

Political Science 3402: Politics in Western Europe
Online
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This course is an introductory course in comparative politics, focusing on the institutional arrangements and political movements in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and the European Union.

Grading:

A total of 1000 points will be available.

- Two exams worth 200 points each will consist of a short answer section (short, three to four sentence IDs) and essay questions.
- Six quizzes worth 50 points each will be worth a total of 300 points
- A research project (including an 8-10 page research paper) will be worth 300 points:
 - 25 points will be distributed via a topic submission in Module 3
 - 75 points will be distributed via an annotated bibliography due in Module 6
 - 200 points will be possible with the term paper itself due in Module 8

Term research project:

Students will be required to write a 3000 to 3500 word term paper, which will account for 200 points (this is a formal writing assignment). The topic will be defined during the first few weeks of the course. Students will be assigned a Western European country *other than those in our textbook* and will write an introduction to politics and the political system in it. Students will review the executive, the legislative, and the judicative models found in that country, and will discuss the federal or unitary nature, political parties and other interest groups, the primary political issues, etc.

The paper is to be a formal research paper with citations and a bibliography. *I have extremely high expectations on the quality of the paper and each of you should understand that grammatical and spelling errors, as well as poor organization, incorrect information, insufficient or poor sources, and unsupported theses will result in a reduced grade. All papers should be carefully edited.*

Any papers that fail to meet the length requirements will be docked 10 points per 150 words you are short. In other words, if you write a 2500 word paper rather than a 3000 word paper, I will take 40 points off your possible 2000 points *off the top*. If your paper is 1500 words, I will take 100 points OFF THE TOP. Do not fail to write a paper that fulfills the terms of the assignment. Also be forewarned: all papers will be evaluated using Turnitin. I will catch you if you plagiarize, and I will *fail you*.

Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination, including furnishing that information to another student. Cheating will result in a zero on the examination. Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment. Finally, plagiarism is “the purchase and use of

ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion” (Faculty Handbook, State University of West Georgia, August 2004, page 75). If you copy and paste, or use someone else’s words, I will *catch you* and you will *fail this class*.

If you plagiarize your term paper, your essay, or any of your quiz answers, whether in whole or in part, you will fail this course.

Class policies

Read the instructions in each module.

Ask course related questions in the discussion board called “Ask Your Professor,” not via email (unless it’s personal!). If it is personal (for example, grade or absence related), please use the class mail tool. Do not email me unless you cannot access the course. I will not respond to emailed questions about the class. ALL CLASS COMMUNICATION HAPPENS INSIDE THE CLASS.

University Policies:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule of class activities

Below you will find the schedule of class activities. All activities and assignments in each module are due on the “due date”. Quizzes will close automatically after noon on each “due date”. Discussions will be closed manually at the same time. Drop boxes will cut off automatically as well.

Required texts:

Hancock, Donald, editor. 2018. Politics in Europe, 7th edition

<https://www.amazon.com/Politics-Europe-M-Donald-Hancock/dp/1506399096/>

Schedule of class activities

Begin Date	Due Date	Module	Assignments	Book Readings
Module 1 contains the syllabus and the "Ask Your Professor" discussion board. Please read the syllabus as soon as you have access to the class.				
August 14	August 28, Noon	Module 2: Britain	Quiz for Module 2	Introduction and United Kingdom
August 28	September 11, Noon	Module 3: France	Quiz for Module 3 Paper topic Due	France
September 11	September 25, Noon	Module 4: Germany	Quiz for Module 4	Germany
September 25	October 9, Noon	Midterm (Module 5)	Exam	
October 9	October 23, Noon	Module 6: Italy	Quiz for Module 6 Annotated bibliography Due	Italy
October 23	November 6, Noon	Module 7: Russia	Quiz for Module 7	Russia
November 6	November 20, noon	Module 8: European Union	Quiz for Module 8 Term Paper Due	The European Union
November 20	December 11	Final (Module 9)	Comprehensive Exam	