Course Description

CPO2100 | Comparative European Government | 3.00 credits

This course discusses the structures and functioning of the systems of government in Western Europe. Students will analyze major policy issues and approaches to resolving them, as cultural differences and interdependence among the Western European countries in policy determination. Recommended prerequisite: a prior course in history or social science. Offered first semester. Given in English. Offered through an overseas study program.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the differences in governments among countries in Western Europe by:

1. Analyzing the political structures and systems of selected Western European countries
2. Comparing and contrasting the key features of parliamentary and presidential systems in Western Europe
3. Evaluating the impact of historical and cultural factors on the development of government structures in Western Europe

Competency 2: The student will apply critical thinking skills to major policy issues and approaches to resolving them by:

1. Identifying and analyzing significant policy challenges facing Western European countries
2. Evaluating the effectiveness of different policy approaches in addressing contemporary issues
3. Formulating recommendations for potential policy solutions based on case studies and real-world examples

Competency 3: The student will engage with cultural differences and interdependence among the West European countries in policy determination by:

1. Exploring the cultural factors that influence policymaking in Western Europe
2. Evaluating the implications of interdependence on cross-border policies within Western Europe
3. Developing a global perspective on the interconnectedness of cultural diversity and policy formulation in the Western European context

Learning Outcomes:

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of global and historical perspectives
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society

Updated: Fall 2025