

Department.: Political Science

Course number: POLS 231W

Title: Political Institutions and Behavior in Western Europe

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Associate Professor

Catalog Copy: "POLS231. Political Institutions and Behavior in Western Europe. Prerequisite ENGL 105 or 110 or 11 or 250. Open to sophomores or higher"

This is a W variant of POLS231.

W Criteria:

a. Several short writing assignments (2-3 pages) have students critically assess key themes of the course to demonstrate comprehension of the material. A longer country paper of at least 15 pages requires students to research a topic in depth and relate it to class themes, which involve the comparative analysis of the governments and politics of Western Europe. A draft of the longer paper is submitted for comment by the middle of the semester and then revised into a final paper that is passed in at the end of the semester. The short writing assignments are worth 10% each, the longer country paper is worth 50%, and students cannot pass the course without passing the W component of the course.

b. The writing instruction consists primarily of written commentary on writing assignments and some formal class discussion. Opportunities for individual conferences will also be available in certain cases.

c. Students are required to submit drafts of the longer paper for written comments by the middle of the semester and are required to make revisions given those comments before turning in a final version of the paper.

Role of Grad Students: The department has not relied on graduate students to teach W courses or sections in the past, nor does it intend to do so in the future.

Supplementary Information: None