Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the major questions, theoretical as well as methodological debates and approaches in the study of European government and politics. The course builds on the main themes, concepts and theoretical debates introduced in the field of comparative politics. It aims to provide students with an understanding of political analysis, government systems and institutions, legislative systems, political and economic development, state formation, democratization and regime change, contentious politics as well as electoral and party systems in Europe. Some case study examples will also be drawn from North America.

The course also aims to help students improve their academic skills including critical thinking, ability to question, effective writing, note taking and proper citation. By the end of the course, students will know the main theories and methods of European politics, be able to differentiate between them and will have improved their reading and writing skills.

Required Readings

The main text for this course is:


It’s available for purchase both in hard and electronic copy formats at McGill Bookstore. In addition, there are other mandatory readings that you will need to read each week. They are accessible online through the library website. Additional readings for this course will be provided to you on MyCourses. You will have access to McCourses through Minerva, which is McGill’s central online information system that you will have access to at McGill once you are registered. Readings consist of selected chapters from books and/or links to articles will be uploaded on MyCourses as well as other course related materials such as handouts, paper and citation guidelines. I will also use MyCourses to post announcements and carry out communication with the class.
Lectures: This class will be composed of lectures. During lectures, I will go over the weekly readings, synthesize the information in it, will build on them and go beyond them. Thus, your attendance to lectures is quite crucial to understand the theoretical debates, concepts as well as current political events that take place in the context of European politics.

Course Website: I will be using MyCourses to carry out communication with the class, post class readings, announcements and guidelines for the assignments. You can log into MyCourses by using your net name and password. MyCourses will also serve as a drop box for your term paper assignments. Please note that for any reason, if you are unable to upload your assignment on MyCourses, it is your responsibility to email your assignment to your TA before the deadline.

Weekly Conferences: There will be weekly conferences held by your section TA. Conferences will take place at different times and dates to accommodate different student schedules. Conferences will begin on the 3rd week of classes. You will sign up for conferences on Minerva. The conferences will replace the Friday lectures starting the week of January 21st. We will continue to have our lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays as scheduled. Conferences will be composed of a small group of students around 20-25 students per conference. The purpose of the conferences is to provide the students with an opportunity to discuss the course material, current news in European politics as well as events, engage in small group discussions with peers and ask questions. Conferences participation is mandatory and will improve your understanding of the course material and contribute to your overall performance in this course.

Expectations

• Come to Class Prepared: This requires having completed the assigned readings before the class starts each week. This is very important for you to keep up with the readings, build on what you learn by reading, during lectures; reduce the amount of work your need to complete for mid-term and final exams, help you develop confidence about theoretical debates as well as enable you secure higher marks. In order to do well in this class, you are expected to dedicate at least 4-5 hours of your time per week to study and note taking. If you have a hard time understanding some of the topics and concepts, please come see me during my office hours or email me or your TA with your specific questions ahead of time, not the night before the mid-term. If you don’t understand a topic, ask me during the lecture, I will be happy to go over the material and elaborate more.

• Listen Carefully, Take Notes and Participate in Class Discussions: If you do your readings in a timely manner, listen the lectures carefully and take notes, it becomes easy for you to grasp the information and make it your knowledge. It’s a must for you to be able to understand the theoretical debates, meaningfully engage in class discussions with your professors as well as with your peers. It also saves you a lot of time before the exams. If you don’t listen, take notes or read, imagine the amount of work you will need to do to get a passing grade if that’s what you are aiming for. It’s overwhelming to think, isn’t it? So, I highly recommend that you do your work properly and aim for doing well in this class.

• Respect Deadlines: If you miss a deadline for any component of this class, you won’t be given a make-up or extra time to write the assignment unless you present a valid medical note.
• **Late Assignment Policy:** Under normal conditions no assignments that are handed in late without a valid medical note will be accepted. However, if you have a sudden, unexpected and extraordinary circumstance that prevents you from submitting your assignment on time, please inform your TA immediately via email. We will then try our best to find a solution for you provided that you present some evidence as to what happened. Please note that computer malfunctions and loss of data are not acceptable excuses. You need to save your work properly on your computer, save it on a usb key and email it to yourself before printing.

