
PO/CU 243 EUROPEAN POLITICAL CULTURES
IES European Union Syllabus

DESCRIPTION: Citizens' support for democratic values is crucial for European unity and stability. Additionally, any understanding of "Europe" requires awareness of the national and individual norms that influence how European citizens think about and react to politics. This course focuses on the historical and political development and the present condition of the political culture(s) of Europe, "the aggregate of knowledge, beliefs, value [...] in relation to politics" (Gordon Smith). Students will learn about and discuss defining moments in the history of European political culture and learn to identify and compare key political science concepts of European democracies such as nation, state, and citizenship. The course will provide important insights to the impact of political culture(s) on the continuing effort to build a new and unified Europe.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: lectures, seminar discussions, field study

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Essay One: **15%**

Essay Two: **15%**

Classroom Participation: **10%**

E-Learning assignments, homework: **10%**

Midterm Exam: **20%**

Final Exam: **30%**

Essays (5-6 pages)

Essays will make up 40% of your total grade, combined. They will be mainly evaluated on the basis of content but also on correct writing structure and formatting. Essays are expected to reference theoretical concepts related to Political Culture and make a meaningful connection between theory and empirical data (qualitative and/or quantitative). Essays should demonstrate both mastery of the knowledge acquired in class but go beyond to include interesting sources from outside. Very good essays should articulate a unique point of view and take a critical stance towards either theory or the case in question (or even both). A minimum of six sources is required for each essay.

You are expected to make two choices before session four: First, you will have to pick between a case study or a comparative *approach* to your two essays. Comparative cases may be chosen according to the similar background/different outcome, different background/similar outcome logic. Second, you will have to choose one or two countries that will be your focus for both essays. This choice will be permanent. While you will hand in the two essays separately, they are supposed to form a coherent whole. Building upon one another, the second essay should not repeat information contained in the previous one.

Essay 1: Making the state – Historical and socio-political context of the state(s) in question

This essay should focus on how certain aspects of political culture were relevant to the formation or change of a modern European state. Students may depart from a certain historical development, socio-cultural, socio-political or socio-economic trend that has played a role in the development of the given state(s). In the essay, it should be argued how these trends or events have affected the political culture and how this is being felt in the state today. Reference may be made to particularities of the institutional setup, party system, civil society organization, economy or other aspects of the state(s) in question that were affected by these political cultural particularities.

Essay 2: Current trends – Data-driven Political Culture Analysis

This essay should contain a deeper look at a specific feature of the Political Culture of the state in question that should be based on data drawn from one of the larger cross-national survey databases such as the European Social Survey, the World Values Survey, or the European Values Study. A unique feature of the country in question or a comparison between the two countries

chosen should be the cornerstone of the analysis. The statistical observation should be connected to both long-term and short-term trends in the Political Culture of the state(s) in question. Features of the political system that were the focus of the first essay may be elaborated on further in essay two.

Classroom participation

Classroom participation is composed of participation in discussions, general preparedness in class, and an oral progress report on the subject of the chosen essay topic at one point during the semester (\pm 5 minutes). Three e-learning assignments will be given during the semester (due on the Friday each week).

Students are required to complete all reading assignments prior to class and will be expected to demonstrate this through insightful and relevant contributions to in-class discussion as well as various forms of group work during the sessions.

Photo Assignment “Visual Political Cultures”

Choose one of your field trip photos – showing e.g. a monument, a building, or a public demonstration – that represents the political culture of one specific country and explain your thoughts on the topic in a short written essay (<1 page).

Exams

The **midterm** (on the first half of the semester) and the **final exam** (on the whole semester) consist of questions referring to the readings, the written assignments, classroom work, and field trip insights.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All IES courses require attendance and participation. Attendance is mandatory per IES policy. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%). Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. In the case of an excused absence, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the Academic Dean of the absence with an Official Excused Absence Form, as well as any other relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note), and to keep a record thereof. The absence form must be turned in as soon as possible before the class, in the case of a planned absence, or immediately upon return to the Center, in the case of an unplanned absence, in order for the absence to be considered excused. It is also the student’s responsibility to inform the professor of the missed class. Students can collect and submit the Official Excused Absence Form from the office of the Academic Dean.

Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course.

Tests, quizzes, or presentations missed during unexcused absences cannot be made up!

Updated information on your course and readings can be found on the Moodle platform at <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/>.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- identify the theoretical concepts of political culture
- transfer the theoretical knowledge to the reality of member state politics and policies
- compare the political cultures of different member states
- explain the historical backgrounds of different European political cultures
- demonstrate their knowledge in presentations and during field trips
- reflect on their own political and cultural background in contrast to their new insights into European political culture(s)

CONTENT

Session	Content	Readings
1.	Theory and Background I: Is there a Common European Political Culture? Introductory remarks, presentation of class and lecturer, structure of the course.	Guy Verhofstadt, “Confronting Europe’s Illiberals” www.socialeurope.eu , 3 pages Athanassopoulou, “Same Words, Different Language:

