

# SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2020

Political Science 4303  
Comparative Politics and Government  
Lawrence Hall 303  
9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.  
Tuesday/Thursday

Instructor: Jim Case  
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Office Hours: 2-3:00 p.m. M-Th  
and by appointment  
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**Required texts:** There is no required text for this course.

## Course description:

Comparative Politics and Government is the study of the politics and governments of nations other than the United States. Course may be repeated for credit when topic varies. The focus of study this semester will be Europe and the European Union.

## Student learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of selected concepts in comparative politics;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the variations in political institutions among European nations;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the variations in governmental policy among European nations;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the institutions of the European Union;
- Demonstrate competency in conducting independent research.

## Program learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication;
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work and oral communication;
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

## Marketable Skills:

- Students can effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually, and in writing;
- Students can organize and execute verbal and written presentations of complex social issues.
- Students can distinguish between credible/relevant information and information lacking credibility/relevance to a problem in question.
  - Students can identify critical and common institutions of political decision-making and policy-making across different nation-state settings

- Students engage with social and political problems and use critical thinking to develop logical solutions

**Teacher certification requirements.**

Political Science 4303 addresses the following competencies for teacher certification:

- Texas Domain III, Competency 19: The teacher understands and applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize, and implement learning and assess learning;
- Texas Domain III, Competency 23: The teacher understands and applies knowledge of concepts of government, democracy, and citizenship, including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.

**Course evaluation.**

- Each week the student will be assigned readings related to European politics. A brief assignment will be given each week asking the student to research and bring to class information relevant to the topic of the week. (75% of grade);
- There will be a fifteen page research paper covering a selected country in Europe (25% of grade);

**Attendance.**

The class is structured accordingly: The class meets face-to-face each Tuesday. On Thursdays, students will engage in independent research to be presented as response essay at the following Tuesday session.

**Disabilities Accommodation.**

It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact Accessibilities Services Coordinator, in Ferguson 112 or at (432) 837-8203.

Calendar for Course			
Date	Topic of the day	Assignment	Comments
January 14 In Class	Course overview		We will design the course
January 16 In Class	Overview of Europe and comparative concepts		The student is asked to select a European country to research and to be the focus of a research paper. The topic is due to the Professor on Tuesday, February 4.
January 21 In Class	Overview of Europe and comparative concepts		

<b>The European Union</b>			
January 23 Research	The European Union	8.1 The Context of the European Union 8.2 Where is the Power	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 8
January 28 In Class	The European Union	Be prepared to discuss findings from 8.1 and 8.2	Focus Questions: What are factors that work against EU cohesion? What the factors that support EU cohesion?
January 30 Research	The European Union	8.3 Who has the Power 8.4 How is the Power Used 8.5 What is the Future of European Union Politics	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 8
February 4 In Class	The European Union	Be prepared to discuss findings from 8.3, 8.4, and 8.5	Focus Questions: Who is the current head of the European Union
			Country of Research due to Professor
<b>National Studies</b>			
February 6 Research	The United Kingdom	1.1 The Context of British Politics 1.2 Where is the Power?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 1
February 11 In Class	The United Kingdom	Be prepared to discuss findings from 1.1 and 1.2	Focus Questions: Who is the current head of state and who is the current head of government in the U. K.? Bring biographical information on each.
February 13 Research	The United Kingdom	1.3 Who has the Power? 1.4 How is Power Used? 1.5 What is the future of British Politics?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 1
February 18 In Class	The United Kingdom	Be prepared to discuss findings from 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5.	Locate a news article discussing a major problem being faced by the U. K.
February 20 Research	France	2.1 The Context of French Politics 2.2 Where is the Power	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 2
February 25 In Class	France	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 2.1 and 2.2	Focus Questions: Who is the current head of state and who is the current head of government in France. Bring biographical information on each.

February 27 Research	France	2.3 Who has the Power? 2.4 How Is Power Used? 2.5 What is the Future of French Politics	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 2
March 3 In Class	France	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5.	Locate a news article discussing a major problem being faced by France.
March 5 Research	Germany	3.1 The Context of German Politics 3.2 Where is the Power?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 3
March 10		Spring Break	
March 12		Spring Break	
March 17 In Class	Germany	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 3.1 and 3.2.	Focus Question: Who is the current head of state and who is the current head of government in Germany. Bring biographical information on each.
March 19 Research	Germany	3.3 Who has the Power? 3.4 How is Power Used? 3.5 What is the Future of German Politics?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 3
March 24 In Class	Germany	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5.	Locate a news article discussing a major problem being faced by Germany.
March 26 Research	Italy	4.1 The Context of Italian Politics 4.2 Where is the Power?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 4
March 31 In Class	Italy	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 4.1 and 4.2.	Focus Question: Who is the current head of state and who is the current head of government in Italy. Bring biographical information on each.
April 2 Research	Italy	4.3 Who Has the Power? 4.4 How is Power Used? 4.5 What is the Future of Italian Politics	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 4
April 7 In Class	Italy	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5.	Locate a news article discussing a major problem being faced by Italy.
April 9 Research	Russia	6.1 The Context of Russian Politics 6.2 Where is the Power?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 6

April 14 In Class	Russia	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 6.1 and 6.2	Focus Question: Who is the current head of state and who is the current head of government in Russia. Bring biographical information on each.
April 16 Research	Russia	6.3 Who Has the Power 6.4 How is the Power Used? 6.5 What is the Future of Russian Politics?	<i>Politics in Europe</i> by M. Donald Hancock, et al. Chapter 6
April 21 In Class	Russia	Be prepared to discuss the findings from 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5	Locate a news article discussing a major problem being faced by Russia.
April 23 Research	Research Paper	Work on your research paper	
April 28 In Class	European Influence Globally	Be prepared to discuss your thoughts on European global influence	
April 30	Dead Day		
May 4	Final	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Research Paper due at final exam. Student will present findings to class.
May 8	Graduation	7:00	