• **Medical Note Policy:** If you miss a deadline and obtain a medical note, you have to inform your TA and myself immediately and bring the note to me within a week of the missed deadline. Please note that medical notes are subject to review by the department. A valid medical note should include all of the following:

  ✓ Cover the missed deadlines
  ✓ Should be printed on the official head letter of the hospital or clinic
  ✓ Should have the official stamp of the hospital or clinic and necessary signatures
  ✓ Proof of entry into the computer system of the hospital or clinic, which could be a separate attachment. In that case, you should present it with your medical note.
  ✓ Have the official stamp and signature as well as the contact information of the doctor who writes it

If your medical note fails to meet the above-mentioned criteria, or if you do not bring the medical note within a week of the missed deadline, please note that it will not be accepted.

• **Re-Evaluation Requests:** If you think you need a re-evaluation for any quiz, exam and/or assignment, you need to get in touch with your section TA. All re-evaluation requests must be forwarded to the TAs first via email. The email should include a paragraph that strongly justifies the request. You need to specifically pinpoint which part(s) of the quiz, exam and/or assignment needs a re-evaluation and why. After the first evaluation, if you think you need a second re-evaluation, you need to inform your TA, who will then forward your request to me. You need to state in an email the reasons for asking for a second evaluation and justify your reasoning. However, please note that your grade might increase, decrease or might stay the same. Thus, you need to have a strong justification as to why you think your quiz, exam or assignment needs a second re-evaluation. You must submit these requests to your TAs **within a week** after the grades are released.

• **Email Communication:** You need to get in touch with your TA first for any questions you might have about this class. They are the primary sources of information for you. You can always email the head TA or myself with your specific questions if you need more information or are not clear about the answer you receive from your TA. You can always ask questions during class or drop by my office hours. I reserve the right to not respond to emails that I find not relevant to the course or any of its components or that I find inappropriate. Please allow 24 to 48 hours to receive a response. Please note that we may not check our emails on the weekends as regularly as we do during the weekdays. Thus, for the weekends, allow at least 48 hours to receive a response.
• Classroom Conduct:

✓ You are expected to arrive on time. Lateness is disruptive; please don’t be late to the class.
✓ Do not use electronic equipment including cell phones and computers of any kind, no texting during class. All electronic equipment should be turned off. Take notes by hand, rather than copying from screen and pasting onto your computer. Note taking by hand will improve your ability to paraphrase others’ ideas, which is going to help you with your writing assignment. It will also help you focus, which is a skill that you need to develop for this class and for your other classes.
✓ Do not engage with other activities during class including but not limited to; reading books, newspapers, talking to one another.
✓ Respect your peers and professors. Disrespectful behavior of any kind won’t be tolerated and will be forwarded to the related University authorities.

• Academic Honesty: Students are expected to adhere to the principles of academic honesty. It is mandatory that you never engage with any activity or type of behavior that might be associated with academic dishonesty. These include but not limited to plagiarism, cheating on quizzes of exams, falsifying academic records, lying, etc. Ignorance of the law is not accepted as an excuse. If caught, you will be referred to the related University authorities.

• Citing Properly: At all costs, AVOID PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work-whether published or not-as your own without using proper acknowledgement of the source. It also includes paraphrasing others’ works without providing reference to the source. Therefore, in order to avoid plagiarism, you have to give reference to the source whether you directly quote their words or paraphrase their ideas. For proper citation guidelines and to avoid plagiarism, please visit: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html Please click on “citation quick guide” for in-text citation and bibliography styles. A detailed review on how to avoid plagiarism and cite properly will be made during class. If you are in doubt about how to cite a source, do not hesitate to ask! Please note that there is no tolerance for plagiarism. If you are caught while having engaged in plagiarism, either by mistake or on purpose, you will be referred to the related University authorities and the punishments will vary depending on the severity of action. Please read the statement below carefully.

Academic Integrity:

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).
(Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

« L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/). »
Language of Submission:

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

Note: In courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives, the assessments shall be in the language of the course.

Additional Statements:

“Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the “Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.”

“In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.”

