

# Course Syllabus

## POLS 3375 European Political Systems

Spring 2026

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### SYLLABUS

In 1945, Western Europe laid in ruins, the collective action of more than four years of total war. The international political hegemony of Europe had been shattered, and the new superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, had supplanted Europe as models of political and economic development. In 1945, few observers would have predicted that within less than two decades Europe would find a new way to industrial prosperity and political stability. Yet, Western Europe did experience a remarkable phase of economic and political resurgence, characterized by industrial growth, collective affluence, and effective parliamentary governance.

Today, many Western European nations enjoy higher per capita standards than the United States. How are we to explain the success of post-war Western Europe? What does the future hold for such an economically, politically, and culturally diverse continent?

Will Europe unite in the twenty-first century, or will a new hegemon arrive to dominate the continent? This course seeks to explore these and other questions by providing the student with a thorough analysis of the historical, political, and economic situation in Western Europe.

### Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with terminology used to study Political Science and Comparative Politics
- basic knowledge of a variety of histories, cultures, and ideologies and their impact on current European societies
- an understanding of major governmental and economic structures throughout Europe
- comprehension of the interrelationships of domestic policies and international events

### Office Hours:

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm online and by appointment

### Communication Policy:

E-mails will be answered within 24 hours during the school week and 48 hours on weekends.

**Class Meetings:**

Class will meet online.

**Course Requirements:****Exams:**

Exams will be open for 24 hours on exam day and students will have one hour to complete the exam on Canvas.

1. Successful completion of two exams to be held on February 13 and March 27, 2026.
1. Successful completion of the Final Exam scheduled for April 29, 2026.

**Research Paper:**

Successful completion of a 3–5-page research paper with the topic to be discussed below and in the introductory section on Canvas. The paper will be due on April 17, 2026, and must be uploaded through Canvas.

**Grading Policy:**

Each exam, including the final, will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of essay questions and short identifications. The research paper is worth an additional 100 points and will be discussed below and in the introductory section on Canvas. The grading scale will be the following:

A=400-360 points

B=359-320 points

C=319-280 points

D=279-260 points

F=259 or fewer points

**Course Outline:**

Introduction: Core Concepts and Core Terminology

Forms of Government, Systems of Government, and Political Processes

The European Union: European Unification in the 21st Century?

The Republic and the Politics of Institutional Forms: France

The Politics of Economic Success: Germany

A Reversal of Decline: The Politics of Great Britain

Conclusion

## **Guidelines for Research Paper for POLS 3375**

Spring 2026

Due: April 17, 2026

1. Write a three-to-five-page paper on a major Western European political figure (current or historical). Examples include Charles de Gaulle of France, Konrad Adenauer of Germany, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, and literally hundreds more.
2. Discuss his/her life (autobiography) and then focus on the person's contributions to his/her country or Europe overall.
3. Conclude by analyzing the political figure's successes and/or failures.

The paper should be three to five pages in length, excluding title page and bibliography.

The font size should be 12-point Times New Roman, and the paper needs to be double spaced.

Use at least three sources and use proper citation styles (MLA, APA or Chicago style (footnotes or endnotes plus bibliography) are acceptable).

For citation style question please consult Kate Turabian “A Manual for Writers” on reserve in the library.

### **Required Artificial Intelligence Syllabus Language:**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools’ ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler’s Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler’s Academic Integrity Policy.

AI is not permitted in this course at all. I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler’s Honor Code and academic honesty values.

