

Rhodes College
INTS 281: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE (12:30-1:45)
Instructor: Dr. Nikos Zahariadis

Fall 2016

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Tel.: 843-3315
Office Hours: T Th 11:15-12:15; 2-3:00
and by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives: The course surveys the politics and policies of several major European countries and the European Union.

By the end of the course students should:

- Learn about European countries and their politics. This will be done by comparing the historical experiences, political institutions and policies of Britain, France, Sweden, Germany, Russia, and the European Union.
- Clarify values. Anytime one learns about other countries one inevitably calls into question his/her own assumptions, expectations and preferences.
- Learn about U.S. politics. By continually using the U.S. as a frame of reference students will learn more and appreciate politics in the US as well.

This is not a course that requires you to supply "correct answers" in classroom discussions. Rather, a basic principle of the course is that learning must be a challenge and that you must pull together material on your own to find answers. Hence lectures and discussions are designed to help you think through issues raised in class and assist you in drawing your own conclusions.

Sexual Misconduct Disclosure: I will do my best to help any student who comes to me with non-course-related concerns. Please keep in mind, however, that all faculty members are mandated to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that comes to their attention. That means that I cannot keep information about sexual misconduct confidential from the college if you share that information with me, but the college has specific confidentiality and anti-retaliation protections in place.

The Rhodes Counseling Center or the Student Health Services Staff can advise you confidentially. Also, the Title IX Coordinator can help you access other resources on campus and in the local community. The student policy is in the Student Handbook and it can be found on the web site at <http://handbook.rhodes.edu/title-ix>.

Honor Code: All papers and exams should be your own work. Students are expected to abide by the Honor Code, and I will be diligent about reporting all violations to the Honor Council.

Accommodations: Students with a documented disability in need of special accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services and also see the instructor to discuss your situation.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices are allowed only for legitimate classroom purposes (reading electronic texts, taking notes, etc.); do not use a personal device for any purpose unrelated to the class. All devices should

be silenced. Cell phones should be put away unless you are asked to use them for a class activity; otherwise, they should be powered down. If there is a serious need to leave your cell phone on, such as a family emergency, please put it on vibrate mode and let the professor know. Violations of this policy will affect the student's final grade.

Assignments and Tests: There will be two examinations. 1) a mid-term on Oct. 11; and 2) the final on Dec. 14 at 1-2:15 pm

You are asked to complete one writing assignment. You need to select one European country, which should NOT be among the countries formally examined in class. Select an aspect of politics, say, industrial policy, the rise of environmentalist parties, privatization, labor policy, etc, and specify the factors that explain the phenomenon. The paper should be 8-10 typed, double-spaced pages in length in addition to a bibliography that should contain at least 4 books or annual reports and 4 newspaper/journal entries. The grade you will receive in the paper will be based on content (75 percent) and grammar (25 percent). The paper is due in class on Nov. 29.

A note on the papers. There are two unforgivable sins: cheating and plagiarism. In either case, the individual in question will be dealt with according to school bylaws. To avoid plagiarism, do not paraphrase or cite passages from published works or ideas of people other than yourself without giving full credit to them. For appropriate style consult the recommended manual. When quoting verbatim, use quotation marks and cite the exact page number. If in doubt whether to cite, consult the manual or simply cite!

There will also be a geography quiz about the countries and capitals of Europe on September 27 and a group oral presentation. More information will be provided by your instructor in class.

Finally, you are asked to participate in class discussions and to keep up with all of your readings. I aim to provide an actively inclusive environment that promotes innovative thinking, appreciation of diversity of opinion, and civility of discourse. In our discussions it is inevitable that our views and perceptions will differ. I expect you to responsibly challenge anyone's assumptions and statements that differ from your own. Be prepared, however, to substantiate what you say with sound arguments. In so far as required readings go, it is your responsibility to be thoroughly familiar with them **before** they are discussed in class. Responsibility of course does not imply memorization of facts. You will do much better if you can understand the broad themes and spirit of the readings and then be able to use them in discussion. Finally, you should know that my lectures will supplement rather than substitute for material in the text. So it is your responsibility to be familiar and keep up with both. On occasion I will assign readings about current events. Please be prepared to discuss those as well.

Evaluation: You will be given a certain number of points for each assignment. Their sum at the end of the term will constitute your final grade. Hence:

Exam 1	80 points		A = 279+ points
		of which:	A- = 270-278 "
Exam 2	80 "		B+ = 261-269
			B = 249-260 "
Res. Paper	80 "		B- = 240-248
			C+ = 231-239 "
Participation	20 "		C = 219-230
			C- = 210-218 "

Geography Quiz	10	"	D+ = 201-209 "
			D = 189-200 "
Oral presentation	30	"	D- = 180-188
			F = 179- "

TOTAL 300 points

Required Texts:

M. D. Hancock et al. (H), *Politics in Europe*, 6th ed. CQ Press, 2015.

Mathew Carr (C), *Fortress Europe*, The New Press, 2016.

George Friedman (F), *Flashpoints*, Anchor Books, 2016.

A Tentative Reading and Discussion Schedule

Week of Aug. 30

The comparative method
Lecture; H Introduction

Week of Sep. 6 – *I will be absent this week so please read the first 7 chapters of F, turn in a 1.5 page synopsis, and be prepared to discuss it in class the following week.*

What is Europe?
Lecture; F Part I

Week of Sep. 13

Britain (Institutions)
H Chs. 1.1-1.3

Week of Sep. 20

Britain (Parties and Elections)
H Ch. 1.4; F Part II

Week of Sep. 27

Britain (Policy)
Lecture; H Ch. 1.5
Geography Quiz: Sep. 27

Week of Oct. 4

Germany (Parties and Elections)
H Chs. 3.1-3.2; F Part III

Week of Oct. 11

Germany (Institutions and Policy)
H Chs. 3.3-3.5
Exam 1: Oct. 11

Week of Oct. 18

France (History and Parties)

H Ch. 2.1; F Afterword

Week of Oct. 25

France (Elections)

H Chs. 2.2-2.3

Week of Nov. 1

France (Policy)

H Chs. 2.4-2.5

Oral presentations

Week of Nov. 8

Sweden (Parties and Elections)

H Chs. 5.1-5.3;

Oral presentations

Week of Nov. 15

Sweden (Policy)

H Chs. 5.4-5.5; C Part I

Oral presentations

Week of Nov. 29

EU: Origins and Institutions

H Chs. 8.1-8.5; C Part II

Paper due Nov. 29

Week of Dec. 6

Russia and the Future of Europe

H Chs. 6.1-6.5; C Epilogue-Afterword

Final Exam Dec. 14

I am looking forward to working with you this term. Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions. Good luck!