Accommodations:

a. Students with Special Needs: It is mandatory for students with special needs/disabilities to register with the “Office for Students with Disabilities” at McGill and follow its procedures in order to obtain assistance. If you have such a special circumstance, you have to email your section’s TA and the head TA immediately at the beginning of the semester and inform them.
More information can be found at: https://mcgill.ca/osd/
The office is located at: 1010 Sherbrooke Ouest, Suite 410 Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2R7 Office Phone: 514 398 60 09

b. Religious Accommodation: If you are in need of accommodation for religious dates and holidays, please email your section TA and the head TA at the beginning of the semester and inform them. We will then make the necessary arrangements to accommodate your needs.

c. Accommodation for Other Reasons: If you need accommodation for any other reason please come and talk to me during my office hours.

I reserve the right to make changes to the course outline, the assessment and the assigned readings as needed throughout the semester.
Other Student Resources:

McGill Library: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/
Office for Sexual Violence, Response, Support and Education: https://mcgill.ca/osvrse/about-sexual-violence
Sexual Assault Center of the McGill Students’ Society: http://www.sacomss.org/wp/
Office of the Dean of Students: https://mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/staff/helpingstudents
Peer Support Centre McGill: https://psc.ssmu.ca
McGill Writing Centre: https://mcgill.ca/mwc/
McGill Students’ Nightline: http://nightline.ssmu.ca
Skillsets: https://mcgill.ca/skillsets/
More links to different student resources can be found at: https://mcgill.ca/students/directory

Assessment

- **POP QUIZ (%5):** There will be 1 UNANNOUNCED QUIZ sometime before the mid-term. This quiz will test whether or not you have done the assigned readings and your ability to analyze and compare. It will also prepare you for the upcoming mid-term exam. The quiz will be graded out of 5 points and will cover 5% of your total grade.

- **IN CLASS MID-TERM: PART 1 ON FEBRUARY 4TH PART 2 FEBRUARY 6TH (25%):** The mid-term exam will be in class and closed book. The exam will consist of two parts. In the first part that will be held on Monday, February 4th, you will answer short answer questions. The second part of the exam will be held on Wednesday February 6th. In this part, you will answer an essay question. There will be two questions to choose from. The short answer section will be graded out of 15 and will cover 15% of your total grade. While the essay section will be graded out of 10 and will cover 10% of your total grade. In total, the exam will cover 25% of your total grade.

- **TERM PAPER DUE ON MARCH 11TH (20%):** There will be a 1200 word writing assignment. In this assignment, you will be expected to answer a question by utilizing different sources including journal articles, books and edited volumes. The assignment questions will be uploaded on MyCourses after the mid-term exam. You will have ample time to do research and write this paper. You will be given different questions to choose from. Detailed guidelines on how to write a paper and how to cite will also be uploaded on MyCourses. The writing assignment will be due on Monday, March 11th at 12pm on MyCourses. You have to report a word count and can only exceed the limit by 50 words. Failure to report the word count and/or meet the target will result in points being deducted. The term paper will be graded out of 20 points and will cover 20% of your total grade.

- **CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (10%):** This class will also consist of conferences, which you will be expected to attend. They will start on the week of January 21st. You will sign up for conferences on Minerva. Once conferences start, our Friday classes will be cancelled for the rest of the semester and be
replaced by conferences. We will continue to follow our normal schedule on Mondays and Wednesdays. The attendance in conferences is mandatory. The TAs will take attendance every week. You are not only expected to attend conferences but also actively participate in it. Part of your grade in conferences will depend on your regular attendance while the other part will depend on your active participation in conference discussions and activities. In total, conference attendance and participation will cover 10% of your total grade.

- **FINAL EXAM (40%)**: At the end of the semester, there will be a three hour long final exam. It will take place during the final exam period between April 15-30th, 2019. The university will announce the formal date and place later in the semester. The formal will be similar to the mid-term exam. The final exam will consist of two parts. The first part will include short answer questions. While the second part will consist of essay questions. You will be expected to answer two essay questions. There will be more than two questions to choose from. The first part of the exam will be graded out of 20 points and will cover 20% of your final grade. The second part of the final exam will be graded out of 20 points and will cover 20% of your final grade. In total, the final exam will cover 40% of your total grade. It will be cumulative and will cover topics from the beginning until the end of the semester. However, more weight will be given to topics that will be covered after the mid-term exam.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Summary</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam:</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper:</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Participation:</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>55-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F(Fail)</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART I: COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Week 1: Introduction, Methods and The Modern State

January 7th: Overview and Introduction

January 9th: The Comparative Method: Most Similar System Design vs Most Different System Design

- Textbook, Chapter 1&2

January 11th: Main Characteristics and the Functions of The Modern State

- Textbook, Chapter 3, pp. 48-58.

