

European Politics (Online)

Politics 140A • 41653 • Summer 2018

University of California, Santa Cruz

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STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn about political institutions in Europe, including how and why they operate as they do.
- Learn to compare political structures, policies, and issues in the countries under examination.
- Improve their ability to communicate information and ideas about the issues and cases studied in the course.

REQUIREMENTS

We will communicate with you by email, including attachments & assignments – please ensure your email works. We will also communicate with you through Canvas. The class requires that you watch the lectures, which last about 2 to 3 hours weekly and cover the same material as the version of 140A taught during the academic year. There are also required audiovisuals every week – if you were taking this class on campus, we would be watching them in class. The assignments for the class are:

1. Four weekly essays on assigned prompts (600-800 words each) due on Friday at 5pm of Weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5 (60% of the grade, i.e. 15% each). You will need to discuss the readings and audiovisuals to receive a passing grade. Lectures will offer additional ideas, evidence, and references for your arguments.
2. Five weekly multiple-choice quizzes (35% of the grade, i.e. 7% each). Quizzes and questions are drawn from lectures and readings.
3. Participation: Section will discuss lectures, audiovisuals, readings, and posted discussion questions. Actively participating in at least one section every week is required for a passing grade in this class. Sections are by videoconference on Tuesday 6-7 PM, Wednesday 9-10 PM, and Thursday 12-1 PM. You can attend any time slot you want, even change it week to week. You can attend all three if you like, but you must attend at least one section meeting every week for a passing grade. Students who took this online class found that learning outcomes were greatly improved by attending section, and recommended they become a requirement. To avoid echoes in the videoconference, please wear headphones if you can. Another opportunity for participation is the student-led discussion forum and collaborative platform on Piazza (Piazza is hosted within Canvas, the online portal for this class) – we encourage you to take advantage of Piazza to ask questions and post comments about class resources but also to discuss news relevant to the class. Participation will evaluate your activity in videoconferencing and Piazza and is worth 5% of the grade.

The percentages above are subject to adjustment. All grades are given on a 0-100 scale, where 92-98 is an A, 90-92 is an A-, 88-90 is a B+, 82-88 is a B, etc. A-range grades are reserved for work of exceptionally high quality.

The required **textbook** for this course is *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction (4th edition, 2017)* by Tim Bale (ISBN-13: 978-1137581334). You can order it online or at Bay Tree Bookstore. Additional required readings are on Canvas. Audiovisuals and section are key to update the materials. Required audiovisuals are listed for each class, they are available online or on Canvas.

Citation and Documentation of Sources in Papers. Please use parenthetical in-text citation (**author year, page**) with a list of cited works at the end of your essay, following the *Modern Language Association (MLA)* as per department guidelines. The list of cited works does not count towards your word count for the weekly essays.
Distribution of Lecture Notes and Materials. Please note that students may be disciplined for selling, preparing, or distributing course lecture notes, including notes created independently by students. The unauthorized sale of lecture notes, handouts, readers or other course materials is a violation of campus policies as well as state law. Violation by distribution to the public may also constitute copyright infringement subject to legal action.

DC Requirement. In the Politics major the university's DC requirement is fulfilled by completing any three of your required four core courses (105A, B, C, D; 120A, B, C; 140A, B, C, D; 160A, B, C, D). The goal of the Disciplinary Communication requirement is to ensure that you acquire the skills in writing and other forms of

communication necessary for your major. The central goals of the core courses are breadth of knowledge within the major and training and improvement in writing. You should see the core courses as a progressive and cumulative process requiring sustained attention to the form and quality of your writing. Another form of disciplinary communication is speaking and discussion. You are encouraged to work on the clarity and quality of your contributions to lecture discussions.

Disability Accommodations. If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me **within the first two weeks of the session**. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

| Week | Topic | Readings & Audiovisuals |
|------|---|---|
| 1 | Executive, Legislatures, & Judiciary | <p>Bale, Ch.3, 4</p> <p>Required Audiovisual: Borgen, Season 1, Episodes 1 and 2 (available on the class website). American students have a hard time understanding the political dynamics of parliamentary politics. The process will be much clearer after watching to episodes of this award winning series.</p> <p>To gain perspectives and see how this applies, familiarize yourself with online news with the June 2018 government crises in Spain and Italy, and with the lengthy government formation in Germany following the 2017 elections (Wikipedia is a good source on this).</p> |
| 2 | Federalism, the European Union, & Interest Representation | <p>Bale, Ch.2, 8</p> <p>Required Audiovisual: “The Big Picture: The Making And Breaking Of Europe” Part 1 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KypRyujrRsQ and Part 2 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-m_sa6WEyg . This is an excellent history of the European Union and the current far right movements across Europe. It provides you with very helpful context for this and the coming weeks of class.</p> <p>What concerns and strategies will govern the Brexit negotiations? For an answer watch “Britain Biggest Deal” available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mcTQW5mAPY</p> |
| 3 | Electoral Cleavages | <p>Bale, Ch.5</p> <p>M.Elff 2007 “Social Structure and Electoral Behavior in Comparative Perspective: The Decline of Social Cleavages in Western Europe” <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 5(2): 277-94</p> <p>J.Rydgren 2005 “Is extreme right-wing populism contagious?” <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 44(3):413-37</p> |
| 4 | Electoral Systems | <p>Bale, Ch. 6</p> <p>T. Saalfeld 2005 “Germany: Stability and Strategy in a Mixed-Member Proportional System” and M. Gallagher 2005 “Ireland: the discrete charm of PR-STV” in M.Gallagher, P.Mitchell, Eds. <i>The politics of electoral systems</i> (Cambridge UP)</p> <p>Required audiovisual: La Haine (available on the class website). Students love this cult movie – and it will prepare you for next week, by illuminating the context and challenges of immigrant integration in Europe, which are different from the ones in the USA. Then read “La Haine: Kassovitz vs. Sarkozy”. Available from http://www.criterion.com/current/posts/476-la-haine-kassovitz-vs-sarkozy (Kassovitz is the director, Sarkozy at the time was the Minister of the Interior, responsible among other issues for domestic security and the national police)</p> |
| 5 | Welfare State & Immigration | <p>Bale, Ch.9, 10</p> <p>Required Audiovisual: “EU migration crisis: the inside story”. This short documentary presents the immigration challenge from the perspective of the Council of the EU. It is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnYzcl4QRgY</p> |

