

The aim of this module is to provide an advanced understanding of major theoretical, empirical and substantive issues in the politics of Europe, both at domestic and EU-levels. After examining the methodology of comparison, the module's primary focus is on the political systems of Europe in a comparative context, through the prisms of executive-legislative relations, political parties, elections, and patterns of political representation. Core themes include the emergence of illiberal as well as liberal variants of democracy, the origins of new populism and the differences between extreme-right nationalist and left-wing variants; central themes in the political discourse of European societies, particularly in the way democracy itself functions.

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<div style="text-align:center;"><p><strong><em>Curricular information is subject to change</em></strong></p></div>

## What will I learn?

<span class="subHeadCB">Learning Outcomes:</span>

<p>On completion of this module students should be able to:

- Understand the politics of Europe from a comparative perspective;
- Explain the strengths and weaknesses of a comparative approach to important political issues;
- Understand how the political and legal institutions of a variety of European countries function;
- Understand continuities and changes in the social, organisational, and ideational bases of political representation.

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<span class="subHeadCB">Indicative Module Content:</span>

<p>The modules takes a comparative approach to the politics of contemporary European societies, analysing the dynamics of domestic politics, mindful of the context of multilevel EU governance where appropriate.

Topics include classic themes in comparative politics: institutions of representation and constitutional government, political mobilisation and organization, as well as key themes in contemporary European discourse such as immigration and the causes and consequences of economic crisis. The central focus of the module is on the extent to which democratic governance itself may be in crisis.

To this end, we consider topics such as problems of 'responsible' versus 'responsive' representation though parties (as Peter Mair called it), why we see new challenger parties on both right and left, what 'populism' means and what it betokens, liberal vs illiberal democracy, European integration vs European disintegration.</p>

## How will I learn?

<span class="subHeadCB">Student Effort Hours:</span>

Student Effort Type	Hours
Seminar (or Webinar)	24
Autonomous Student Learning	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>

## Am I eligible to take this module?

<div class="subHeadCB">Requirements, Exclusions and Recommendations</div>

<p>Not applicable to this module.</p>

<div class="subHeadCB">Module Requisites and Incompatibles</div>

Not applicable to this module.

## How will I be assessed?

<span class="subHeadCB">Assessment Strategy</span>

Description	Timing	Open Book Exam	Component Scale	Must Pass Component	% of Final Grade
Assignment: Book review, details in the course outline	Week 5	n/a	Graded	No	30
Assignment: Essay, details in the course outline	Coursework (End of Trimester)	n/a	Graded	No	60
Continuous Assessment: Contribution of weekly short reports on individual countries, submitted online and collated and submitted at the end of the semester; attendance in class and participation in class discussions.	Throughout the Trimester	n/a	Graded	No	10

<div class="row">  
<div class="col-sm-6"><span class="subHeadCB">Carry forward of passed components </span>  
No</div>  
</div>

## What happens if I fail?

Remediation Type	Remediation Timing
In-Module Resit	Prior to relevant Programme Exam Board

## Assessment feedback

<div class="subHeadCB">Feedback Strategy/Strategies</div>  
<p>\* Feedback individually to students, post-assessment</p>  
<div class="subHeadCB">How will my Feedback be Delivered?</div>  
<p>Feedback online via Brightspace</p>

## Reading List

<div class="pageBreak"><nav class="white-box no-left-arrow zero-top-margin">  
<h1 class="printOnly"> UCD Course Search  
Comparative European Politics (POL40540) </h1><h3 class="printOnly">Academic Year 2019/2020</h3><p class="printOnly"><em>The information contained in this document is, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate at the time of publication, and is solely for informational purposes. University College Dublin accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever arising as a result of use or reliance on this information.</em></p>  
<h4 class="noPrint">Comparative European Politics (POL40540)</h4>  
<dl>  
<dt>Subject:</dt>  
<dd>Politics</dd>

<dt>College:</dt>  
<dd>Social Sciences & Law</dd>  
<dt>School:</dt>  
<dd>Politics & Int Relations</dd>  
<dt>Level:</dt>  
<dd>4 (Masters)</dd>  
<dt>Credits:</dt>  
<dd>10.0</dd>

<dt>Trimester:</dt>  
<dd>Spring</dd>  
<dt>Module Coordinator:</dt>  
<dd>Professor Niamh Hardiman</dd>  
<dt>Mode of Delivery:</dt>  
<dd>Face-to-Face</dd>

<dt>Internship Module:</dt><dd>No</dd>

<dt>How will I be graded?</dt>  
<dd>Letter grades </dd>

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<div class="noPrint" style="text-align:center; margin-top:10px;"><button class="menubutton" onclick="window.print()"><i class="fa fa-print fa-fw"> Print  
Page</button>  
<span style="font-size:0.8em"><em>(<a href="https://www.google.com/chrome/" target="\_blank">Google Chrome</a> is recommended when printing  
this page)</em></span></div>

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