*Food for Thought:* Why do we use comparative method? What are the advantages and disadvantages of employing it as a method of inquiry? What are the main characteristics of Modern State?

PART II: THE STATE, DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY AND REGIME TYPES

Week 2: The Modern State

January 14th: Causes and Effects: Why Do States Emerge?

- Textbook, Chapter 3, pp.58-70.

January 16th: State Structures in Western Europe Part 1

January 18th: State Structures in Western Europe Part 2


*Food for Thought:* What are the main characteristics and functions of different states found in Western Europe? How do states emerge?

Week 3: Political Economy and Development

January 21st: State-Led vs Market-Led Development

- Textbook, Chapter 4, pp.77-87, then read;
- Textbook, Chapter 5, pp.105-109

January 23rd: Welfare State Regimes in Europe


*Food for Thought:* What is the role of institutions in promoting economic development? What are the main characteristics of different welfare regimes found in Europe?

Week 4: Democracy and Democratization Part 1

January 28th: What is Democracy? Substantive vs Procedural Definitions

- Textbook, Chapter 6, pp.122-127.

**January 30th:** Types of Democracy and Democratic Consolidation

• Textbook, Chapter 6, pp. 128-132.

*Food for Thought:* What are the main differences between representative and direct democracy? What are the main conditions for democratic consolidation?

**Week 5: MID-TERM EXAM**

**February 4th:** Mid Term Part 1-Short Answer Questions

**February 6th:** Mid-Term Part 2-Essay Question

• Paper Topics Will Be Uploaded on MyCourses

**Week 6: Democracy and Democratization Part 2**

**February 11th:** Causes and Consequences of Democratization

• Textbook, Chapter 6, pp. 133-145.

**February 13th:** Causes and Consequences of Democratisation


*Food for Thought: What are the main theories of democratisation?*

**Week 7: Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Breakdown**

**February 18th:** Authoritarianism and Types of Authoritarian Regimes

• Textbook, Chapter 7, pp.149-161.

**February 20th:** Causes and Effects: Why Authoritarian Regimes Persist?

• Textbook, Chapter 7, pp.161-169.

*Food for Thought: What do different theories say about the persistence authoritarian regimes in Europe?*

**Week 8: Revolutions and Contention**

**February 25th:** Forms of Resistance

• Textbook, Chapter 12, pp.288-294.
• Textbook, Part VI, French Revolution, pp. 439.

**February 27th:** Causes and Effects: Why do Revolutions Happen?

• Textbook, Chapter 12, pp. 294-301.
*Food for Thought: Why do revolutions occur? What do different theories say about it?

Week 9: March 4th-8th Winter Break

PART III: INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT

Week 10: Constitutional Design

March 11th: Federal vs Unitary States
   - Textbook, Chapter 8, pp.177-187

*TERM PAPERS ARE DUE BY 12PM ON MYCOURSES

March 13th: What are the Effects of Federal and Unitary Constitutions?

*Food for Thought: What are the main differences between federal and unitary states in Europe?

Week 11: Political Representation

March 18th: Electoral Systems
   - Textbook, Chapter 9, pp. 208-214.

March 20th: Executive-Legislative Relations and Representation
   - Textbook, Chapter 9, pp. 218-225.
*Food for Thought:* What is the link between executive systems and representation? Which type of electoral systems favors representation of minority groups?

**Week 12: Executives**

**March 25th:** Presidential, Parliamentary and Hybrid Regimes
- Textbook, Chapter 10, pp.231-243.

**March 27th:** Executive Style and Political Stability
- Textbook, Chapter 10, pp. 243-250.

*Food for Thought:* What are the main differences between parliamentary and hybrid systems of governments?

**Week 13: Political Parties and Party Systems**

**April 1st:** Party Types

**April 3rd:** Party Systems and Representation
- Textbook Chapter 11, pp.270-277.

*Food for Thought:* What factors shape party systems?

**Week 14: Populism**

**April 8th:** Populism in Contemporary Europe

*Food for Thought: What does rising populism in contemporary Europe say about the future of democracy?

April 10th: Overview for the Final Exam

End of Semester, Have a Nice Break 😊