

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY – CENTRAL ASIA  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Comparative European Politics  
ICP 323 / 323.1

**Fall 2013**

Monday, Thursday 12:30

**Instructor**

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**Course Description:** This course will introduce the students the political systems of West European nations in general with close focus on particular case studies. The theoretical part of the course is mainly based on concepts and models of democracies identified in Arend Lijphart's works. The course includes all elements of contemporary West European political systems such as division of powers, political parties, electoral systems, etc. The case studies of particular European nations are entitled to fully understand political institutions in Europe. This course will also address the European Integration theme as a political phenomenon common to most European states.

The course will be organized in the form of lectures and followed by seminars. Each seminar will be lead by students nominated beforehand. They are expected to moderate the discussion in the class. Students will also sign up for an oral presentation at the beginning of the course.

**Course aim:** The course aims to provide students with understanding of political processes with examples from contemporary European political

systems, decision-making environment, as well as the executive-legislative relations. By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Discuss the major approaches European political systems, including the executive-legislative relations, party and electoral systems, and role of languages.
- Discuss implications of European integration on national political systems
- Be able to articulate acquired knowledge verbally in group discussions and in a written form

**Assessment:**

Attendance and participation	- 10%
Presentation	- 20%
Mid-term assignment	- 20%
Written quizzes	- 20%
Final exam	- 30%

**Attendance and participation**

Your attendance at class lectures and seminars is important both for you and your classmates. For each missed class a student will lose 0,5% of the total grade, up to maximum 5%. For more than 10 absences a student will be given X or F. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will have their grades for attendance deducted. In force majeure circumstances (beyond your will), you have to provide reliable and verifiable evidence. Participation in seminar discussions will be graded. Students are expected to come to class well-prepared in order to contribute to class discussions.

## **Presentation**

Each student will be assigned to make a presentation on a specific topic. Presentations should aim at generating discussion, and be analytical in their content as opposed to being descriptive. Presentation topics, which will be distributed to presenters beforehand, will be formulated either as regular discussion questions or debate questions, requiring two opposing sides. Presenters will be responsible for providing 10-15 minute speech analyzing questions provided. The presentation will be assessed based on depth of research, clarity of argumentation and presentation and ability of a presenter to relate the topic to a wider environment.

## **Reading**

You are expected to do all the reading for the week before class, and come prepared to actively discuss the material. This course has a heavy work-load in terms of reading. Proper reading and preparation for the class ensures better understanding of issues discussed and helps you participate in class seminars productively.

## **Written quizzes**

Students will have to write small tests during the course based on lectures.

## **Mid term paper**

Students will be requested to prepare a midterm paper. The topics will be given in advance.

## **Final exam**

Final exam is in-class exam, which will cover the topics for the whole semester. Students will be expected to write an essay on the topics of their choice and a quiz. Students are expected to demonstrate their familiarity with the major concepts, offer a critical analysis of them and be able to relate various topics to each other. Final exam counts for 30%, and students are expected to prepare correspondingly. Assessment will be based on:

- Depth of analysis (ability to dig deeper rather than simply mentioning arguments)
- Quality of argumentation (ability to construct strong convincing arguments with proper consideration of possible counter-arguments)
- Clarity of presentation/writing style and structure

## **Grading scale:**

Each assessment item (exam, essays etc.) will be graded on 100% scale and weighed in accordance with percentage ascribed to it. Total of all assessment items makes your final grade, which will be transferred into a letter-grade in accordance with the table below.

100 - 96 = A	“excellent”	70 - 66 = C
95 - 91 = A -		65 - 61 = C -
90 - 86 = B+		60 - 56 = D+
85 - 81 = B	“good”	55 - 51 = D “poor”
80 - 76 = B -		50 - 46 = D -
75 - 71 = C+	“average”	45 - lower = F “failure”

## **Important ICP rules**

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are unfamiliar with the definition of plagiarism, please read AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at: [http://www.auca.kg/search/word/cms\\_page/83.html](http://www.auca.kg/search/word/cms_page/83.html).

Instances of plagiarism will result in an immediate F for the assignment and a possible F for the course. Second plagiarism will result in automatic F for the course. The university retains the right to impose further penalties, which may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

## Late submissions

ICP students are expected to duly respect all deadlines for submitting papers, essays and other types of homework. All due dates are announced beforehand, and are believed to provide sufficient time for preparing and submitting required works. The importance of respecting deadlines is related to 1) creating equal conditions for all students; 2) better organization of overall teaching and learning process.

Late submissions will be penalized.

- One day late submission will result in deduction of 10% of the grade, i.e., if a paper would normally be graded 96%, the final grade for this paper would be 86%. Each next day will count for additional 10%. This mechanism applies to all forms and scales of grading.
- Student is considered to have respected the deadline of she/he submits the work before the established due date and time. Any submission which is late for more than 10 minutes will be considered as one-day late paper. Any submission, which is late for 24 hours and 10 minutes will be considered as a two-day late paper. This rule is strict, but serves an important purpose of ensuring that all students have equal opportunities. Any late submission means a student spent more time on an assignment than other fellow students.
- No late submissions will be accepted for works, deadline for which is in the last week of a semester. In this case, any late submission will result in zero (0) for an assignment.

In cases of force majeure circumstances (serious illness etc.), a student is expected to provide documented evidence. ICP department reserves the right to check these evidences.

## **Mobiles phones must be turn-off during the class**

**Language of instruction:** English

## Main textbooks:

Lijphart, Arend [1984]. *Democracies: Patterns of Majoritarian and Consensus Government in Twenty-One Countries*. Yale University Press: New Haven and London.

Lijphart, Arend [1999]. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. Yale University Press: New haven and London.

Meny, Yves and Knapp, Andrew [1998]. *Government and Politics in Western Europe*. Oxford University Press.

## Additional reading:

Andeweg, Rudy [2000]. *Consociational Democracy // Annual Review of Political Science*. No 3. P. 509-536.

Calvocoressi, Peter [1996]. *World Politics since 1945*. Pearson Education Limited.

Elazar, Daniel [1987]. *Exploring Federalism*. The University of Alabama Press.

*How the European Union Works. Your Guide to the EU Institutions* [2005]. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Lijphart, Arend [1994]. *Electoral Systems and Party Systems. A Study of Twenty-Seven Democracies 1945-1990*. Oxford University Press.

## **Course schedule**

### **Week 1 (2-5 Sep)**

**Introduction. Political traditions in Europe. Westminster and Consensus Models of Democracy. Constitution. Judicial Systems**

- Lijphart [1999] – Chapters 2-3; 12;

- Meny, Knapp [1998]

## **Week 2 (9-12) No classes on 12 Sep**

### **Westminster Model: Executive-Legislative Relations. Westminster Model: Party and Electoral Systems**

- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapters 2, 5, 6;
- Lijphart [1999] – Chapters 5, 6, 11;
- Duggett M., What can we say about Westminster model today? PSA Conference Manchester, March 2009, <http://www.psa.ac.uk/2009/pps/Duggett.pdf>

## **Week 3 (16-19 Sep)**

### **[presentation] United Kingdom**

### **Consensus Model: Executive-Legislative Relations**

- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapters 2, 5, 6;
- Lijphart [1999] – Chapters 5, 6, 11
- Basta Fleiner L., Tip Sheet: Governmental Systems in Multicultural Societies, April 2005, [http://www.federalism.ch/files/documents/governmentalsystems\\_tipsheet\\_2009.01\\_final](http://www.federalism.ch/files/documents/governmentalsystems_tipsheet_2009.01_final)

## **Week 4 (23-26 Sep)**

### **[presentation] France**

### **Consensus Model: Party Systems**

- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapter 5;

- Lijphart [1999] – Chapter 11

- Duverger, Maurice. 1963. Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State. New York: Wiley.

