Course Content

This course aims to explain the recent developments across a range of issues which affect European countries. Over the last decade it deals with the rise and fall of ‘New Left’ governments and the return to power of parties of the right, examining the extent of consensus politics in the ‘post-ideological’ era.

Particular attention is paid to the role and economic power of Germany, the UK’s political divergence from the European mainstream, the challenges facing the Socialist Presidency in France, and the political change in Scandinavia, Italy, Greece and Iberia.

As well as specific country studies the course also evaluates common themes in European politics such as secularisation, post-Christianity, the domestic challenge of Islam, and the impact of Russia and eastern Europe on western European policy.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term you should be able to:

▪ appreciate a range of basic concepts and theories relating to the comparative study of European politics in the late 20th century and the early 21st century

▪ demonstrate a critical appreciation of contemporary European politics and their impact on national politics