



CIEE Global Institute – Paris

Course name:	European Comparative Political Systems
Course number:	(GI) POLI 3002 PAFR
Programs offering course:	Paris Open Campus (International Relations and Political Science Track)
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2018

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the politics in Western European countries, with a focus on France, one of the largest founding members of the European Union, as well as other Western and peripheral European nations. The course will examine the most significant aspects of European politics by analyzing the functioning of the European Union and its governing bodies. The relationship between EU-wide directives and policies, and national policies on topics such as taxation, the welfare state, health care systems and immigration will be also explained and analyzed. With the goal of making students more sophisticated consumers and analysts of news on European politics, students will be required to read selected current publications on a weekly basis. Among the topics and debates to be followed and analyzed will be: the long-term consequences of persistent political corruption, different views on how to resolve national economic crises, and divergent approaches to resolving the challenges of immigration, among others.

Learning Objectives

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

- Demonstrate a clear knowledge of the EU governmental system and its policies
- Recognize political, economic and social differences within the EU
- Assess the significance and the value of the EU from an historical perspective
- Develop a deepened understanding of the achievements and weaknesses of the EU system
- Acquire practice in addressing pointed and critical questions to politicians and members of government bureaucracies



- Demonstrate an appropriate use of political vocabulary
- Develop the ability to write critically about European political systems
- Critically analyze and explain the process of European integration both from a historical and a political science perspective
- Compare and contrast the US political system with the EU hybrid political system
- Develop informed knowledge around the notions of political identity, political system, integration and monetary union

Course Prerequisites

No specific prerequisites are needed for this course.

Methods of Instruction

This course will combine lectures, class debates, film screenings, press reviews and conversations with eventual guest speakers.

Assessment and Final Grade

Rubrics will be used to assess each assignment.

Research Paper:	20%
Group Presentation:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
Class Participation:	20%

Course Requirements

Research paper

Students will be asked to write a research paper on one of the topics of the course, in which they demonstrate their research abilities and critical thinking skills. The professor will provide extensive and precise guidelines.

Group Presentation

Four group presentations will be organized, with students dividing into groups of three to six (depending on the number of students in the course), over the following topics: the 2009 financial crisis and Greece, Brexit, the populist challenge, and responses to the migration crisis. Each member of the group will participate in preparing and in delivering a portion of the presentation.



Final Exam

Students will take a final exam at the end of the course. The exam (multiple choice test and short essays) will include all topics analyzed in class.

Class Participation

As part of their work in this course, students should demonstrate learning beyond the submission of written assignments or presentations. As such, all students receive grades based upon participation.

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilising the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students receive grades based upon their contributions both in the classroom and in the Canvas course.

Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed by the Instructor, in advance of each class session. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials where directed.

This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

More specifically, students enrolled in the course are expected to prepare reading materials carefully before the sessions so they can contribute to a coherent and interesting debate.

Class Attendance and Punctuality

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and *all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course.*

Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, *unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course sessions will also result in a lower final grade.*

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. *Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as*



to *Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement*. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- satisfactory evidence is provided of a family emergency

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1	No academic penalty
10 – 20%	2	Reduction of final grade
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 4 language classes	Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1

Orientation Week: Europe and the European Union
Readings TBA



Session 1 – This class will introduce the concept of a European Union. Syllabus will be presented and reviewed, with emphasis on assessment methods and course requirements.

The historical and cultural roots of Europe as a political identity will be discussed and analyzed, with particular attention to the tragic events of the first half of the 20th century – of the two world wars – that forged the post-1945 construction of Europe.

Week 2

The European Union

Readings TBA

Session 2 – The European Union: history and treaties.

This class will trace the construction of Europe from the 1950s to the present, with an exposition of the treaties that are the foundation of the EU.

Session 3 – EU: Euroscepticism and the crisis of the euro

The rise of euroscepticism since the 1990s, culminating in the Greek crisis, will be discussed.

Session 4 – The institutions of the EU.

The institutions of the EU will be presented: the Commission, European Council. Council of Ministers, European Parliament, Court of Justice

Week 3

The French political system

Readings TBA

Session 5 – Understanding France's political culture



The political system in France will be introduced via an elaboration of what is called the French republican model, which revolves around a particular conception of the relationship between the state and religion, and of citizenship, race, and ethnicity.

Session 6 – The French state

The French state tradition will be introduced and with a detailed examination of the French constitution.

Week 4

The French political system (cont.)

Readings TBA

Session 7 – The French party system

The myriad parties of the left and right will be introduced, and in the context of the recent presidential and legislative election campaigns.

Session 8 – Documentary: “Democracy”

Session 9 – The welfare state in Europe

The French social model will be discussed, and with comparison to other member states of the EU.

Week 5

France and the EU: social and foreign policy

Readings TBA

Session 10 – Field trip.

Session 11 – French foreign policy

Greece, the Brexit.



- **Assignment due: Research Paper**

Week 6

Group presentations

Session 12 – Populism, migration crisis

Session 13 – Final exam

Course Materials

Bibliography

John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*.

Further reading materials will be assigned on a week-by-week basis.

Professor will provide a complete list of complementary readings, media sources and articles published in national and international media in order to stimulate class debates and activities.