

Georgia Tech Lorraine
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs/Ivan Allen College

INTA 2220: Government and Politics of Western Europe

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***This course fulfills the Core Area E Social Science Requirement and the International Relations Requirement for the International Plan.**

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide a general overview of the major political systems, political cultures and societies of Western Europe. Using broad concepts in political science and a comparative analytical framework, we will explore the historical, institutional and cultural context within which current political and economic dynamics are playing out across Europe. The course will develop an in-depth focus on France, Germany and The United Kingdom as well as allow students to compare and contrast these three countries with other Western European democracies. The class will take advantage of both the place in which students are studying abroad here in France and the timing of the critically important current topics such as the on-going Brexit negotiations, the crisis in Spain over the question of Catalan independence, and the rise of populism and euroscepticism. There will be guest speakers and an optional opportunity to visit governing institutions and meet elected officials in Metz, Paris and Strasbourg. We will analyze “how democracy works” in France as contrasted with other European countries by examining their political institutions, methods of representation and political participation, and studying how citizens and leaders respond to political, social and economic challenges to the established political order, such as the pressures of globalization, immigration, terrorism and the impact of European integration. Additionally, the course will examine the evolution of the European Union with an emphasis on the extent to which the policies and institutions of this unique supranational entity shapes domestic politics across Europe and influences the role of Europe in the world. Hopefully, this course will not only teach about you about the fascinating continent of Europe, but also give you a better perspective on our own political system in the United States. To enhance the quality of classroom discussions it will be helpful to follow current events and the news related to developments in French and European politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in the EU for English speakers are the BBC and Euronews websites, *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*. For French speakers, *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro* are leading national newspapers and France Info, France Inter, France Culture and France 24 are other useful resources.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and participate actively in class. The course will involve both traditional lectures, use of

audiovisual media, interactive discussions and student presentations. Two exams will be given which will be comprised of short answer and essay questions drawn from lectures and the assigned readings. Each student will also be responsible for making a “country profile” presentation to the class on a European country that is not covered explicitly by the textbook or core lectures. Students will use the same analytical framework of the course and prepare a ten-minute PPT presentation to the class. The last two weeks of the semester will be devoted to in-class, group presentations. In lieu of a final exam, students will complete a short research paper or extended essay of 5 to 7 pages on a topic of personal interest that is connected directly to the themes of the course and subject to approval by the instructor. Further guidelines will be posted to T-Square.

Requirement	Value	Dates
Participation	10%	Regular attendance is expected and records of participation will be kept
Country Presentations	10%	Assignments to be made during the second week of the semester
Exam 1	20%	February 6 th
Exam 2	20%	March 22 nd
Group Projects	25%	April 3 rd and 5 th April 10 th and 12 th
Final Paper	15%	Outline and References due by March 8 th ; Paper due May 4 th by noon

Suggested Textbook:

Bale, T. (2013) *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction* (3rd Edition ed.). New York, NY, US: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-0230362949 (abbreviated as EP)

*Copies available in the GTL library

* The T-square site will also contain other important material for the course, including additional readings and guidelines for class assignments Regular access to email and T-Square is mandatory for this course.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Build knowledge and understanding of the political systems and governing institutions in Western Europe
- Analyze French and European political culture and institutions in comparative perspective

- Increase cultural, contextual and ethical awareness. Students will become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in Europe. Includes the ability to identify, critically analyze, and apply distinguishing traits/perspectives/formulations/ institutions in comparative or international empirical cases or issue areas.
- Develop basic analytical skills to assess the impact of European integration on domestic and international politics
- Demonstrate an understanding of the functioning of European institutions and the policy making influence of the EU on regional and global governance

Academic Honesty:

All work must be entirely your own and must be produced in accordance with the Georgia Tech Honor code. Please read the Academic Honor Code carefully (<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/honorcode.html>) and familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities under Institute regulations. Any suspected cases of cheating on the exams or any other form of academic dishonesty will be turned over immediately to the Office of Student Integrity for investigation. If you have any further queries on this topic, please visit the website of the Dean of Students: www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

For students with disabilities, please consult the GT website to be aware of the services available to you as well as GT’s policies and procedures.

<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/content/15/policies-procedures#Student%20Responsibilities>

ADAPTS contact information: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

Schedule of Classes, Topics and Reading Assignments	
WEEK 1	Introduction and overview of the course
Reading: Bale Chapter 1 (to be done by the 13 th) Europe: A Continent in the Making	

WEEK 2	Rethinking the Nation State and the Rise of Populism across Europe *Focus on France
Reading: Bale Chapter 2 and selections from <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “The Power of Populism” (Nov/Dec 2016) on T-Square	
WEEK 3	Constitutions, Governance and Policy Making *Focus on German
Reading: Bale Chapter 3 and T-Square readings on German Politics	
WEEK 4	The Nature of Parliamentary Democracy *Focus on the United Kingdom In-class Screening: <i>Yes Minister</i>
Reading: Bale Chapter 4	
WEEK 5	EXAM 1
Reading: Bale Chapter 5 (Wednesday, February 8 th) The Future of Political Parties	
WEEK 6	Elections and Voting Behavior in Europe *Focus on Portugal and Austria
Reading: Bale Chapter 6	
SPRING BREAK	
WEEK 7	The Role of the Media in European Politics *Focus on Belgium and The Netherlands
Reading: Bale Chapter 7	
WEEK 8	Political Participation and Social Movements *Focus on Greece and Spain
Reading: Bale Chapter 8	
Proposals for Final Papers Due	
WEEK 9	Politics versus Markets and the Relevance of Left-Right Ideologies in 21 st Century Europe *Focus on Sweden and Ireland
Reading: Bale Chapter 9	
WEEK 10	Multiculturalism, Migration and Minorities *Focus on Italy and Denmark
Reading: Bale Chapter 10	

EXAM 2

WEEK 11

Europe and Global Politics
*Focus on Finland and Luxembourg

Reading: Bale Chapter 11

WEEK 12

Group Projects: Exploring French and European Identity(ies)

WEEK 13

Group Projects: Comparing the French and U.S Presidential Elections

WEEK 14

Reading: Excerpt from Tony Judt's *Postwar Europe* to be discussed in class

WEEK 15

Discussion and Course Wrap-Up