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*****DRAFT Course Syllabus DRAFT*****

Foundations of Government (Western Europe, Islam, and the Role of Women in Politics)

Political Science 1010 *General Education Study Abroad--Cherbourg*

Middle Tennessee State University

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Course Description

Foundations of Government, an introductory course in political science, serves as preparation for more advanced courses in the field. In this course, students are introduced to the key concepts and theoretical approaches commonly used in political science research as well as some of the main debates in the field of political science. However, given the unique opportunities afforded us in Cherbourg, the primary focus of this revised course will be on understanding how politics in theory translates into politics in reality. We will examine the ability of democratic institutions to resolve the “crisis” of integration facing France (and other Western European countries) and the role that women play in that process—both as facilitators and pawns. Integration issues—driven by immigration—contain elements of institutional politics, political culture, human rights, and international relations. Through selected readings, class discussion, and field trips, students will gain a perspective of both the theory and reality of politics as well as an understanding of a set of high-stakes political issues.

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to integrate the study abroad experience into PS1010 with an emphasis on democratic politics, political integration, and the role of women in politics in France.

The objectives for student learning are as follows:

- a) obtain a working knowledge of international and comparative politics (which is the core of this course as it is offered at MTSU),
- b) examine the contentious issue of integration of the Islamic population in France,
- c) evaluate the role of women in the integration experience (as pawns and facilitators) and in French politics in general,
- d) evaluate the ability of democratic institutions to ameliorate contentious issues, and
- e) understand the impact that the above issues have on international relations.

Succeeding in this Course

In order to get the most out of this course in terms of both knowledge and your grade, you must read the assigned material, come to class meetings, participate in class discussions, and participate in field excursions actively and maturely. Taking courses abroad offers unparalleled learning opportunities. However, the temptation to immerse oneself in the local culture at the expense of your work will be substantial. Please

remember that while I expect you to enjoy your time in Cherbourg and elsewhere, I will hold you accountable for completing the requirements of this course.

Course Materials

All reading materials will be provided prior to leaving the U.S. You should print all of the materials and bring them with you.

Course Requirements and Grading

Readings: Students are required to keep up with the assigned readings (listed in the course schedule). Readings should be done prior to coming to class on the date that the readings are listed.

Late/Make-up policy: Unless you are hospitalized, you will not be allowed to make-up work in this course.

Participation	25%
Journal	25%
Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%

Participation: Your participation grade will be based on your willingness to participate in class discussions and your *active and mature** participation in field excursions. Participation DOES NOT mean presence—it means activity. Therefore, sitting in the classroom does not count. You must be engaged in our discussion (in a relevant manner).

Journal: You will be required to keep a written journal relating class discussions and readings to field experiences. Instructions will be provided separately.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams, and the exams will not be cumulative. You are required to take the examinations during the scheduled times. The format of the exams will be announced prior to the exam date.

Academic Integrity

I encourage you to study together for exams. However, all other assignments are to be the work of individual students. Should you choose to conduct yourself in a way that is inconsistent with my instructions for an assignment and is representative of dishonest behavior, I will file a university complaint and will give you a failing grade for the course. In plain language, if you cheat and get caught, I will show no mercy.

* Immature and/or inappropriate behavior during field excursions will result in a substantial grade penalty.

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Grading Scale (may need to be modified for Motlow?)

A = 90-100	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F <= 59
C = 73-76	

Attendance

Attendance at all class meetings is required. Failure to attend will negatively affect your participation grade and leave you unprepared for field excursions and exams.

Withdrawal and Drop Policy

TBA

ADA Accommodation Policy

TBA

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Statement

To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility. If you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. For additional lottery scholarship rules please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery scholarship requirements on the web at <http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm>, or contact the MTSU financial aid office at 898-2830.

Miscellaneous (but not unimportant) rules that are really just matters of common sense (if your parents instructed you on respectful behavior).

Section to be added on etiquette for foreign travel

Be respectful. We will not always agree, but we will always respect one another. Abusive, degrading, condescending, or otherwise obnoxious behavior is not acceptable. Remember the golden rule.