Tel Aviv University
European Studies Programme

Course:
Politics and Society in Europe

SYLLABUS

Instructor: PD Dr. Angelos Giannakopoulos

Spring Semester 2019
Course Description and Contents
The development of state and society in Europe has been, especially during the 19th and 20th centuries, fundamentally influenced by trans-European phenomena in terms of historical, intellectual, political and economic developments. Despite this fact, the European continent is characterised by a high diversity at all levels. This also applies to forms of government, state institutions and their functioning within the European Union. Although the process of European integration unified to a great extend national policies in specific areas, the way major policy issues are debated and treated within the EU varies from state to state and from society to society. Against this background the course addresses a range of aspects referring to the complex relationship between politics and society across Europe such as the future of democracy in Europe, populism and authoritarianism, European identity and enlargement policy, the protection of fundamental EU values and principles, solidarity as a leading principle of EU integration and the migration crisis, and finally, social justice and wealth distribution.

Frame Course Aims
The course aims to:
- provide a learning environment for all students, free of bias
- develop appreciation of a range of single thematic course elements
- stimulate students’ active involvement, logical argumentation and communicative capacity
- advance the ability of students to work independently on the basis of text accounts and other course materials provided
- develop the ability of students to engage effectively in their work by applying scientific oral and writing standards

Course Requirements:
1. Completing basic text readings prior to each class and attending regularly will account for 30% of the overall grading.
2. Participating actively during the classes is highly required and will account for 30% of the overall grading.
3. After the course each student is obliged to submit a final paper. The length of the paper should at least be 15 pages in the standard format for manuscripts (please see detailed instructions in the end of this document), plus bibliography. At least 7 academic sources should be used. The research paper is equivalent to 40% of the overall grading.
Course Planner

Class 1

Introduction, aims and purpose of the course, explanation of the syllabus, first steps.

Class 2

The State of the Union

Lecture provided by the instructor based on the address to the European Parliament by the president of the European Commission (takes place annually in the end of each year) followed by a class discussion.

Class 3

Democratic deconsolidation? Lessons learnt and prospects of democracy in Europe and beyond.

Mandatory Readings:

1. Roberto Stefan Foa/Yascha Mounk: The Danger of Deconsolidation, in: Journal of Democracy, July 2016, Volume 27, Number 3

Optional Readings:

2. Joschka Fischer: Reawakening Europe, at: https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/eu-integration-vs-nationalist-nightmare-by-joschka-fischer-2016-06

Classes 4 and 5

Populism and authoritarianism: historical experience and the the current state of affairs in the EU.
Mandatory Readings:


Optional Readings:

1. Martin Eiermann/Yasha Mounk/Limor Gultchin: European Polulism: Trends, Threats and Future Prospects, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, Report, December 2017
2. William A. Galston: The rise of European populism and the collapse of the centre-left, Brookings Institute, March 2018

Classes 6 and 7

The debate on European socio-cultural and political identity vis-à-vis Turkey’s EU-accession.

Mandatory Readings:


Optional Readings:

2. AK Party's Islamism, at:

**Classes 8 and 9**

Solidarity as a fundamental EU integration principle and the migration crisis in the EU.

**Mandatory Readings:**


**Optional Readings:**

1. Jean-Claude Juncker: European Solidarity in a World of Crises, at:
2. Thanos Dokos: Migration and Refugee Flow: A New Security Challenge for Europe?, at:

**Class 10**

Protecting fundamental principles of the EU from a historical and legal perspective: provisions of the EU treaties and current trends.

**Mandatory Readings:**

1. Günter Wilms: Protecting fundamental values in the European Union through the rule of law. Articles 2 and 7 from a legal, historical and comparative angle, Florence 2017: European University Institute
Optional Readings:

1. EPRS-European Parliamentary Research Service: An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, European Parliament, Brussels 2016

Class 11

Inequality and social justice: distribution of wealth and the future of the European welfare state.

Mandatory Readings:


Optional Readings:


Class 12

The Idea of Europe at Crossroads?

Mandatory Readings:

Optional Readings:

1. Joschka Fischer: We Need To Reinvent Europe, at:
   https://www.socialeurope.eu/2016/05/need-reinvent-europe/
   www.wsj.com/articles/europe-at-the-crossroads-1487366422

Class 13

General Conclusions, Wrap Up Discussion and Follow-up Information.

Features of Standard Manuscript Format

In general, a document with standard manuscript format will have the following features:

- 8.5"x11" or A4 paper size.
- Times New Roman font
- Main Text: 12-point, footnotes 10-point font size.
- 1.5-spaced lines of text
- Overall number of pages: min. 15 pages

On the first page of the document, the author's name and contact information appears in the top left corner. In the top right corner of the first page, the wordcount appears.