

PO 475 DEMOCRACY IN WESTERN EUROPE

IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION: This comparative politics course discusses the most important features of the Western European Democracies. It is designed in four independent but complementary parts. The first part will introduce contemporary theoretical and analytical perspectives on the meaning, foundation and the present situation of democracy. Next, the macro context out of which modern European democracies emerged will be established. The third part will examine the most important element of representative democracy: elections. The final part of the course will focus on welfare state models with a particular emphasis on the differences between European and U.S. perspectives. By the end of the course, students should be able to make precise comparisons between the features of European countries and/or the U.S. on any of the topics in the syllabus.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: It is highly recommended that students have a familiarity with some of the themes that will be covered by the course. Hence, it is mandatory to have taken at least introductory classes of political science on: American Politics, Electoral Politics, Contemporary European History, Comparative Politics or the European Union. The course is addressed to those majoring in political science.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- **Lectures:** The professor will provide the historical, political, and social context of the content of the course.
- **Class Discussions:** Class discussions are based on key texts compiled in the course reader. All required readings can be found in the course reading package. The readings listed for a particular session must be completed BEFORE coming to class that day.
- **Readings:** All the required readings for the class will be posted on the Moodle page for the course.
- **Class Presentations:** Each student will make a 15-20-minute-long presentation based on an academic article on class topics assigned by the professor.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Midterm Exam (30%)
- Class Participation (10%)
- Article presentation (25%)
- Final Project (35%)
- Midterm (30%): Midterm will consist of explanatory questions on the topics covered in the course.
- Class Participation (10%): Participation includes attendance and participation in class, including discussions, pertinent questions and familiarity with the texts in the reader.
- In-class presentation (25%): Each student is required to make a 15-20 minutes long presentation on a scientific article published in a respected academic journal related to the topics covered in class.
- Final Project (35%): Each student will write a 3,500-word paper on the topic selected following consultation with the professor. They will be expected to follow the instructions provided in the course materials. These instructions will include:

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Presenting a clear thesis statement; building up an analysis on the basis of this thesis; using information to build up the argument from at least five articles for prestigious (and relevant) journals in the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- use the divergences between Europe's political institutions, party systems, and policies to identify (at least) some differences between European and American societies;
- distinguish the different groups of European political systems like Scandinavian vs. continental, pluralist vs. corporatist, unitary vs. federal... according to relevant criteria like welfare states, interest representation strategies, and territorial division of power;
- appraise the value of linguistic, racial, and religious pluralism and the specific ways in which European political systems take account of their increased importance.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Required Reading
Session 1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papada, E., Altman, D., Angiolillo, F., Gastaldi, L., Köhler, T., Lundstedt, M., Natsika, N., Nord, M., Sato, Y., Wiebrecht, F., & Lindberg, S.I. (2023). Defiance in the face of autocratization. Democracy report 2023. University of Gothenburg: Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem Institute). https://www.v-dem.net/publications/democracy-reports/ • Berman, S. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(4), 1092–1094. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002852 • Bunce, V. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(4), 1103–1104. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002839

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connolly, W. E. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(4), 1095–1096. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002888 • Cramer, K. J. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(4), 1097–1098. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002876 • Parker, C. S. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(4), 1099–1100. https://doi.org/10.1017/S153759271800289X • Pérez-Liñán, A. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(4), 1101–1102. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718003043
Session 2	Contemporary Democracy: An overview of the study of the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessop, B. (2008). The state and state building. In R. A. W. Rhodes, S. A. Binder, & B. A. Rockman (Eds.), <i>The Oxford handbook of political institutions</i> (pp. 111–131). Oxford University Press.
Session 3	History of European democracy: The Rise of the States System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poggi, G. (1990). <i>The state: its nature, development, and prospects</i> (pp.34-68). Stanford University Press.
Session 4	History of European democracy: Societal Cleavages - Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 278-325). McGraw-Hill Education.
Session 5	History of European democracy: Societal Cleavages - Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 278-325). McGraw-Hill Education.

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Session 6	National Socialism and Fascism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hobsbawm, E. (1994). <i>The age of extremes: the short twentieth century 1914-1991</i> (pp. 109-142). Vintage Books.
Session 7	Judging fascism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arendt, H. (2003). <i>Responsibility and judgement</i> (pp. 227-257). Schocken Books.
Session 8	Parties & ideologies Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 238-277). McGraw-Hill Education.
Session 9	Parties & ideologies - Part II: Country specific information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 193-237). McGraw-Hill Education.
Session 10	Electoral Campaigns, Electoral formulas, multiparty systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 366-411). McGraw-Hill Education.
Session 11	Electoral actors: parties & candidates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 326-365). McGraw-Hill Education.
Session 12	Executives in Presidential and Parliamentary Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). <i>Representative government in modern europe</i> (5th ed.) (pp. 23-83). McGraw-Hill Education.
Session 13	Mid-term exam.	
Session 14	Electoral results: coalitions, minority governments, consociationalism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armingeon, K. (2002). Interest intermediation: the cases of consociational democracy and corporatism. In H. Keman (Ed.), <i>Comparative democratic politics: a guide to contemporary theory and research</i> (pp. 143–165). SAGE.

