PSC 475.001 — Reading in German Politics  
Spring Semester 2016  
Department of Government, SFASU  
Course Meeting Times: TBA  
Course Location: LAN 134  
Instructor: Dr. Steven E. Galatas  
Office Location: Dugas LAN 134  
Office Hours: MTWR 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 -2:30 p.m.; and by appointment  

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Course Description:
This course will examine recent research in German politics and government. Key concepts include German politics and political memory, political parties and elections, and political institutions. The course also includes a study abroad component in Germany during Spring Break 2016.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:
This course is associated with the major, second major, and minor in the political science. The course is not part of the general education core curriculum. No specific general education objectives or outcomes are addressed in this course.

Program Learning Objectives: (PLOs)
The following program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course:
PLO #2 – “Objective: The student will critically analyze and critique political institutions and/or complex contemporary political issues

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• Explain how Germans view their own political and cultural history
• Describe current research on the German election and political party systems
• Evaluate the role and function of the Bundestag and the Chancellor in German politics
• Discuss recent developments in German citizen/immigration policy and foreign policy

Textbooks:
No textbooks are required for this course. However, students many want to review:
In addition, students will read the following articles:


Steinert, Christoph and Nikoleta Yordanova. 2015. “’Alliance with the Enemy’: Why the CDU and the Greens Formed Their First Coalition in a Large Federal State.” *German Politics*, DOI: 10.1080/09644008.2015.1060589


Grades:

Course grades will be drawn from the following sources:

A. Article Reviews 300 points
B. Study Abroad Activities
   Attendance and Participation abroad 30 points
   Daily Evaluations 20 points
   Daily Journal Entries 50 points
   Multimedia Project 50 points

TOTAL 450 points

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

A 405 – 450 points (90% and above)
B 360 – 404 points (80%-89.9%)
C 315 – 359 points (70%-79.9%)
D 270 – 314 points (60%-69.9%)
F 0 – 260 points (0%-59.9%)

Course grades for the entire class are not curved or adjusted at the end of the semester. Extra credit work is not permitted.

**Article Reviews:**

During the semester, you will compose ten (10) essays that provide a critical review of a scholarly journal article. Your reviews should begin by stating the thesis or hypothesis of the article. Then, a very brief summary should follow; this section must be limited to **no more than two paragraphs**. The bulk of the review should focus on a discussion of the data, methods, evidence, etc. used to support the thesis or hypothesis. Key issues in this section may include the appropriateness of the countries examined, quality of the evidence presented, type of data used, appropriateness of the methodology, etc. The last section of the paper should address the significance or importance of the article. The total length of the review should be no more than three pages.

Essays must be typed, double-spaced using an appropriate font (ex. Times New Roman 12 points). Articles to be reviewed are indicated on the course outline below using an asterisk (*). These reviews are due on the day that the article is discussed in your weekly meeting with your professor.

A total of twelve (12) articles are listed on the course syllabus below. **You may write a critical review essay over any ten (10) of twelve (12) articles.** Each essay is worth thirty (30) points for a total of three hundred (300) points from article reviews.
Daily Evaluations:
Each morning during the immersion experience portion of the course, you will complete a relatively short questionnaire evaluating the prior day’s activities, accommodations, travel, and personal interactions. The evaluations are intended to provide immediate feedback to me regarding the quality of the travel abroad component of the course. Moreover, the evaluations attempt to assess the value of the events and activities that comprise the immersion experience. On occasion, these questionnaires also help to diagnose potential problems and diffuse situations before an impact on the overall immersion experience occurs. Your comments on the daily evaluations will not be shared with other course participants. Daily evaluations comprise 20 points of the final grade for the course.

Daily Journal Entries:
You will maintain a daily travel journal. The travel journal will be provided to you prior to the start of the immersion experience. You will compose entries in the journal that chronicle your reactions to the events and activities during the travel abroad portion of the class.

Journal entries should provide a substantive evaluation or analysis of any of the following topics: the impact of any event or activity on your worldview; the relationship between an experience and prior knowledge associated with the course topic and theme; the application of an event or activity to a specific social scientific theory, hypothesis, or concept; or the relationship between an event or activity and your knowledge of Canadian politics and culture. Note that journal entries are not limited to scheduled events and activities. Extra-course activities such as interacting with a store clerk, asking for directions to a location, or observing a foreign custom are acceptable for the subject of the journal entry so long as a connection is made to a broad course theme, concept, theory, etc.

