First and foremost, if you choose to leave class early or arrive late, please do so in a way that does not disrupt the other students. As mentioned in the student responsibilities, I ask that you refrain from negative participation which is disrespectful to your classmates or the instructor. Second, while you will not be graded on attendance, participation will be evaluated through involvement in class discussion and in-class learning activities.

Throughout the semester, we will do 10 in-class activities based on the readings and lecture material. These questions will be open-book and students will receive credit for their participation as long as they are present and answer the questions. They will mostly take place during class periods

when we will—as a class—be going through an academic article to identify the research question, data used, methods used, hypotheses, etc. These questions are meant to help you learn how to read an academic article. You will fill out a worksheet during the class period, due at the end of class. If a student misses class on the day of a reading question or activity—or leaves class early—they will lose one point from their participation grade. **These cannot be made up, but there will be extra credit opportunities on the exams to make up lost points.**

If you elect to come to class, be prepared to answer questions based on the assigned reading material. **For those that prefer to remain quiet in the classroom**, I urge you to use this class as an opportunity to verbalize your thoughts! I am all too familiar with the anxiety that stems from feeling like your comments/feedback/thoughts in class aren't valuable. I assure you, they are, and I look forward to hearing them! What is not acceptable are rude or disruptive comments or behavior. We will treat everyone with respect, and will not talk while someone else has the floor. Any discussion in class will relate to the material in a logical, rational, and polite manner. Violations will affect the class participation grade. If you feel uncomfortable with any class discussion, please do not hesitate to email me to discuss it.

Exams — 90 points

You will have three take-home exams. Each will count for 30 points, or 30% of your overall course grade. **The exams will be open-book, open-note and involve 30 multiple choice questions.** All work must be your own—communication with classmates or anyone else is forbidden.

The exams will open after class ends on PM Thurs, Feb 6; Thurs, March 12; and Thurs, April 30. You will have over 24 hours to take them, due at 5 PM the next day (Friday). I have chosen these dates and times for a few reasons: (1) I know a lot of you work on weekends, and so I wanted the exams to end before the weekend. (2) I have chosen the due date as 5 PM on Friday, because if I gave you the whole weekend then that would probably lead you to not take the time to de-stress from classes, and rush to turn them in on Sunday. (3) Completing exam #2 before Spring Break means you can take that week to work on assignments from other classes, and completing exam #3 before finals week means you can put this class behind you before finishing the others! Win-win.

Extra Credit

There will be one extra credit question per exam. These three points can be applied to the final course grade, to cover lost participation points. There will be no other extra credit offered.

Late Work

All participation assignments/exams are to be turned in on the announced due date for full credit. Exams that are **turned in within 24 hours** after they are due will receive **half credit** and any assignments **turned in later** than that will receive a **zero** (unless the student has a university-approved excuse). Again, **students cannot make up participation points.**

If they have been excused for the exam (see below what constitutes an approved excuse), students will have five working days to make up a missed exam (**i.e. due the Friday after the Saturday due-date: Feb 14, March 20, May 8 at 5 PM**). If there are extraordinary circumstances, which would prevent the student from making up the exam in five working days, the instructor must be informed of this fact prior to the expiration of the five-day period. The instructor reserves the right to administer makeup exams of any format (multiple choice, short answer, essay), which may not necessarily

correspond to the original exam's format. If a student misses an exam and does not have an excused absence, the student will receive a zero for the exam.

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. Consideration will be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness or to extraordinary events. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes a legitimate excuse/extraordinary circumstance as well as what shall be considered "sufficient documentation."

Grading Policy

I adhere to the following number-to-letter grade conversion chart for all exams, quizzes, and assignments. **FINAL COURSE GRADES ENDING IN 0.5 OR HIGHER ARE ROUNDED** up to the nearest whole percentage point—**NOT** the individual assignments and exams.

Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
	$B+ = 87-89$	$C+ = 77-79$	$D+ = 67-69$	$F \leq 60$
$A* \geq 93$	$B = 83-86$	$C = 73-76$	$D = 63-66$	
$A- = 90 - 92$	$B- = 80-82$	$C- = 70-72$	$D- = 60-62$	

Incomplete Grades

No incomplete grades will be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student **PRIOR TO** the end of the course. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate reasons for an incomplete grade.