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Session 15	Western Europe's Common Trait? The Welfare State – Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). <i>The three worlds of welfare capitalism</i> (pp. 9-35). Princeton University Press.
Session 16	Western Europe's Common Trait? The Welfare State – Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hacker, J. (2008). The welfare state. In R. A. W. Rhodes, S. A. Binder, & B. A. Rockman (Eds.), <i>The Oxford handbook of political institutions</i> (pp. 385–407). Oxford University Press.
Session 17	Cleavages and Welfare State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • van Kersbergen, K., & Manow, P. (2009). Religion and the western welfare state: the theoretical context. In K. van Kersbergen & P. Manow (Eds.), <i>Religion, class coalitions, and welfare states</i> (pp. 4–28). Cambridge University Press.
Session 18	Welfare States Compared I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Benefits and wages - OECD</i>. (n.d.). Retrieved October 5, 2022, from https://www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages/
Session 19	Welfare States Compared II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell, J. W. (2006). <i>Double standard: social policy in europe and the united states</i> (pp. 103-121, 155-160). Rowman & Littlefield.
Session 20	European Models of Health Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immergut, E. M. (2001). Health Policy. In N. J. Smelser & P. B. Baltes (Eds.), <i>International encyclopedia of the social & behavioral sciences</i> (pp. 6586–6591). Pergamon. https://doi.org/10.1016/B0-08-043076-7/04500-9

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Session 21	The Future of Welfare State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitschelt, H., Lange, P., Marks, G., & Stephens, J. D. (1999). Convergence and divergence in advanced capitalist democracies. In H. Kitschelt, P. Lange, G. Marks, & J. D. Stephens (Eds.), <i>Continuity and change in contemporary capitalism</i> (pp. 427–460). Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139175050
Session 22	Contemporary Democracy: Issues, Problems, Ideas - I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rancière, J. (2009). <i>Hatred of democracy</i> (pp. 33-99). Verso.
Session 23	Contemporary Democracy: Issues, Problems, Ideas - II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rancière, J. (2009). <i>Hatred of democracy</i> (pp. 33-99). Verso.
Session 24	How Do Europeans See America? Do differences in European history, institutions, or policies explain how Catalans, Spaniards and other Europeans perceive American politics?	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Arendt, H. (2003). *Responsibility and judgement* (pp. 227-257). Schocken Books.
- Armington, K. (2002). Interest intermediation: the cases of consociational democracy and corporatism. In H. Keman (Ed.), *Comparative democratic politics: a guide to contemporary theory and research* (pp. 143–165). SAGE.
- Benefits and wages - OECD*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 5, 2022, from <https://www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages/>
- Berman, S. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. *Berman, S. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. Perspectives on Politics, 16(4), 1092–1094.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002852>
- Bunce, V. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. *Perspectives on Politics, 16(4), 1103–1104.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002839>
- Connolly, W. E. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. *Perspectives on Politics, 16(4), 1095–1096.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002888>
- Cramer, K. J. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. *Perspectives on Politics, 16(4), 1097–1098.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002876>
- Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). *The three worlds of welfare capitalism* (pp. 9-35). Princeton University Press.

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- Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). *Representative government in modern Europe* (5th ed.) (pp. 23-83, 195-237, 238-277, 278-325, 326-365, 366-411). McGraw-Hill Education.
- Hacker, J. (2008). The welfare state. In R. A. W. Rhodes, S. A. Binder, & B. A. Rockman (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of political institutions* (pp. 385–407). Oxford University Press.
- Hobsbawm, E. (1994). *The age of extremes: the short twentieth century 1914-1991* (pp. 109-142). Vintage Books.
- Immergut, E. M. (2001). Health Policy. In N. J. Smelser & P. B. Baltes (Eds.), *International encyclopedia of the social & behavioral sciences* (pp. 6586–6591). Pergamon. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B0-08-043076-7/04500-9>
- Jessop, B. (2008). The state and state building. In R. A. W. Rhodes, S. A. Binder, & B. A. Rockman (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of political institutions* (pp. 111–131). Oxford University Press.
- Kitschelt, H., Lange, P., Marks, G., & Stephens, J. D. (1999). Convergence and divergence in advanced capitalist democracies. In H. Kitschelt, P. Lange, G. Marks, & J. D. Stephens (Eds.), *Continuity and change in contemporary capitalism* (pp. 427–460). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139175050>
- Papada, E., Altman, D., Angiolillo, F., Gastaldi, L., Köhler, T., Lundstedt, M., Natsika, N., Nord, M., Sato, Y., Wiebrecht, F., & Lindberg, S.I. (2023). Defiance in the face of autocratization. Democracy report 2023. University of Gothenburg: Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem Institute). <https://www.v-dem.net/publications/democracy-reports/>
- Parker, C. S. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. *Perspectives on Politics*, 16(4), 1099–1100. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S153759271800289X>
- Pérez-Liñán, A. (2018). A discussion of Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's how democracies die. *Perspectives on Politics*, 16(4), 1101–1102. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718003043>
- Poggi, G. (1990). *The state: its nature, development, and prospects* (pp. 34-68). Stanford University Press.
- Rancière, J. (2009). *Hatred of democracy* (pp. 33-99). Verso.
- Russell, J. W. (2006). *Double standard: social policy in Europe and the United States* (pp. 103-121, 155-160). Rowman & Littlefield.
- van Kersbergen, K., & Manow, P. (2009). Religion and the western welfare state: the theoretical context. In K. van Kersbergen & P. Manow (Eds.), *Religion, class coalitions, and welfare states* (pp. 4–28). Cambridge University Press.
- **RECOMMENDED READINGS:**
- Armingeon, K., & Beyeler, M. (Eds.). (2004). *The OECD and European welfare states*. Edward Elgar.
- Lelieveldt, H., & Princen, S. (2023). *The Politics of the European Union* (3rd ed., Cambridge Textbooks in Comparative Politics). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009318358>
- Lijphart, A. (1999). *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*. Yale University Press.

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