PO 229 THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE NEW EUROPE  
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:
After the recent enlargements of the EU, Austria and her capital, Vienna, are a central vantage point from which the political geography of Europe and its variations of national political cultures can be profitably studied (and visited): The course will be conducted in front of a large map of contemporary Europe and will be moving from closer to farther areas, both providing special orientation as well as comparative political information about the new political Europe and its component elements. It deals with new and old member states (or nonmember states) and contrasts the different attitudes states hold towards the Union. The European Union is a complex but internationally very relevant organization. Students will learn to better understand how it has developed and how it might develop in the future. Vienna is a particularly well-suited site for the course not only because of its central geographical location but also because of its continuing status of neutrality, its special political and economic relationship with Eastern European countries and its specific position within the EU.

The focus is on the conditions of political change and development, an overview of constitutional and party systems, a comparative perspective on policy making and an attempt to evaluate system performance. Included are site visits and group work with Austrian students.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- Lectures
- Class discussions
- Group work and project with Austrian students

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Class participation and oral presentation on project - 10%
- Written project report - 10%
- Midterm - 40%
- Final exam - 40%

N.B. Group work and project: small groups of IES and Austrian Students select a course-related topic, research it, and present it to the group orally as part of class discussion during the semester. Each student then submits a written report of the group project work.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Differentiate between the political systems of Europe
- Effectively analyze and compare the differences between the governmental systems of the European Union and the United States
- Orientate themselves within the European geographical context

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
See IES Abroad Vienna handbook.
The presentation of the content is cumulative; the introduction establishes the context within which the discussion of each system progresses, with comparisons and contrasts building on the cumulative basis of previously presented material. Each system is analyzed and compared on the basis of history, political culture, political institutions and forces, and system performance. Countries were selected for different reasons, they include both the most important early member states of the EU as well as a selection of more recent member states. Not all 27 member states are included but examples are provided for bigger and smaller members of the EU as well as "northern" and "southern" states and for states which joined this union at earlier or later dates.

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Week 1 | From the Old to the New Europe  
Comparing Politics | Piper, ch 1 and 2, pp 1-39  
Gerlich, Four Functions of Comparison, pp. 217-226 (in Reader) |
| Week 2 | Austria | Piper, ch 15 and 16, pp. 320-379  
Gerlich, Politics in a New Key, pp. 265-274 (in Reader)  
Hunt/ Falkner, Austria, ch. 12, in: Zeff and Pirro, pp. 237-252 |
| Week 3 | Switzerland  
Hungary | Kriesi/ Trechsel, ch 1, 5, 11, pp 1-17, 69-83, 172-190  
Piper, ch 15, pp 320-350  
Piper, ch 16, pp 351-379  
Ellison, Hungary, ch. 16 in: Zeff/ Pirro, pp 315-342 |
| Week 4 | Sweden | Hancock, part V, pp. 347-401  
Elliasson, Sweden ch. 13 in: Zeff/ Piro, pp 253-269 |
| Week 5 | United Kingdom | Piper, chs 11 and 12, pp 233-254, 255-280  
Nugent/ Mather, United Kingdom, ch 7, in: Zeff/ Pirro, pp 129-150 |
| Week 6 | France | Piper, chs 11 and 12, pp 235-254, 255-280  
Deubner, France, ch. 4 in Zeff/ Pirro, pp 61-84 |
| Week 7 | Germany | Piper, ch 7 and 8, pp 139-162, 163-186  
Lankowski, Germany, ch 3, in: Zeff and Pirro, pp 35-59 |
| Week 8 | Italy | Piper, ch 9 and 10, pp 187-211, 212-232  
Giuliani/ Piattoni, Italy, ch 5, in: Zeff and Pirro, pp 85-106 |
| Week 9 | • The European Union | • Piper, chs 2-4, pp 12-87  
• Gerlich, European Policy Paradoxes and Pitfalls, pp 11-21 (in Reader) |
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>• The Union Experience</td>
<td>• Gerlich, Unions in Comparison, pp 67-79 (in Reader)</td>
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**REQUIRED READINGS:**
- Gerlich, Reader (to be distributed)

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**
- The Times History of Europe (Mapping History), London: Times Book 2006.

**Other Resources:**

**FURTHER READINGS:**
- Hix, What’s Wrong with the European Union and How to Fix it, Cambridge: Polity 2008.
- Rosamond, Theories of European Integration, New York: St. Martin’s Press 2000.