

European Politics: Past Present and Future

This class is designed as an in depth introduction to European Politics. This includes both the countries of Western Europe and the European Union and those countries currently referred to as being part of East- Central Europe. This includes the Visograd countries (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia) and the southern countries of Albania, Bulgaria, and Romania, but not the Balkans (ex-Yugoslavia), Baltic countries (Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia) or the newly independent countries that were successor states from the Soviet Union (Ukraine etc.).

The goal of this course is to achieve a greater understanding of the challenges facing Europe as it attempts to unite east and west in the European Union over the next decade. We will also try to understand the historical roots for the current push toward unification. To achieve these goals we will study the history, process of democratization and institutional political structures of these regions, focusing less on specific country cases and more on general differences between the two regions.

In the first section of the class we will study the history of both regions with a special focus on the processes of democratization and nation building that occurred. This will also include some discussion of the similarities between Eastern and Western Europe after WWI and the very divergent paths the two regions took after WWII. In the second section of the class we will focus on the development of civil society, the structure of social cleavages with the two regions and try and understand both the origins of these cleavages, their importance and their impact on politics more generally. In the final section of the class we will look at the current political structures of the two regions and compare their development with an eye towards the potential for a successful uniting of the two regions within the European Union in the near future.

Students will be required to complete all readings on time and be ready to discuss readings in class EVERY DAY! Participation in class will be worth **40%** of the total grade. In-class participation will include weekly country presentations *and* weekly written 1-2 page handouts for classmates (to be discussed and explained in class). In addition there will be three in-class short answer/essay exams worth 20% of total grade each.

The following texts are all REQUIRED. In addition there will be a few articles to read which will be made available in the political science office or through a copy center (we will discuss in class)

- ?? Jack Hayward and Edward Page (eds.) Governing the New Europe. Duke University Press, 1995.
- ?? Geoffrey Roberts and Patricia Hogwood. European Politics Today. Manchester University Press, 1997.
- ?? Keith Crawford. East Central European Politics Today. Manchester University Press, 1996.

Syllabus

Week 1	The Political Landscape-History R&H chap 1, Crawford Chap 1, H&P chap 1	
Week 2	After the Cold War H&P chap 2, Crawford Chap 3	
Week 3	The Political Process R&H chap 2, H&P chap 3, Crawford chap 2	
Week 4	Political Conflict R&H chap 3, Crawford Chap 7	
Week 5	Transitions to Democracy Crawford chap 4-5	Paper 1 Due
Week 6	Nationalism Crawford chap 6, additional reading TO BE ASSIGNED	
Week 7	Social Cleavages Crawford chap 8, H&P chap 5, additional reading TO BE ASSIGNED	
Week 8	Linkage I: Political Parties R&H chap 5, Crawford chap 11,	
Week 9	Linkage II: Interest Groups R&H chap 6, H&P chap 8	
Week 10	Electoral Systems and Elections H&P chap 6, Crawford chap 9-10, R&H chap 4	Paper 2 Due
Week 11	Legislatures and Parliaments H&P chap 7, Crawford chap 12, R&H chap 8	
Week 12	The Executives Crawford chap 13, R&H chap 7, H&P chap 9	
Week 13	Judges, Courts and Constitutions R&H chap 9, H&P chap 10, additional reading TO BE ASSIGNED	
Week 14	Federalism and Regionalism R&H chap 10-11, additional reading TO BE ASSIGNED	
Week 15	Concluding Thoughts Crawford chap 14, R&H chap 12, H&P chap 14	Paper 3 Due