Classroom Policies

Email Policy

Students should include their first and last name and course information in the subject line of their emails. I will make every effort to respond **within 48 hours** of receiving a message. Though I may reply sooner than that, students should not expect an immediate response. I will contact students via their FSU designated email address listed on Canvas, so please see to it that these accounts are setup to receive these communications. **Please treat all email correspondences with the instructor as any other professional exchange.** Accordingly, I expect emails to be respectful and polite, to use correct grammar and complete sentences. I reserve the right to summarily delete rude, disrespectful, and/or poorly written emails without reply. Furthermore, emails asking questions that can be answered by checking the syllabus will also not receive a reply.

Technology Policy

Cell phones and laptops are generally a distraction and detrimental to the classroom experience. **This course is designed to ensure success taking notes with a pen or a pencil.** However, if you must use your laptop please make sure to bring charging cables (not ask to borrow any and distract others) and stay on the course material at all times. Cell phones should be on silence or vibrate. **If you have a family or emergency situation going on, I will permit you to use your phone.** You do not need to alert me of the situation — I will understand by seeing your phone on your desk.

However, if it becomes clear to me that students are using their cellphones for non-emergency or family situations, this permission will be revoked from the entire class.

Free Tutoring/Resources from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options: <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu.

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect parameters of evaluation, i.e. grading and the date of the final exam, **this syllabus is subject to change at discretion of the instructor**. I will provide you with advance notice in class and via your university registered email contact.

Administrative Policies

Academic Dishonesty

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless the instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly and properly cited. Students are responsible for policing themselves with respect to plagiarism. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, academic misrepresentation, etc.) will receive a zero for the relevant assignment and will be reported to the proper university officials for further action.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "... be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found [here](#).)

Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with the instructor within the first week of class. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC).
2. Bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

If a student's accommodations change during the semester, the student will present an updated official letter from the SDRC outlining the specific modifications. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center.

Class Number	Date	Topic	Assignments/Notes
Class 1	Jan 7	First Day Administrative Tasks	
Class 2	Jan 9	Review CPO2002: Key Concepts	
Class 3	Jan 14	Review CPO2002: Scientific Method	
Class 4	Jan 16	Review CPO2002: Data Analysis	
Class 5	Jan 21	Europe: Historical Overview	CH 1 pgs. 1-21
Class 6	Jan 23	Contemporary Europe	CH 1 pgs. 21-38
Class 7	Jan 28	Europe: Challenges to Sovereignty? <i>Stateless Nations & Minority Nationalism</i>	CH 2 pgs. 39-53
Class 8	Jan 30	Europe: Challenges to Sovereignty? <i>European Union</i>	CH 2 pgs. 53-70
Class 9	Feb 4	National Governments in Europe	CH 4 pgs. 105-118 skim 118-134
Class 10	Feb 6	National Legislatures in Europe Test Review – Participation #1	CH 4 pgs. 134-142
Class 11	Feb 11	EU Legislative Politics	Hix & Hoyland 2011 CH 3
Class 12	Feb 13	EU Institutions	McCormick 2002 CH 4
Class 13	Feb 18	(Regional) Party Systems in Europe Review CPO2002: Parties & Cleavages	CH 5 pgs. 143-154
Class 14	Feb 20	Article – Participation #2	Brancati 2007
Class 15	Feb 25	Party Families in Europe	CH 5 pgs. 154-171
Class 16	Feb 27	Article – Participation #3	Rohrschneider 2002
Class 17	Mar 3	Public Opinion & EU Support	Hix & Hoyland 2011 CH 5
Class 18	Mar 5	Article – Participation #4	Hobolt 2012
Class 19	Mar 10	Article – Participation #5	McLaren 2002
Class 20	Mar 12	Electoral Systems in Europe	CH 6 pgs. 187-215
	Mar 17	No Class—Spring Break	
	Mar 19	No Class—Spring Break	
Class 21	Mar 24	Identity in the EU	Checkel & Katzenstein 2009 CH 2
Class 22	Mar 26	Article – Participation #6	McLaren 2004
Class 23	Mar 31	Identity in the EU	Checkel & Katzenstein 2009 CH 4
Class 24	Apr 2	Article – Participation #7	de Vreese, Boomgaarden, and Semetko 2008
Class 25	Apr 7	Identity in the EU	Checkel & Katzenstein 2009 CH 8
Class 26	Apr 9	Article – Participation #8	Hooghe & Marks 2005
Class 27	Apr 14	Identity in the EU	Checkel & Katzenstein 2009 CH 9
Class 28	Apr 16	BREXIT & the EU	Introduce Class Project
Class 29	Apr 21	Project Workshop – Participation #9	
Class 30	Apr 23	Present Projects – Participation #10	