- Sartori, Giovanni. 1990. A Typology of Party Systems. In Peter Mair, ed., The West European Party System. New York: Oxford University Press. p. 316-349

## **Week 5 (30 Sep – 3 Oct)**

### **[presentation] Italy**

### **Consensus Model: Electoral Systems**

- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapter 2;
- Lijphart [1999] – Chapter 5
- Lijphart, Arend. 1994. Electoral Systems and Party Systems: A Study of Twenty-Seven Democracies, 1945-1990. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Selection of Economist articles on recent elections in Europe

## **Week 6 (7-10 Oct)**

### **[presentation] Spain and Portugal**

### **Federalism**

- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapter 7;
- Lijphart [1999] – Chapter 7, 10
- Ordeshook, Peter C. and Olga Shvetsova. 1997. "Federalism and Constitutional Design." Journal of Democracy 8.

- Selection of Economist

**Week 7 (14-17 Oct) No classes on 17 Oct**

**[presentation]** Germany and Austria

**Week 8 (21-24 Oct)**

Consociationalism

- Andeweg, Rudy [2000]. *Consociational Democracy* // Annual Review of Political Science. No 3. P. 509-536
- Lijphart [1999] – Chapter 7, 9, 13, 15
- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapter 3;

**Week 9 (28-31 Oct)**

**[presentation]** Belgium and Switzerland

Central Banks and Macro-Economic Management. Corporatism. Welfare States

- Lijphart [1999] – Chapter 7, 9, 13, 15
- Lijphart, Arend. 1992. Introduction. In Arend Lijphart, ed., *Parliamentary versus Presidential Government*. New York: Oxford University Press. (p. 1-27.)
- Schmitter, Phillippe. 1979. Still the Century of Corporatism? In Phillippe Schmitter and Gerhard Lehmbruch, eds., *Trends Towards Corporatist Intermediation*. New York: Sage Publishers.
- Economist special report on trade unions

**Week 10 (4-7 Nov) No classes on 7 Nov**

**[presentation]** The Netherlands and Sweden

**Week 12 (11-14 Nov)**

**[presentation]** National and supranational politics in Europe.

European Integration: Impact on National Politics. Religion in European political life

- Almond et al [2001]. Chapter 11;
- **Ferrari S.** New Religious Movements in Western Europe. [religion.info/pdf/2006\\_10\\_ferrari\\_nrm.pdf](http://religion.info/pdf/2006_10_ferrari_nrm.pdf)
- **Johnsson T.** Europe: Integrating Islam. <http://www.cfr.org/publication/8252/europe.html>
- Leonard D. Guide to the European Union. The Definitive guide to all aspects of the EU. Profile Books Ltd, London, 2005.
- Meny, Knapp [1998] – Chapter 9;
- Murshed, S. M. and Pavan, S. 2009. Identity and Islamic Radicalization in Western Europe. MICROCON Research Working Paper 16, Brighton: MICROCON. [www.microconflict.eu/publications/RWP16\\_MM\\_SP.pdf](http://www.microconflict.eu/publications/RWP16_MM_SP.pdf)
- *How the European Union Works. Your Guide to the EU Institutions* [2005].
- Selection of Economist articles

**Week 12** (18-21 Nov)

**[presentation]** Role of religion in contemporary European society

Languages and conflicts in Europe. Nationalism and Extreme Rights in Europe

- Ammon U. Language conflicts in the European Union. International Journal of Applied Linguistics Vol. 16, No. 3, 2006, pp. 319-338
- Hobsbawm, E. Nations and Nationalism since 1780. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Kopecek L. The Far Right in Europe. Central European Political Studies Review Volume IX, Part 4, pp. 280-293
- Nelde K. How to Avoid Language Conflict in Europe after 1994. Intercultural Communication Studies IV:2 1994, pp. 1- 16

**Week 13** (25-28 Nov) **No classes on 28 Nov**

**[presentation]** Conflict resolution of ethnolinguistic conflicts in Europe.

**Week 14** (2-5 Dec)

**[presentation]** European Far Right Movements

Contemporary Europe: politics, economy and culture. Review.

**Week 15** (9-12 Dec)

Conclusion. Review.

**Final Exam – 16 December, 12:30**