



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Package 1 - BA - European Studies

- **Area Studies(EUS2003)**
- **Comparative Politics(EUS2002)**

Area Studies –EUS2003

Period 4: Start Monday 6 February 2017 – End Friday 7 April 2017

- Workload for applicants: 3 tutor groups. Tutorials once a week on Thursdays -

ECTS credits:

4.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- Aline Sierp

Course description

This course aims to provide an introduction into the study of a contemporary “area”, i.e. country, of the students’ own choice.

First the tutors, in cooperation with the course coordinator, select their own country of expertise. Based on the list of available countries, the students then select which country they are most interested in.

The course focuses upon both domestic and international aspects relative to a country’s political, social and cultural life and/or its involvement with other countries or international actors such as the European Union. It does so by means of self-directed research carried out by students in close cooperation with a tutor who guides his or her students through the complete research process. Students will engage with past or on-going aspects of their chosen country's social, cultural or political life by means of movies, documentaries, newspaper articles, music etc.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, the students have: • Acquired a good knowledge of the “area”, i.e. country, of their choice; • Improved their research skills (define and delineate research topic; formulate research questions; carry out the actual research; reflect upon the data in the light of theoretical perspectives; etc.) and their presentation abilities

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Final paper

Keywords:

Domestic society and politics, International Relations, Europeanisation, Comparative analysis, cultural studies, History

Comparative Politics and Government

Period 4: Start Monday 6 February 2017 – End Friday 7 April 2017

- - Workload for applicants: 2 tutor groups. Tutorials once a week on Mondays

ECTS credits:

4.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- Aneta Spendzharova

Course description

Comparative Politics and Government introduces students to the main institutions of representative democracy. Even though democratic government is currently the norm in Europe, there is no uniform mode in how the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches of government interact. Based on a textbook by Gallagher, Laver and Mair, we examine how the important institutional differences among European countries extend to other aspects of the polity such as electoral systems, civil service cultures, political parties, and forms of interest representation. This course encourages students not only to understand how institutions interact but also how they reflect different ideas about the best way to govern a country. We draw on Lijphart's work on majoritarian and consensus systems to establish the main 'patterns of democracy' in contemporary Europe.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students will have:

- The knowledge of how the executive, legislative, judiciary branches, as well as the civil service, political parties, and interest groups are organised and relate to each other in European democracies;
- The ability to assess critically contemporary developments in representative democracy.

Recommended reading

- Gallagher, M., Laver, M., & Mair, P. (2011). Representative government in modern Europe: Institutions, parties, and governments. (5th ed.). Boston MA: McGraw Hill

Teaching methods:

PBL, Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

Representative democracy, separation of powers, domestic politics of the EU member states, electoral systems, political parties, new social movements, interest representation