

PIA4153: EUROPEAN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

European Politics and International Relations

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

4153

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

PIA3153 European Politics and International Relations

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to strengthen students' theoretical understanding and empirical knowledge of European politics and international relations. Lectures cover a wide range of key thematic issues such as nation-building, war and state formation, the emergence of democracy, the relationship between religion and state, capitalist development and the welfare state, political institutions, populism, as well as the process of regional integration and international relations. The focus of the course is twofold. First, these themes will be analyzed with a strong comparative focus that allows students to contextualize and understand European experiences in the light of broader theoretical and disciplinary debates. Second, by exposure to illustrations featuring various European cases and a presentation assignment, students will widen their knowledge of the history, society and politics of specific European countries. The knowledge acquired in this course will help students conceptualize and critically evaluate contemporary political dynamics in Europe and elsewhere.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Understand how the various thematic issues covered in the course are conceptualized and discussed in scholarly research	15	x	x	
2	Understand and critique various theoretical and methodological approaches to study the thematic issues covered in the course	30	x	x	
3	Acknowledge the role of country-specific history, social development and institutions in shaping contemporary political outcomes	25	x	x	x
4	Analyze political development in Europe from a comparative perspective and locate European experiences within the global context	30		x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	The instructor will present concepts and theories, and illustrate them with examples from Europe	1, 2, 3	

2	Class participation	Students are expected to attend all classes, prepare for class by reading required materials and participate actively to class discussion when possible.	1, 2, 3	
3	Final quiz	Students will answer a set of multiple-choice questions that probe their knowledge of the material covered in the course	1, 3	
4	Mid-term essay	Students will answer a one or more essay questions designed to ascertain their knowledge of the material covered in lectures and their ability to apply that knowledge	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Class presentations	Students will work in small groups to conduct research on an assigned country and topic, present their work to their classmates and lead a class discussion	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Class presentation	2, 3, 4	25	-	Yes
3	Mid-term essay	1, 2, 3, 4	35	-	No
4	Final quiz	2, 3	20	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class participation

Criterion

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials, and to participate actively, especially in tutorials.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrates excellent level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is above average.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrates good level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is about average.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrates satisfactory level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is below average.

Marginal (D)

Demonstrates poor level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is well below average.

Failure (F)

Indicates that through poor learning or lack of effort, the student has failed to maintain even minimal attendance and participation levels.

Assessment Task

Class presentation

Criterion

Need to show knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

Marginal (D)

Scant knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

Failure (F)

Little or no knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

Assessment Task

Mid-term essay

Criterion

Need to master the topics covered in class, and a capacity to critically reflect on them.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Marginal (D)

Poor knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Failure (F)

No knowledge of the topics covered in class or capacity to critically reflect on them.

Assessment Task

Final quiz

Criterion

Knowledge and understanding of concepts and empirical cases covered in class.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge and understanding of concepts and empirical cases covered in class.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge and understanding of concepts and empirical cases covered in class.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited knowledge and understanding of concepts and empirical cases covered in class.

Marginal (D)

Poor knowledge and understanding of concepts and empirical cases covered in class.

Failure (F)

No knowledge or understanding of concepts and empirical cases covered in class.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Europe, European politics, nation-building, religion, state formation, authoritarianism, democracy, European Union, regionalism, political institutions, political parties, federalism, populism, welfare state, international relations.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Bale, Tim (2017) European Politics: A Comparative Introduction (Comparative Government and Politics). Red Globe Press, 4th edition.
2	Kubicek, Paul (2020) European Politics. Routledge; 3rd edition.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil