Boston University College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

CAS/GRS New Course Proposal Form
This form is to be used when proposing a new CAS or GRS course.

This form should be submitted to Senior Academic Administrator Peter Law (617-353-7243) as a PDF file to pg1@bu.edu. For further information or assistance, contact Associate Dean Susan Jackson (617-353-2410; sjackson@bu.edu) about CAS courses or Associate Dean Jeffrey Hughes (617-353-2690; hughes@bu.edu) about GRS courses.

DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM: Political Science/International Relations/Study Abroad      DATE SUBMITTED: 2017-12-24

COURSE NUMBER: CAS PO 248 E/CAS IR 305 E

COURSE TITLE: Comparative European Politics: France and Beyond

INSTRUCTOR(S): Olivier Rozenberg

TO BE FIRST OFFERED: Sem./Year: Spring 2017

SHORT TITLE: The “short title” appears in the course inventory, on the Link University Class Schedule, and on student transcripts and must be 15 characters maximum including spaces. It should be as clear as possible.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is the description that appears in the CAS and/or GRS Bulletin and The Link. It is the first guide that students have as to what the course is about. The description can contain no more than 40 words.

Study of the political systems of European countries and the elements of European democracies. Assessment of multiple approaches to study of social and political science from rational choice to political anthropology and the sociology of elected officials. Conducted in English.

PREREQUISITES: Indicate “None” or list all elements of the prerequisites, clearly indicating “AND” or “OR” where appropriate. Here are three examples: “Junior standing or CAS ZN300 or consent of Instructor”; “CAS ZN108 and CAS ZN203 and CAS PQ206; or consent of instructor”; “For SED students only.”

1. State the prerequisites:
   Enrollment in the Paris Internship Program

2. Explain the need for these prerequisites:
CREDITS:  (check one)

☐ Half course: 2 credits  ☐ Variable: Please describe.
X Full course: 4 credits  ☐ Other: Please describe.

Provide a rationale for this number of credits, bearing in mind that for a CAS or GRS course to carry 4 credits, 1) it must normally be scheduled to meet at least 150 minutes/week, AND 2) combined instruction and assignments, as detailed in the attached course syllabus, must anticipate at least 12 total hours/week of student effort to achieve course objectives.

This course will meet for sixteen 2.5 hour sessions per week over 7.5 weeks with an in-class final exam. Student work/preparation for class includes 50 pages of readings, and a “press review” for each session. An oral presentation and 4000 word essay will each require in-depth research and analytical reflection. There will be two mid-terms along with a final exam (multiple-choice questions and essay). We anticipate that the course will require a weekly commitment of at least 12 hours of student effort.

DIVISIONAL STUDIES CREDIT: Is this course intended to fulfill Divisional Studies requirements?

X No.
☐ Yes. If yes, please indicate which division ___________________ and explain why the course should qualify for Divisional Studies credit. Refer to criteria listed here and specify whether this course is intended for “short” or “expanded” divisional list.

HOW FREQUENTLY WILL THE COURSE BE OFFERED?

X Every semester  ☐ Once a year, fall  ☐ Once a year, spring  ☐ Every other year
☐ Other: Explain:

NEED FOR THE COURSE: Explain the need for the course and its intended impact. How will it strengthen your overall curriculum? Will it be required or fulfill a requirement for degrees/majors/minors offered by your department/program or for degrees in other departments/school/colleges? Which students are most likely to be served by this course? How will it contribute to program learning outcomes for those students? If you see the course as being of “possible” or “likely” interest to students in another departments/program, please consult directly with colleagues in that unit. (You must attach appropriate cognate comments using cognate comment form if this course is intended to serve students in specific other programs. See FURTHER INFORMATION below about cognate comment.)
The Paris Internship Program has seen declining enrollments in recent years and this course will be part of a newly created English-language option for students. The current pre-requisite of four semesters of French limits the student audience. Beginning in Spring 2017, The Paris Internship program will offer beginning and intermediate language levels. Students at these lower levels will take electives in English. The Paris program has been offering CAS PO 240 Paris Politique (taught in French) which focusses on the French Political system. The proposed course includes France situated within its larger European context.

ENROLLMENT: How many undergraduate and/or graduate students do you expect to enroll in the initial offering of this course?

10-15

CROSS-LISTING: Is this course to be cross-listed or taught with another course? If so, specify. Chairs/directors of all cross-listing units must co-sign this proposal on the signature line below.

Study Abroad is seeking to cross-list this course with International Relations.

OVERLAP:

1. Are there courses in the UIS Course Inventory (CC00) with the same number and/or title as this course?
   - No.

   Yes, CAS PO 341/ IR 362: European Politics. Despite the similarity in title, the Boston course is policy-focussed. The proposed Paris course is not; it is more foundational.

   - Yes. If yes, any active course(s) with the same number or title as the proposed course will be phased out upon approval of this proposal.
   
   NOTE: A course number cannot be reused if a different course by that number has been offered in the past five years.

2. Relationship to other courses in your program or others: Is there any significant overlap between this course and others offered by your department/program or by others? (You must attach appropriate cognate comments using cognate comment form if this course might be perceived as overlapping with courses in another department/program. See FURTHER INFORMATION below.)
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: What, if any, are the new or special facilities or equipment needs of the course (e.g., laboratory, library, instructional technology, consumables)? Are currently available facilities, equipment, and other resources adequate for the proposed course? (NOTE: Approval of proposed course does not imply commitment to new resources to support the course on the part of CAS.)

The facilities at the BU Paris Center are adequate.

STAFFING: How will the staffing of this course, in terms of faculty and, where relevant, teaching fellows, affect staffing support for other courses? For example, are there other courses that will not be taught as often as now? Is the staffing of this course the result of recent or expected expansion of faculty? (NOTE: Approval of proposed course does not imply commitment to new resources to support the course on the part of CAS.)

Current BU Paris faculty will teach the course.

BUDGET AND COST: What, if any, are the other new budgetary needs or implications related to the start-up or continued offering of this course? If start-up or continuation of the course will entail costs not already discussed, identify them and how you expect to cover them. (NOTE: Approval of proposed course does not imply commitment to new resources to support the course on the part of CAS.)

BU Study Abroad is the budgetary source for this course.

EXTERNAL PROGRAMS: If this course is being offered at an external program/campus, please provide a brief description of that program and attach a CV for the proposed instructor.

FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MUST BE ATTACHED IN ORDER FOR THIS PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED:

- A complete week-by-week SYLLABUS with student learning objectives, readings, and assignments that reflects the specifications of the course described in this proposal; that is, appropriate level, credits, etc. (See guidelines on “Writing a Syllabus” on the Center for Excellence & Innovation in Teaching website.) Be sure that syllabus includes your expectations for academic honesty, with URL for pertinent undergraduate or GRS academic conduct code(s).

- Cognate comment from chairs or directors of relevant departments and/or programs. Use the form here under “Curriculum Review & Modification.” You can consult with Susan Jackson (CAS) or Jeffrey Hughes (GRS) to determine which departments or programs inside and outside of CAS would be appropriate.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT NAME AND POSITION:

DEPARTMENT CONTACT EMAIL AND PHONE:
DEAN'S OFFICE CURRICULUM ADMINISTRATOR USE ONLY

CAS/GRS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

☐ Approved Date: _______________________
☐ Tabled Date: _______________________
☐ Not Approved Date: _______________________

Divisional Studies Credit:

☐ Endorsed
  ☐ HU
  ☐ MCS
  ☐ NS
  ☐ SS

☐ Not endorsed

Curriculum Committee Chair Signature and Date

Comments:

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL REQUESTED for Semester/Year _______________________

Dean of Arts & Sciences Signature and Date

Comments:

CAS FACULTY: Faculty Meeting Date: _______________________

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Curriculum Administrator Signature and Date

Comments:
CAS PO 248 E/ CAS IR 305 E
Comparative European Politics. France and Beyond

Credits: 4

Professor: Olivier Rozenberg (rozen@bu.edu)

Schedule: 16 two-and-a-half-hour sessions over 7.5 weeks
(2 regular sessions a week + 2 additional sessions)

Office hours: Monday 12-12:30, and by appointment

Course visits:
- 2 walking tours of Parisian political sites and institutions

Course material:
- On-line academic documents and newspapers to be read by the student.
- Websites to read regularly:
  o www.vie-publique.fr
  o www.ladocfrancaise.fr

I. COURSE PRESENTATION AND OUTCOMES

This seminar course aims to compare the political systems of European countries as well as provide an overview of the main elements in contemporary European democracies. The course also seeks to introduce and assess multiple approaches to the study of social and political science, from rational choice to political anthropology as well as the sociology of elected officials. Finally, it will offer a glimpse at the unity and diversity within the European political system. Within this framework, special attention will be given to the French political system. The course will seek to circumscribe its specificities through in depth comparison with other European democracies. The circumstances of the course, i.e. the French Presidential election of May 2017, will be especially considered.

Each session will follow the same structure:
- The course will present an array of European political systems for each given topic.
- The course will look in depth at the French system taking into account its distinctive peculiarities.
- The reading of the day will be collectively discussed.
- A topical event will be considered with: an oral presentation by a student on a collective discussion.

The course is accessible to students with no previous experience in political science. The course, including seminars and visits, is conducted entirely in English.
Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have developed:

- a thorough knowledge of the diversity of the European national political systems: the common features of the European systems as well as the main lines of cleavages between them and the major exceptions to the common trends;

- an understanding of the on-going change within European democracies, especially of the issue of the capacity of the systems to produce both legitimate and efficient political institutions;

- a special analysis of the situation of France among the European democracies with an emphasis put on the controversial notions of French model or French exception.

- the ability to read, understand and critically analyze political science academic texts written in English;

- the ability to formally present a thorough critical and structured analysis of a political issue, be it written or oral, based on sources and concepts requiring basic research.

II. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Out-of-class workload:
- Mandatory readings for each session. See the list of papers above. About 50 pages by session. In addition, the first three chapters of Arend Lijphart (Patterns of Democracy, Yale University Press, 2nd ed., 2012) are to be read before class 2.
- Press review on topical event for each session
- In-depth research for the essay
- In-depth research for the oral presentation

Oral presentation: 20%
Individual presentations consist of an oral presentation of 10 minutes on a precise aspect of the session. It will deal with a French aspect of the topic of the day. For instance, on session 6 dealing with legislatures, the oral presentation will be “Should the French Senate be abolished?”. Each student will pass alone and once.

Essay: 20%
Take-home essay due on session 14. It consists of a 4,000 words essay addressing the following question: “From a comparative European standpoint, is the domestic leadership of the French President unusual?”

2 Midterm exams: 20% (10 + 10)
In-class midterms 1 & 2 will consist of a questionnaire with multiple answers. 20 questions each.
Final exam: 30%
In-class final exam will consist both of a questionnaire with multiple answers (20 questions) and an analytical questions that grasp several aspects of the course.

Participation and preparedness: 10%
Included in this grade is weekly homework, which involves following current news and events in Europe and France and participating in discussions in each class session. This grade also takes into account the quality of a student’s presence in class, energy, relevance of comments, and attendance and punctuality.

Attendance Policy
1 absence (class session or activity) = -1 point on the overall grade
4 or more unexcused absences = grade of F for the course
Missed assignment or test = grade of 0 for the assignment
Plagiarism on an assignment = grade of 0 for the assignment

NB: Excused absences must be justified by a doctor’s note or a scheduled internship interview.

Academic Conduct
It is every student’s responsibility to read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be “…expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean.” You can view the entire Academic Conduct Code here: http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/

Disability Accommodation Statement
If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 617-353-3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. For more information, please see http://www.bu.edu/disability.

III. CALENDAR
(visit dates can be subject to change and oral presentations will be adapted according to the final number of students)

Session 1: Comparing France and Europe

- The epistemology of comparison
- The special features of France in question
- Topical event: the Brexit

**Session 2: The individuality of the European system**
- The origin of European states
- Common traits between European political systems
- *Topical event*: Chancellor Merkel duration


**Session 3: Diversity within European systems**
- The main divisions of comparative analysis
- Approaches to political science from Lijphart to Tsebelis
- *Topical event*: Scotland and Catalogna status


**Session 4. Executive power**
- Heads of State and Prime Ministers
- The rise and fall of governments
- *Topical event*: the popularity of the European leaders


**Session 5. Excursion in Paris**
Visit a political institution and/or tour the political quarter of Paris

**Session 6. Legislatures and parliamentary politics**
- Approaches to parliamentary influence
- Working vs. talking parliaments
- **Topical event:** the threats over second chambers in Europe


**Session 7. The constitution, judges and the law**

- The spread of a rule-of-law structure
- Legislative procedure
- **Topical event:** the 2008 Constitutional reform in France


**Session 8. Electoral systems, elections and campaigns**

- Proportional representation vs. Majority rule
- Political financing
- **Topical event:** the 2017 Presidential election in France: the primaries


**Session 9. Political leadership**

- Professionalization and plutocracy
- Parliamentarian roles compared
- **Topical event:** the 2017 Presidential election in France: which leadership?