	<p>The recent populist threat to liberal values in Europe</p> <p>Why do we study political cultures?</p>	<p>Political Cultures and European Integration”, pp. 3-14.</p>
2.	<p>Theory and Background II: Debates and Definitions – The Political Culture Approach</p> <p>Basic concepts in political science and the political culture approach. Different conceptions and debates in the study of political cultures and institutions.</p>	<p>Eatwell, “The Importance of the Political Culture Approach” 1-12</p>
3.	<p>Case Study I: Germany</p> <p>Germany’s dictatorial past and its impact on today’s political culture, differences between the FRG and the GDR, German EU policy today.</p> <p>Federal Elections in Germany</p>	<p>Lutz, “Evolution and Normalization. Historical Consciousness in Germany”, pp. 35-64</p>
4.	<p>Development of European Political Cultures I: 1945 – Prewar and Postwar Political Cultures in Western Europe</p> <p>The effect of the war on the different European states and the post-war development of democracy in Western European states.</p> <p>Assignment Moodle 1</p>	<p>Mazover, “Democracy transformed: Western Europe,” pp. 290-324</p>
5.	<p>Development of European Political Cultures II: 1989 – The Establishment and the Downfall of European Communism</p> <p>What changed during and after the Cold War? How did the fates of Eastern European states differ?</p>	<p>Sebestyen, “Revolution 1989”, pp. 9-21</p>
6.	<p>Case Study II: Italy</p> <p>Social Capital and political reform. Is Italy really in crisis?</p> <p>EU institutions trip</p> <p>Field Trip: Case Study III: Belgium – Is there a Common Political Culture at all?</p> <p>Meeting with the General Representative of the Flemish Government to the EU in Brussels-during the Institutions Field Trip</p>	<p>Putnam, “Making Democracy Work,” pp. 3-16, 83-120</p>
7.	<p>Case Study III: Croatia</p> <p>The future of the European Expansion: What are the limits of European Political Culture?</p>	<p>Ashbrook, “Croatia, Euroskepticism and the Identity Politics of EU Enlargement,” pp. 23-36</p>

8.	<p>Case Study IV: France and Belgium - Field Trip Preparation Liberty, equality, fraternity, and the impact of a strong state on French political culture. The impact of ideas on Political Culture.</p> <p>Essay 1 – Making the state</p>	<p>Mc Millan, "France," pp. 69-88. Billiet/Maddens/Frogner, "Does Belgium (still) Exist?" pp. 912-932</p>
9.	<p>Case Study V: United Kingdom The making of the modern British state; the collapse of the collectivist consensus. Welfare State variety across Europe. How deeply is Brexit rooted in Political Culture and which factors are transferrable to other European countries?</p>	<p>Eatwell, "Britain," pp. 50-68</p>
10.	<p>Case Study VI: Portugal and Spain The totalitarian past of the Iberian Peninsula and the effect of European Integration.</p> <p>Assignment Moodle 2</p>	<p>Costa Pinta/Nuñez, "Portugal and Spain," pp. 172-193</p>
11.	<p>Case Study VII: Greece The many misunderstandings about Greek political culture. Are the current problems rooted in Greece's culturally conservative national identity?</p>	<p>Richter, "Another type of Democracy: A Globalist Paper"</p>
12.	<p>Midterm exam (on sessions 1-9)</p>	
<p>Local Field Trip: Political Culture and Political Education at the LPB Freiburg TBC</p>		
13.	<p>Case Study VIII: Baltic States Transition to democracy in former soviet states, from russification during Soviet times to the problems with a Russian minority today.</p> <p>EU member states trip</p> <p>Assignment Moodle 3</p>	<p>Adorvino, Michael: "Imagined Communities in an Integrating Baltic Region," pp. 5-17</p>
14.	<p>Case Study IX: Romania and Bulgaria Transformation to democracy, economic development, corruption. The Eastern Expansion and the new European Union.</p>	<p>Gallagher, "Nationalism and Romanian Political Culture," pp. 104-124</p> <p>Ghodsee, "Left Wing, Right Wing, Everything. Xenophobia, Neo-totalitarianism, and Populist Politics</p>

	Assignment Visual Political Cultures	in Bulgaria,” pp. 28-39
15.	Case Study X: Hungary Hungarian transition to democracy, right-wing anti-communism. Victor Orban’s new Hungary: turning authoritarian?	Scheppele, “Hungary and the End of Politics”, pp. 27-35
16.	Case Study XI: Scandinavia The Nordic model of the social democratic welfare state, interest representation and corporatism, reformism and social democracy. Essay 2 – Current trends	Gress, “The Nordic Countries,” pp. 218-248
17.	Case Study XII: Poland The role of religious belief, conservatism and nationalism for Polish political culture today. A shifting center for the EU? Summary and Outlook What can the political culture approach tell us about the European Union? Is there a common European Political Culture?	Castle, “Poland,” pp. 517-531 Bruter, “Citizens of Europe?,” pp. 150-165
18.	Final Exam, Model EU, End of term dinner	
TBD		

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Adorvino, Michael. "Imagined Communities in an Integrating Baltic Region." *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*, 17 (2009) 1, pp. 5-17.
- Athanassopoulou, Ekavi. "Same Words, Different Language: Political Cultures and European Integration." *United in Diversity? European Integration and Political Culture*, ed. Ekavi Athanassopoulou. London: I.B. Tauris, 2008, pp. 3-17.
- Ashbrook, John. "Croatia, Euroskepticism, and the Identity Politics of EU Enlargement." *Problems of Post-Communism*, 57 (3), 2010, pp. 23-36.
- Billiet, Jaak, Maddens, Bart, and Frogner, André-Paul. "Does Belgium (still) Exist? Differences in Political Culture between Flemings and Walloons." *West European Politics* 29 (2006), pp. 912-932.
- Bruter, Michael. *Citizens of Europe? The emergence of a mass European identity*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, pp. 150-165.
- Castle, Marjorie. "Poland." *Politics in Europe*, ed. M. Donald Hancock. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2007, pp. 517-531.
- Costa Pinto, António, and Xosé M. Nuñez, "Portugal and Spain." *European Political Cultures. Conflict or Convergence?*, ed. Roger Eatwell. New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 172-193.
- Eatwell, Roger. "Introduction: The Importance of the Political Culture Approach" *European political cultures. Conflict or convergence?* London and New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 1-13.
- Eatwell, Roger. "Britain" *European political cultures. Conflict or convergence?* London and New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 50-68.
- Gallagher, Tom. "Nationalism and Romanian Political Culture in the 1990s." *Post-Communist Romania. Coming to Terms with Transition*, eds. Duncan Light and David Phinnemore. New York: Palgrave, 2001, pp. 104-124.
- Ghodsee, Kristen. "Left Wing, Right Wing, Everything. Xenophobia, Neo-totalitarianism, and Populist Politics in Bulgaria." *Problems of Post-Communism* 55.3 (May/June 2008), pp. 28-39.
- Gress, David. "The Nordic Countries." *European Politics in the Age of Globalization*, eds. Howard J. Wiarda. Orlando: Harcourt 2001, pp. 218-248.
- Lutz, Felix Philipp. "Evolution and Normalization. Historical Consciousness in Germany." *German Politics and Society*, 30 (2012) 104, pp. 35-64.
- Mazover, Mark. *Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century*. London/New York: Penguin, 1999, pp. 290-324.
- McMillan, "France." *European Political Cultures. Conflict or Convergence?*, ed. Roger Eatwell. New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 69-88.
- Putnam, Robert D. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993, pp. 3-16, 83-120.
- Richter, Heinz. "Another Type of Democracy: A Globalist Paper." *The Globalist*, 6/18-20/2015, <http://www.theglobalist.com/another-type-of-european-democracy-the-emergence-of-modern-greece/>
- Sebestyen, Victor, "Revolution 1989. The Fall of the Soviet Empire." New York: Random House, 2010, pp. 9-21.
- Scheppele, Kim Lane. "Hungary and the End of Politics." *Nation*, 5/26/2014, Vol. 298, pp. 27-35.
- Verhofstadt, Guy, "Confronting Europe's Illiberals", <https://www.socialeurope.eu/2017/05/confronting-europes-illiberals/>

FURTHER READINGS:

- Agh, Attila. *The Politics of Central Europe*, London: Sage, 1998, pp. 171-225.
- Almond, Gabriel, and Verba, Sidney (eds.). *The Civic Culture Revisited*, Boston: Little, Brown and Comp., 1980.
- Almond, Gabriel A., Dalton, Russell et al. *European Politics Today*. New York/London/Mexico: Pearson Longman, 2006.
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- Caramani, Daniele. *Comparative Politics*. Oxford 2014.
- Conway, Martin, and Peter Romijn. "Legitimacy and the Making of the Post-War Order." *The War on Legitimacy in Politics and Culture 1936-1946*, eds. Martin Conway and Peter Romijn. Oxford: Berg, 2008, pp. 177-209.
- Dalton, Russell J., and Weldon, Steve. "Germans Divided? Political Culture in a United Germany." *German Politics*, 19 (2010), pp. 9-23.
- Eatwell, Roger. *European political cultures. Conflict or convergence?* London and New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Egedy, Gergely. "Political Conservatism in Post-Communist Hungary." *Problems of Post-Communism*, 56 (2009), pp. 42-53.
- Galbreath, David J. "Still 'Treading Air'? Looking at the Post-Enlargement Challenges to Democracy in the Baltic States." *Democratizatsiya* 16 (Winter 2008), pp. 87-96.
- Hay, Colin and Menon, Anand: *European Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
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- Stokes, Gale. "Thinking About 1989: The End of Politics by Other Means." *Problems of Post-Communism*, 56 (September/October 2009), pp. 11-18.
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- Wolchik, Sharon. "The Greatest Surprises." *Problems of Post-Communism*, 56 (September/October 2009), pp. 25-29.
- Wolinetz, Steven B. "Belgium and the Netherlands." *European Politics*, eds. Colin Hay and Anand Menon. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 82-100.

<p>19.</p> <p>Thursday /2017</p>		
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