



University of the Incarnate Word
UIW-Heidelberg

GOVT 3350 – EUROPEAN POLITICS

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Logistics

UIW- Heidelberg Study Center

Physical Address:

Heidelberg, Germany - Bergstrasse 106, 69121

Instructor: TBD

Term: Summer I

II. Course Description

The dawn of the modern era has been dominated predominantly by developments centered on the European continent and its conflicting interests at home and abroad. However, as far as a general survey of the entire state-systems of Europe are concerned, it has never been easy in general to label any different groups of states according to their individual merits. For a continent betraying so much diversity in terms of histories, cultures, developmental peculiarities as well as traditional allegiances, any process of classification would need to consider a significant volume of literature and factors cutting across the width and breadth of all the social sciences.

This course will seek to investigate into the concept of Europeanness as a form of shared cultural identity and the underlying realities of perceptions and self-perceptions that may be accounted to validate our understandings of that notion.

Much emphasis will be placed on issues of the 20th Century that contributed essentially to the remodeling of the Europe found currently in the 21st Century. As in the case of any course or undertaking of this kind, the main focus of the individual class agenda will be driven to highlight the comparative and transitional factors of European politics, institutional developments, processes of government and their impact on general international and economic relations in conjunction with their overall implications for the contemporary global social fabric at large.



III. Course Objectives

After regular participation in this course and the successful completion of assignments and self-assessment questions constructed in conformity with the syllabus specifications, students should be able to comprehend, define and analyze – among other things:

- (a) the historical affinities across territorial borders, between cultures and the intrinsic beliefs of belonging existing in Europe;
- (b) place-related, symbolic and other values-bound identities mapping out the shared histories of the continent;
- (c) origins of transformational trends in Europe of the 20th Century;
- d) efforts to reinvent Europe after two catastrophic World Wars;
- (e) key influential points of US Foreign Policy towards Europe;
- (f) the parameters of policy options and limitations of action programs to promote pan-European solidarity and welfare;
- (g) Europe's socio-political and economic advantages, deep-seated cooperative instincts, and obligations toward the rest of the world.

By the end of the course, successful students will be expected to have participated fully and consistently in all class sessions. The lecture topics (*listed below within the confines of the projected class agenda*) are not intended to reflect the organizational structure(s) of the accompanying textbook; neither will they coincide necessarily with any preparatory readings done in advance by students.

The ability to digest and appreciate the contents of the course literature is, in principle, the student's own responsibility. The interaction between the lectures and the literature is aimed primarily to provide students with instruction in the skills to be developed, namely: private reading for supplementary information, thinking, research, and academic analysis. Students are advised to seek to generate class discussions by articulating themselves freely on any questions of relevance to the subject.

IV. Course Texts/Supplies/Materials

Kesselman, M. and Kieger, J. (2009). *European Politics in Transition*. 6th Ed. Boston, New York. Houghton Mifflin Co.



V. The following matrix reflects the general guideline of topics, readings, and/or assignments for each session. **The instructor reserves the right to modify weekly activities, assignments, projects, and/or assessments required for this class. Adjustments and/or changes will be stated before and/or during class. If the student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and/or classmates about any adjustments and/or updates.**

Date	Topic	Reading	Class Activity
May/June			
	Lecture/Discussion: General Introduction, and Definition of Theme; Brief Introduction to Europe of the 21st Century	Part 1	Group Work, Excursion
	Lecture/Discussion: US European Policy in the Inter-War Years; US and Europe after World War II; Post-War Reconstruction in Europe	Part 2	Group Work, Excursion
	Lecture/Discussion: Desire for Democracy and Peace; Survey of the Political History of the EU; The EU and the Mutual Management of European Affairs	Part 3	Group Work, Excursion - Mid-term Exam
	Lecture/Discussion: The European Model: An Attractive Appeal; Institutions of the European Union; Institutional Forms of Governance in Selected Countries	Part 4 & 5	Group Work, Excursion
	Lecture/Discussion: Analysis of some Past Challenges; and final exam.	Part 5	Group Work, Excursion - Research Project Due - Final Exam

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to adjust and/or change the above schedule at any time during the semester. Adjustments and/or changes will be stated before and/or during class. If the student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and/or classmates about any adjustments and/or updates.