Session 10. Excursion in Paris

Visit a political institution and/or tour the political quarter of Paris

Session 11. Parties, partisan groupings and political divides

- The widening and dissolution of political divides
- Questioning the political monopolies
- Topical event: the French PS and the Labour party today


Session 12. Administration, centralisation and public policy

- Types of administration
- Types of public policy
- Decentralization of power
- Topical event: the refugee crisis and the EU


Session 13. Political violence in Europe

Guest lecturer

Lectures to be given
Session 14. The crisis of representation (1)

- Institutionalized disagreement
- Unconventional political participation
- Topical event: locks in Spain and Italy


Session 15. The crisis of representation (2)

- Change in power and abstention
- Post recession
- Topical event: the rise of the extreme right


Session 16. Hopes for the future

- New forms of political involvement
- Calling e-democracy into question
- Topical event: Paris participatory budget


Bibliography:

Required Reading:
Arend Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy, Yale University Press, 2nd ed., 2012, chapters 1, 2, 3.
Supplementary Reading:


Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Olivier Rozenberg
38 years, French

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28 rue des Saint-Pères - 75007 Paris - France
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Education

2005 Ph-D in political science from Sciences Po (Paris) (summa cum laude)
1999 Master’s degree in political studies, Sciences Po (Paris)

Academic Posts

2009- Associate Professor in Politics at the Centre d’études européennes, Sciences Po (Paris)
2007-2009 Associate Research Professor in Politics at the Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po (Paris)
2004-2002 Teaching assistant at the University of Paris XIII

Visiting position

2013 Invited Professor at the University of Cologne, Germany
2007 Academic Visitor at Nuffield College, Oxford, UK

Research

My researches are focused on the study of political institutions and particularly of legislatures in Europe - national parliaments as well as the European Parliament. Within this framework, I study both the sociology of legislators and the policy analysis of parliamentary activities. I am also interested in the Europeanisation of national political systems.

Main topics: Political institutions / Legislative studies / Sociology of legislators / Europeanisation / Sociology of political life / France and the European Union

Awards and grants

2010-2013 Grant from the French National Association for Research (ANR). Study on the National Parliaments in the European Union with the Universities of Maastricht, Cambridge and Cologne. Coordination of the French team (260 000 euros)
http://www.opal-europe.org/
2010-2013 Grant from the Ile-de-France Region. Study on the numeric visualization of the French Parliament legislative activity. Chief-coordinator (150 000 euros)
http://www.lafabriquedelaloi.fr/

2009-2011 Grant from the French National Association for Research (ANR). Study on the French National Assembly and the European Parliament. Coordination of the Paris team (40 000 euros)
http://www.legipar.sciencespobordeaux.fr/

2006 Post-doctoral Fellowship of the Centre d’études européennes, Sciences Po (Paris)
2006 French National Assembly Price for the best PhD
2002 Award of the Chancellerie des Universités de Paris

Academic activities

2012 Member of the editorial board of the Journal of Legislative Studies
2009-2013 Chief administrator of the Study Group on Parliamentary life and institutions
http://blogs.sciences-po.fr/recherche-parlement/
2008 Member of the Observatory of European Institutions
http://oxpo.politics.ox.ac.uk/projects/current_projects.asp#legislatures
2007-2010 Co-leader of the standing group on legislative studies of the French political science (with Eric Kerrouche)
http://www.afsp.msh-paris.fr/activite/groupe/grpp/grpp.html
2006- Vice-chair of the editorial committee of the scientific review Politique européenne

Courses taught

2013 3 anual courses in Sciences Po (college & master)
2012-2013 University Paris II, “Sociologie de la procedure législative”
2010-2013 University Paris II & Sciences Po, doctoral school, « Parlements et Politiques publiques » (with Yves Surel)
2009-2011 Sciences Po, Master of European Affairs, « Les acteurs politiques de l’Union européenne »
2009- Sciences Po, Master of European Affairs, « France and the European Union » (with Christian Lequesne)
2009 Sciences Po, Doctoral program, « L’euroéanisation » (with Yves Surel)
2004- Boston University (Paris), « La politique en France »

Conference Organisation

“Europeanisation of Parliamentary Behaviour”, University of Oxford, July 2009 (with Katrin Auel)
“Roles in Modern Legislatures”, ECPR joint sessions of workshop, Rennes, April 2008 (with Magnus Blomgren)

Referee for

Publications (extract)

Edition of books

Faire parler le Parlement, Paris, LGDJ, 2013 (with Claire de Galembert & Cécile Vigour).
L’opposition parlementaire, Paris, La Documentation française, 2013 (with Eric Thiers).

Edition of special issues


*Peer-reviewed articles*


“Parlements et Union européenne”, *Politique européenne*, n° 9, 2003, pp. 5-29 (with Yves Surel).

*Other articles*


**Working papers and reports**

“Evolution du contrôle parlementaire des forces armées en Europe”, report for the French Ministry of Defence, 2009 (with Bastien Irondelle)