Your journal will be collected on the return flight to Houston at the end of the study abroad experience. Daily journal entries comprise 50 points of the final course grade.

Multimedia Assignment:
You will develop a multimedia assignment that reflects something significantly related to your experiences during the study abroad trip. You may wish to focus on a particular event or day, or you may wish to focus on a theme that follows through many of the events in which we participate. To create this project, you must use Apple’s iMovie or Windows MovieMaker. Both these packages are powerful tools that are fairly easy to learn. As you collect pictures and short videos throughout the trip, keep in mind what you might want to be working on as a multimedia project.

The multimedia assignment will be graded based upon the following criteria:
- Creativity of the topic
- Organization of the narrative
- Communication of ideas (content and its accuracy)
- Technical aspects
- Length of project

The multimedia project is due during the final exam week.
The multimedia assignment is worth 50 points of the final grade for the course.

Attendance:
You are expected to attend meetings with your professor that are scheduled in lieu of a class session. Failure to meet with your professor as scheduled will negatively affect your grade.

For the immersion experience portion of this course, you are expected to participate in all events related to the class and the travel abroad experience. Prior to departure, sessions outside of class time will be held to prepare you for the study abroad portion of this course. These sessions will review vital information associated
with the study abroad component. You must attend all of these sessions. Sessions will be announced soon. **You are expected to arrange your schedule to attend these meetings. If a conflict develops between the announced pre-trip sessions and your schedule, you must inform the course instructor ahead of time.**

Reasonable exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. However, missing a session for an invalid reason or simply skipping a session results in a lower final grade for the course.

During the travel abroad portion of the course, you are required to attend all mandatory events on the travel itinerary. These events are designed to provide you with the appropriate immersion experience into Canada’s politics and culture. Failure to attend an event will negatively effect your grade for the course. Multiple absences will result in your being sent home early at your own expense and a grade of “F” for the course.

Attendance and participation account for 30 points of your final grade for the course.

**Academic Integrity:**

The following is taken from SFASU’s *Policy Manual (2015)*, section on “Academic Integrity”

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp).

All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policies and procedures in the SFASU Policy Manual and other sources of policy. The consequences for academic dishonesty may range from a score of zero (0) on the assignment to an “F” for the course. For details, students should refer to the SFA Policy Manual (2014) or the University’s General Bulletin, 2014–2015 section entitled “Academic Integrity” and other sources of University policy.

**Withheld Grades:**

The following is taken from SFASU’s *Policy Manual (2015)*, “Semester Grades Policy”

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
Acceptable Student Behavior:

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
## Course Outline

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week of January 18</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Week of January 25</td>
<td>German Political History</td>
<td>Lagenbacher (2010)</td>
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<td>Week of February 1</td>
<td>Citizenship and Identity</td>
<td>Green (2000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of February 8</td>
<td>Citizenship and Identity</td>
<td>Green (2007)</td>
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<td>Week of February 15</td>
<td>Gender Politics in Germany</td>
<td>McKay (2004)</td>
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<td>Week of February 22</td>
<td>Institutional Settings</td>
<td>Jalazai (2013)</td>
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<td>Week of February 29</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>Steinert and Yordanova (2015)</td>
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<td>Week of March 7</td>
<td>Prepare for Emersion Experience</td>
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<td>Week of March 14</td>
<td>Study in Germany</td>
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<td>Week of March 21</td>
<td>Study in Germany</td>
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<td>Week of March 28</td>
<td>Political Party System</td>
<td>Saalfeld (2002)</td>
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<td>Week of April 4</td>
<td>Electoral System</td>
<td>Bawn (1993)</td>
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<td>Week of April 11</td>
<td>Campaigns and Elections</td>
<td>Zittel (2015)</td>
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<td>Week of April 25</td>
<td>Voting Behavior II</td>
<td>Elff and Rossteutscher (2011)</td>
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<td>Week of May 2</td>
<td>Germany Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Harnisch (2001)</td>
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<td>Week of May 9</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>None</td>
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