POLI 120C: POLITICS IN FRANCE

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the modern French political process. We will begin the course with an examination of the consequences of the French Revolution as well as the weaknesses of the Third and Fourth Republics to understand how history shapes the French Fifth Republic. We will then examine the structure and functions of the French executive, legislative, and judicial branches as well as investigate the contention that France is “ungovernable”. We will conclude with an examination of French foreign policy and a discussion of prospects for the French political system.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Examine how history shapes modern French political institutions.
2. Understand how French political institutions are structured.
3. Investigate pressing domestic and international political issues in French politics.
4. Improve their oral and written communication skills.

Course Assignments/Grading: The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 10%
Midterm Examination: 45%
Final Examination: 45%

Attendance and Participation: Due to the way in which themes will be presented in this course, regular attendance and participation is required. Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the assigned reading and able to participate in course discussions, which will integrate theoretical materials and lecture topics with current events. Current events analysis will occur at the beginning of each lecture, so students are strongly encouraged to be on time and ready to participate in course discussions. You may wish to sign up for e-mail alerts from your favorite websites. The following is a list of news websites that may be of use. Please be advised that the list is not exhaustive:

Economist Online (http://www.economist.com)
BBC News (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
Financial Times (http://www.ft.com)
Vox Europ (http://voxeurop.eu/en)
Midterm and Final Examinations: The topic and due dates for the midterm and the final examination will be discussed in lecture. Please be advised that both course examinations build on material discussed in lecture and course readings. Both examinations will be 6-8 pages in length and require the submission of a hard copy in class AND an electronic submission to turnitin.com. We will not grade any paper for which we do not have both a hard copy and an electronic submission.

Late Assignments: Barring emergencies accompanied by valid documentation, no late assignments will be accepted. Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will not be accepted. Please be advised that we will not typically entertain any request to accept a late paper for which we are not made aware prior to the due date. As it is your responsibility to ensure that turnitin.com submissions occur prior to the stated deadline, we will also not entertain any late turnitin.com requests. Please plan accordingly, because if you do not submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy to turnitin.com before stated deadlines, you will fail the course.

Academic Integrity: While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis in a manner consistent with UCSD policies on academic integrity. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures. Please be advised that under no circumstances will credit be given for any assignment which is deemed to violate UCSD’s policies on academic integrity.

Reading Schedule: Given that this is an upper division course, the reading load is extensive (although it is nothing compared to what you will see in graduate programs). While we recognize that students have a variety of responsibilities, we expect students to attend lecture prepared to actively discuss the course readings as you cannot succeed in this course without doing the readings. Please keep this in mind while planning for the session as course assignments will require students to show understanding of course readings. Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at: http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf.

Required Books:
Hauss. Politics in France. CQ Press
Cole et al. Developments in French Politics 5. Palgrave Macmillan
Fenby. France on the Brink, 2nd Edition. Skyhorse

Reading Note: Where required, please read Hauss chapters prior to reading the other material from the unit.

Course Schedule:

UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTION

Week 0:
Course Logistics
Syllabus, Reading Academic Books, How to Write a Social Science Paper
UNIT TWO: FRENCH POLITICAL HISTORY

Week 1:
The French People and the Modern State
Hauss pgs. 1-8 and 17-28
Fenby CH 1

Revolution and the State
Hauss CH 3
Doyle pgs. SKIM pgs. 19-96

Week 2:
Establishing the Fifth Republic
Hauss CH 4
Sowerwine CH 21-22 and 24-25

UNIT THREE: FRENCH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Political Institutions in the Fifth Republic
Hauss CH 7
Fenby CH 2

Week 3:
Understanding Modern Executive/Legislative Relations
Cole et al. CH 1-3
Huber*

Historical Background: Mitterrand, Chirac and Cohabitation
Sowerwine CH 26-28

Week 4:
Political Parties and Elections in France
Hauss CH 6
Cole et al. 6-7 and 10

Historical Background: Sarkozy and Rupture vs. Hollande and Normalcy
Sowerwine CH 29
Fenby CH 14

MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED

Week 5:
Public Opinion and Political Culture in France
Hauss CH 5
Cole et al. CH 9 and 11
Fenby CH 6
UNIT FOUR: DOMESTIC POLITICS IN FRANCE

Week 6:
Economic Policy
Hauss CH 8
Cole et al CH 12
Fenby CH 3

MIDTERM DUE

Week 7:
Immigration and Social Policy
Cole et al. CH 13
Hollifield et al*
Fenby CH 7-8

UNIT FOUR: FOREIGN POLICY IN FRANCE

Week 8:
France in the EU
Hauss CH 9
Cole et al. CH 14

FINAL DISTRIBUTED

Week 9:
France in the World
Hauss CH 10
Cole et al. CH 15 and 16

UNIT FIVE: CONCLUSIONS

Week 10:
Is France “Normal”? “Exceptional”?
Hauss CH 11
Fenby CH 15
Sowerwine Conclusion

FINAL EXAMINATION IS SCHEDULED FOR 3:00-5:59PM ON 9 DECEMBER 2015

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.