



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



**Ramon Llull University, IQS School of Management - Barcelona
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan
Franklin University Switzerland - Lugano
Forum-Nexus Program
Undergraduate Division**

Course Syllabus

**POL 459-SIS
Current European Issues:
Multidisciplinary analysis with an emphasis on political issues**

Course Description

As the world enters into a new decade, issues of globalization, technology, sustainability, policy, and power plague the institutions that bind European nations together, and the systems in which they collaborate and coexist. In this course, students will explore the political systems of several nations, as well as the European Union. They will discover current political issues and how they are taking shape for the rest of the decade ahead.

This Supervised Independent Study (SIS) course will guide students through the the review and analysis of current European issues, with an emphasis on political issues, while providing the opportunity for an independent exploration of the subject.

Course Objectives

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic structure of political systems in Britain, France, Germany, and Italy
2. Explain the basic structure of political systems of the European Union
3. Understand the relationship between the European Union and specific member countries
4. Demonstrate knowledge of current political issues in Europe
5. Think critically about solutions to current issues from a political perspective
6. Review the major organizations and figures involved in current political issues
7. Consider the future of the European Union

Course Requirements

This course requires independent research, organization, and academic discipline. Students are expected to complete the required and additional readings in pace with their assignments and the course outline. Students will meet with their SIS Coordinator regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a midterm exam, a final exam, and five essay assignments.

Essay #1 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

Identify 5 key political issues affecting the European Union. For each issue, explain the following:

- Where did the issue come from?
- How is it affecting the EU as a whole, compared to specific countries?
- What do you foresee as the future of this issue?

Essay #2 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Analyze the following with respect to Britain:
 - The context of British politics
 - Current political issues in Britain
 - Current political issues related to Britain and the EU
 - The future of British politics

Prepare a reflection essay on the aspects you have reviewed and analyzed. Summarize what you have found through your research, and what you've perceived during your time in Britain.

Essay #3 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Analyze the following with respect to France:
 - The context of French politics
 - Current political issues in France
 - Current political issues related to France and the EU
 - The future of French politics

Prepare a reflection essay on the aspects you have reviewed and analyzed. Summarize what you have found through your research, and what you've perceived during your time in France.

Essay #4 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Analyze the following with respect to Germany:
 - The context of German politics
 - Current political issues in Germany
 - Current political issues related to Germany and the EU
 - The future of German politics

Prepare a reflection essay on the aspects you have reviewed and analyzed. Summarize what you have found through your research, and what you've perceived during your time in Germany.

Essay #5 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Analyze the following with respect to Italy:
 - The context of Italian politics
 - Current political issues in Italy
 - Current political issues related to Italy and the EU
 - The future of Italian politics

Prepare a reflection essay on the aspects you have reviewed and analyzed. Summarize what you have found through your research, and what you've perceived during your time in Italy.

Presentation

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study. Required components include:

- Summary of your goals and objectives
- Overview of current political issues in the European Union

- Findings as they apply to Britain
- Findings as they apply to France
- Findings as they apply to Germany
- Findings as they apply to Italy
- Reflection on what you've learned through the SIS course

Required Readings

Politics in Europe

by M. Donald Hancock, Christopher J. Carman, et al
SAGE Publishing, 7th Edition, 2018
(Kindle or eTextbook recommended)

Ten Issues to Watch in 2020

by Étienne Bassot, European Parliamentary Research Service
January 2020
[Available online](#)

Additional Readings

Identify 5-10 additional readings (online or printed text) to complement your independent study of the current political issues in Europe.

Components of Final Grade

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Essay #1	10%
Essay #2	10%
Essay #3	10%
Essay #4	10%
Essay #5	10%
Presentation	10%

Grading Scale

93-100 %	A
90-92.9 %	A-
87-89.9 %	B+
83-86.9 %	B
80-82.9 %	B-
77-79.9 %	C+
73-76.9 %	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9 %	D+
63-66.9 %	D
60-62.9 %	D-
Below 60 %	F

Course Outline

Module 1: United Kingdom

- The Context of British Politics
- Where Is the Power?

- Who Has the Power?
- How is Power Used?
- What is the Future of British Politics?

Module 2: Issues to Watch

- Brexit

Module 3: France

- The Context of French Politics
- Where Is the Power?
- Who Has the Power?
- How is Power Used?
- What is the Future of French Politics?

Module 4: Issues to Watch

- Towards a 'Paris Agreement' for biodiversity?
- 21st century policies for 21st century children?

Module 5: Germany

- The Context of German Politics
- Where Is the Power?
- Who Has the Power?
- How is Power Used?
- What is the Future of German Politics?

Module 6: Issues to Watch

- 2020: The beginning of the 5G era
- Energy transition: Who will pay the price?

Module 7: Italy

- The Context of Italian Politics
- Where Is the Power?
- Who Has the Power?
- How is Power Used?
- What is the Future of Italian Politics?

Module 8: Issues to Watch

- Strengthening democracy through 'design thinking'
- From 'ship by ship' to lasting solidarity in EU asylum policy?
- Next long-term EU budget: An opportunity not to be missed

Module 9: European Union

- The Context of European Union Politics
- Where Is the Power?
- Who Has the Power?
- How is Power Used?
- What is the Future of EU Politics?

Module 10: Issues to Watch

- Climate action: High time to invest more
- US elections: What is at stake
- The Arctic: Too hot to handle?

Academic Integrity

Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.