



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
EUS-215	Democracy and Representation in Europe	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
IREL-235	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Core	European Studies	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr. Giorgos Charalambous	2 nd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Conventional	N/A	N/A

Course Objectives:

The course is at the cross-roads of political science and political sociology, with a focus on European countries in the contemporary era. It examines processes, issues and challenges of democratic practice across Europe, through a combination of case-study discussion and comparative analyses of topical political phenomena that characterise Europe in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The idea of representation and by extension related concepts such as those of participation, political competition, responsiveness, crisis, mobilization and extremism, are the main theoretical dimensions of the module. Through an examination of parties, citizens, movements, public opinion and government alternation, the module introduces students to the fundamental debates about the past, present and future of European democracy, both its achievements and pathologies.

More specifically, the objectives of the course are :

- To introduce students to theories, concepts and empirical investigations of democracy and representation.
- To enhance students' analytical skills and methodological understanding in comparative politics.
- To deepen knowledge of European politics and societies, from a comparative perspective.
- To enable the familiarization of students with different types of democratic agency/actors and their structural and operational features.
- To address debates about democratic deficits in Europe, the rise of extremism and the declining legitimacy of traditional representative politics.

- To confer knowledge about the electoral process, as well as about other 'unconventional' types of political participation.
- To develop further student's critical thinking about European political and other issues.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Utilize the language of political science and political sociology in an intelligent and mature manner.
- Illustrate a full comprehension of the challenges European countries are facing in the 21st century.
- Study elections, electoral outcomes, political campaigns and referendums.
- Understand non-electoral phenomena of political participation and notions, such as social movements and interest groups.
- Discuss contemporary European issues and challenges, both political and economic.
- Report in the English language both orally and in written form at a high level of competence.
- Use IT skills (wordprocessing, Internet and e-mail) as study and communication tools.

Course Content:

Democratic theory across political traditions
Democratic practice in Europe (evolution and current status)
Government formation and alternation
Elections (municipal, national, European)
Referendums: Advantages and disadvantages
Democratic deficits and the crisis of representation
Political parties and democracy
Social movements and democracy
Public opinion in Europe
Political participation in Europe
Protest and dissent in European politics and societies
Populism and democracy

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures and presentations, discussion, individual guidance

Assessment Methods:

Research essay, mid-term examination, final examination

Readings:

Tjitske Akkerman, Sarah L. de Lange, Matthijs Rooduijn, *Radical Right-wing Populist Parties in Western Europe: Into the Mainstream?*, Routledge, 2017.

Licia Cianetti, *The Quality of Divided Democracies : Minority, Inclusion, Exclusion, and Representation in the New Europe*, University of Michigan Press, 2019.

Heinrich Best and Maurizio Cotta, *Democratic Representation in Europe: Diversity, Change and Convergence*, Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2007.

Piattoni, S., *Clientelism, Interests, and Democratic Representation : The European Experience in Historical and Comparative Perspective*, Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Jacques Thomassen (ed.) *Elections and Democracy: Representation and Accountability*, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Wolfgang Streeck, *The Delayed Crisis of Democratic Capitalism*, Verso, 2014.

Colin Crouch, *Post Democracy*, Polity, 2004

Peter Mair, *Ruling the Void: The Hollowing of Western Democracy*, Verso, 2013.

Lahusen, C. and Grasso, M.T. (eds) (2018) *Solidarity in Europe: Citizens' Responses in Times of Crisis*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Giugni, M. and Grasso, M.T. (eds) (2015) *Austerity and Protest: Popular Contention in Times of Economic Crisis*. London: Routledge.

Pippa Norris, *Critical Citizens Revisited*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Russell J. Dalton, *Democratic Challenges, democratic choices: The Erosion of Political Support in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

Simon Tormey, *The end of Representative Politics*, Polity, 2015.

This list is non-exhaustive. A number of journal articles (as well as other material, such as summaries of data) are provided for each unit of the course through the online platform.