GOVT 4175.003 — German Politics
Fall 2021
Department of Government, SFASU
Course Meeting Times: TBA
Course Location: LAN 134
Instructor: Dr. Steven E. Galatas
Office Location: Dugas LAN 134
Office Hours: MW 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; TR 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; and by appointment
E-mail: galatasse@sfasu.edu

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.

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.

CoVID-19 Policies:
Mask Policy:
While state policy prohibits SFASU from imposing a mask mandate, students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask (cloth face covering) while in class. In addition, state policy prohibits social distancing; however, students are encouraged to consider physical distancing as much as possible. Information regarding face masks and other physical distancing may be found at:

General Health Policy:
This course is designed to be conducted in person. If you suspect that you have been exposed to CoVID-19 or if you are symptomatic, do not attend class so that the spread of CoVID-19 is minimized. Please get a test as soon as possible. Tests are available from a variety of healthcare providers including the SFASU Health Clinic. Should you miss class and should the need for quarantine arise, provisions will be made on a case-by-case basis to ensure that you have access to course material.

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.” *Germany Politics*, DOI: 10.1080/09644008.2015.1060589
Grades:

Course grades will be drawn from the following sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Reviews</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

- **A**: 315 – 350 points (90% and above)
- **B**: 280 – 314 points (80%-89.9%)
- **C**: 245 – 279 points (70%-79.9%)
- **D**: 210 – 244 points (60%-69.9%)
- **F**: 0 – 215 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 assigned readings. Your reviews should begin by stating the thesis or hypothesis of the week’s assigned articles. Then, a very brief summary should follow; this section must compare and synthesize the articles. This section should be to **no more than three paragraphs**. The bulk of the review should focus on a comparison of discussion of the data, methods, evidence, etc. used to support the thesis or hypothesis. Key issues in this section may include the 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 readings to the study of German politics. The total length of the review should be no more than three pages.

Reviews must be typed, double-spaced using an appropriate font (ex. Times New Roman 12 points). The reviews are due at the start of your weekly meetings with your professor.

Each essay is worth twenty (20) points for a total of two hundred (200) points from article reviews.

Final Exam:

During the last two weeks of the term, you will complete a practice final exam and an actual final exam. This exam will cover a variety of topics and concepts that you have studied during this course. The exam will emulate the end of course exams and comprehensive exams associated with graduate study at the Master’s degree level. The format of the exam will consist of a series of questions related to topics in this course, both theoretical and practical. The exam will contain both required questions and opportunities to choose some questions to answer. You should expect to answer a total of two or three questions. Answers must be typed, double spaced using an appropriate font. Each answer should be several pages in length, with a maximum of five (5) pages or 2,500 words per question. Your exam should include appropriate citations in text and appropriate bibliographic references for each source.

The practice exam is worth fifty (50) points, and the actual final exam is worth one-hundred (100) points.
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. As agreed, the meetings will occur each Friday at 9:00 a.m. in your professor’s office, unless otherwise agreed.

Student Academic Dishonesty:
The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2021), section on “Student Academic Dishonesty.” “Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.
Definition of Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.
Penalties for Academic Dishonesty:
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.
Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf. 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 (2021) or the University’s General Bulletin, 2021 – 2022 section entitled “Academic Integrity” and other sources of University policy.

Withheld Grades:
The following is taken from the SFA Policy Manual (2021), “Course Grades Policy.” (Policy 5.5) “At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. 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/.
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 Hour Credit Justification
In compliance with SFA Policy 5.4, you are expected to spend 150 minutes each week attending class. In addition, you should spend 300 minutes each week in preparation for class. This time included reading and reviewing material from your assigned readings, as well as reviewing notes from class, working on class assignments, and engaging in research related to your research project. During weeks in which you will meet one-on-one with your professor, you are expected to spend more time engaged in research and writing on your major research project.
# Course Outline and Readings

(Tentative)

## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of August 23</td>
<td>German Political History and Memory</td>
<td>Lagenbacher (2010)</td>
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<td>Week of August 30</td>
<td>Citizenship and Identity</td>
<td>Green (2007); Hofhansel (2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of September 6</td>
<td>Lander Elections</td>
<td>Blumenberg and Blumenberg (2018); Matttheiss (2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of September 13</td>
<td>Strategic Voting</td>
<td>Gschwend, Johnston, and Pattie (2003); Shinkano, Herrmann, Thurner (2009)</td>
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<td>Week of September 20</td>
<td>Legacy of Chancellor Angela Merkel</td>
<td>Jalalzai (2013); Masch and Gabriel (2020)</td>
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<td>Week of September 27</td>
<td>2021 Bundestag Elections</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of October 4</td>
<td>Social Context of Voting</td>
<td>Elff and Rossteutscher (2011); Siegers and Jedinger (2020)</td>
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<td>Week of November 1</td>
<td>Party Affiliation and Party System</td>
<td>Saalfeld (2002); Schmitt-Beck (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of November 8</td>
<td>Coalition Games</td>
<td>Steinert and Yordanova (2015); and Gross and Krauss (2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of November 15</td>
<td>Economic Voting in Germany</td>
<td>Triein, Beckmann and Walter (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of November 29</td>
<td>Final Exam Practice</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of December 6</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>