Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 350: Comparative Governments of Western Europe

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Comparative examination of the political systems of Britain, France, Germany, and Italy; trans-national cooperation among them.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1995 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The methodology of comparative politics---political culture, socialization, political participation, interest groups, party and electoral systems
2. Comparative political institutions---executives, legislatures, judiciary
3. Historical development of Western European political structures--the effects of World Wars I and II, and the inter-war period of the 1920s and 1930s on political development
4. Post WW 2 developments and the effect of the Cold War on political development
5. The North Atlantic Treaty Alliance and its impact
6. The decline and eventual collapse of the USSR on Western Europe
7. German reunification, post 1989
8. Development of the European Union---financial integration, role of the euro, economic and military cooperative ventures, future of European central governing authority

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students should acquire a working knowledge of 20th and early 21st century European history and the breakdown of great power politics into the war years, the cold war era, the collapse of the USSR, and cooperative governance efforts in the post Soviet era.
2. Students should gain an understanding of the current European union, its strengths and weaknesses and prospects for survival.
3. Students should draw connections, where applicable, between the narrative materials and analytical questions of interest to international relations theory.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted