

Department: Political Science

Course number: POLS 263W

Course title: Political Institutions and Behavior in Western Europe

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

Catalog Copy: 263W. Urban Politics (Also offered as URBN 263W.) Either Semester. Three credits.  
Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. Not open for credit to students who have passed URBN 263. Political systems and problems confronting urban government.

W Criteria :

1. The class requires weekly two-page writing assignments based on weekly readings totaling a minimum of 8 assignments. These weekly writing assignments will provide students with an opportunity to practice synthesizing and distilling key concepts from written source material to address a specific question. Class time is used to conceptually discuss the response to a question and to provide feedback on the written material. The instructor provides individual feedback on each writing assignment, and students are then required to rewrite the assignment based on instructor feedback and comments. The students are also required to complete one 15-page paper. The paper will be either an analysis of the current status and trends for a specified city leading to an analysis of its future prospects or an analysis of how power is distributed in an institution they know (such as an agency, company, or voluntary organization). The paper will consider topics raised in the course such as formal and informal structures, how the organization fits into a broader environment, trends and forces over at least the previous five years and projected forward in time. Students are expected to complete this paper prior to the end of the semester so that the instructor may provide individual feedback on the drafts. The students must incorporate this instructor feedback and suggestions into a revised final draft due at the end of the semester. The student must pass the "W" component in order to pass the course. The writing in the course will account for more than 50% of the grade, and the students must pass the written component in order to pass the course. The course syllabus informs students of requirements and provides details concerning how those requirements

will be met. The syllabus specifically informs students of the detailed writing requirements and grading criteria, as well as how they must pass the written portion of the course in order to pass the course

2. The course requires students to bring their completed assignments to class where time is allocated to discussing the assignment and giving specific feedback on student answers. The instructor also comments on each paper, and on the 15 page paper, and students are required to revise and resubmit their papers based on this feedback and commentary. The students are also encouraged to meet with the professor during office hours and bring draft written material to discuss. The 15 page paper is due two weeks before the end of class, so that the instructor may provide comments on the paper and return it to students in time for them to revise the final paper based on these comments.

3. The short papers and the 15 page paper are closely commented on by the instructor, and students must incorporate the suggested revisions into the final drafts.

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: This course is cross-listed with Urban and Community Studies Program. All sponsoring programs have approved the course as a GEOC W course.