VI. Grading Activities, Criteria and Guidelines

This class will include a variety of instructional methods and learning activities intended to engage the student in the learning process. This may include, but not be limited to: lecture, written assignments, group discussion and problem solving exercises, media presentation, article and case analysis, student-led discussion, student presentation, reflection on what was learned and documentation of planned application. Some assignments will be individual while some may be group or team assignments. Class will be participative, and each student must be prepared for each class.

VII. Grades

The course consists of the following assessments. The instructor reserves the right to adjust and/or change the course assessments before and/or during the class.

Description	Percentage
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Project	15%
Final Exam	50%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

VIII. Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active classroom participation are required of each student. Tests will cover for all course material provided through lectures and presentations, readings, discussions, cases, and videos during class. **Absences and/or a lack of participation in discussions will impact negatively on the final grade.** Each student is responsible for all material covered and/or assigned and any announcements made in any class session, whether student is present or not. Group activities require all students to participate and contribute to group discussions and projects.

Students are expected to come to class on time and to have read assigned material before class. There may be an occasional pop quiz to verify whether students have read the assignments before class. **All work must be turned in on time.** Late work may be accepted but points will be taken off if work is not turned in to instructor when it is due. At all times, in class and group discussions, students are expected to respect contributions, questions, and opinions of other people. Demeaning others in any way is not acceptable.

IX. Academic Integrity Policy

Examples of scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on assignments or tests, taking, unauthorized reuse of work, etc. If it is determined that a student has engaged in scholastic dishonesty, the faculty shall adhere to the [Academic Integrity Policy stated in the UIW Catalog](#).



X. Grading Scale

The University of the Incarnate Word operates on a semester basis using a 4-point grading scale as follows. Registrar Online Resource: <https://my.uiw.edu/registrar/academics/grading-scale.html>.

Grade	Descriptive Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points
A	Excellent Scholarship	93-100	4.00
A-	Excellent Scholarship	90-92	3.70
B+	Good Scholarship	87-89	3.30
B	Good Scholarship	83-86	3.00
B-	Good Scholarship	80-82	2.70
C+	Satisfactory Scholarship	77-79	2.30
C	Satisfactory Scholarship	70-76	2.00
D+	Poor Scholarship	67-69	1.30
D	Poor Scholarship	63-66	1.00
D-	Poor Scholarship	60-62	0.70
F	Failure	Less than 60	0.00
IP	Incomplete work		None assigned; converts to an F after expiration date or deadline of six months
N	Grade not reported by faculty		None assigned
NG	No grade required		None assigned; used for thesis and dissertation courses
P	Satisfactory Scholarship	70-100	None assigned
S	Satisfactory Scholarship	70-100	None assigned
W	Withdrawn from the University		None assigned

XI. Course Add/Drop Procedure

Students are responsible for communicating and updating any potential changes, including dropping a course, to the UIW Heidelberg Academic Director **and** their Academic advisor at UIW before implementing any changes.

Dropping or changing a course may delay a student's intended graduation date due to classes not adhering to their degree plan.

The Study Abroad Advisor, UIW European Liaison and/or any other administrative personnel are **not** responsible for the student's academic planning.



SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE INFORMATION

Research Project (*Reflection Paper*):

Students are expected to be prepared to do web and library research and to submit a 10-page case study reflective of the current affairs of any European country of interest to themselves, and to relate the basis of their individual projects to the following:

- 1) governance forms and policy orientations since 1945;
- 2) popular responses to governance forms and social issues;
- 3) bilateral relationships with any extra-European state entities;
- 4) role of personalities and contrasting leadership approaches;
- 5) issues related to challenges and opportunities of living in Europe.

The submission of the research project will be due in the last week of the semester.

Methodology

The scope of the course will presuppose a general background knowledge of world affairs. Less familiar terms will be defined as they are introduced. The dominant feature will be presented as an interdisciplinary focus on the European states-system, global issues and the post-War history of Europe, international organization and institutions.

The course will also proceed on certain theoretical assumptions of interest peculiar to the general discipline of political science. As an essential aid to the understanding of the standard principles and common propositions governing the subject, the accompanying textbook will serve a very useful purpose as sources of complementary information.