

## OISLX02 - France, Great Britain, USA, Germany, Spain, European Union... How do we govern?

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**Contact information:**  
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**Department:** International affairs  
**Semester:** 1

**Course level:** Undergraduate (L3)  
**Domain:** Social Sciences and Law  
**Teaching language:** English  
**Number of in-class hours:** 36  
**Number of course sessions:** 11 + Exam  
**ECTS:** 6

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### Course description and objectives

The course aims to form students in constitutional issues linked to politics and current affairs. The course consists of class hours dedicated to providing a thorough and practical introduction for comparative constitutional law students to the history of European integration, institutions, the legislative process.

In addition to constitutional culture, the lectures will also deal with major concepts analysis, main political regimes and public and constitutional law characteristics. The different themes will be studied with regard to recent events.

The lecture will be divided into different parts: introduction to Constitutional Law, elaboration and protection of Constitutions, establishment and consolidation of the Rule of Law, separation of powers, role of political institutions.

Other themes of our different political systems will also be studied in order to understand Constitutional Law and political spheres, such as the consequences of the voting systems on politics and government stability.

Of the various topics addressed, particular emphasis should be made on the main regimes (presidential, parliamentary, « guided democracies »...) that will be considered through the studies of countries such as USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain or Italy. Constitutional history, relationships between the powers, and also constitutional controls will of course be studied. The lecture will end by taking a detailed look at the politics of the European Union.

### Prerequisites

None.

### Learning outcomes

At the end of this 36 hours of lectures, they must understand and master Constitutional Law and its main concerns.

### Assignments and grading

Two group presentations. Each presentation will last 20 minutes and will be accompanied by a 10 page documentary record.

Group presentation : 30%. Documentary record : 15%

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Participation : 10%.

A three hours composition at the end of the semester.

Before their group presentation, the students will have to send their documentary records to the other members of the class, 3 days before the course.

A group will have to present its work for 30 minutes and will then answer questions from the lecturer and the other members of the class, before the teacher's lecture.

The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade. The passing grade for a course is 10/20.

**Class participation:** Active class participation – this is what makes classes lively and instructive. Come on time and prepared. Class participation is based on quality of comments, not quantity.

**Exam policy:** In the exam, students will not be allowed to bring any document (except if allowed by the lecturer). Unexcused absences from exams or failure to submit cases will result in zero grades in the calculation of numerical averages. Exams are collected at the end of examination periods.

## Course structure

Session	Topic
1	PRESENTATION OF THE COURSE Distribution of the presentation's subjects. Analyses of different cases linked to constitutional Law. Brief presentation of the course and its issues.
2	THE CONSTITUTION Presentation: How to write and protect a constitution? Presentation: Is a constitution compulsory in guaranteeing Human rights and enhancing the rule of Law?
3	RULE OF LAW, SEPARATION OF POWERS Presentation: The Rule of Law in Great Britain, the United States of America, Germany and France: comparison, opposition, inventory. Presentation: Federalism and decentralization.
4	HOW THE PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES Presentation: Referendums in Europe and USA. Presentation: Electoral systems in Europe and USA.
5	PARLIAMENT Presentation: Spanish and German political systems: strengths and weaknesses. Presentation: Bicameralism in democracy. Presentation: Rationalizing Parliament.
6	CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW OF LEGISLATION Presentation: Constitutional review of legislation. Presentation: The Court System in France and the USA
7	GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Presentation: The Heads of the State during the past 150 years in GB and USA. Presentation: The Westminster system.
8	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Presentation: The Executive in USA. Presentation: The President and Congress.
9	FRANCE Presentation: Cabinet instability under the Third and the Fourth Republics. Presentation: The French Constitutional Law of the 3rd of June 1958: causes and consequences.
10	FRANCE Presentation: What are the characteristics of the regime of the Fifth Republic? Presentation: The French President since 1958. Presentation: The powers of the French Parliament since 1958.
11	EUROPEAN UNION Presentation: European Union and National Constitutions. Presentation: The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and its effects. Presentation: The growing power of the European Parliament

## Bibliography

Aalt Willem Heringa and Philip Kiiver, *Constitutions Compared: An Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law*, Intersentia Ltd, 2012.

Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Sarah A. Binder, R. A. W. Rhodes, and Bert A. Rockman, *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Ian Loveland, *Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, and Human Rights, A Critical Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 7th edition.

Neill Nugent, *The Government and Politics of The European Union*, The European Union Series, Palgrave Macmillan, 7th edition.

## MyCourse

This course is on MyCourse: **No**

## Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.

Academic calendar

<b>Dates (Monday/Sunday)</b>		
02/09/19	09/08/19	<b>Welcome Week + French seminar</b>
09/09/19	15/09/19	1
16/09/19	22/09/19	2
23/09/19	29/09/19	3
30/09/19	06/10/19	4
07/10/19	13/10/19	5
14/10/19	20/10/19	6
21/10/19	27/10/19	7
28/10/19	03/11/19	<b>Holidays</b>
04/11/19	10/11/19	8
11/11/19	17/11/19	9
18/11/19	24/11/19	10
25/11/19	01/12/19	11
02/12/19	08/12/19	Review w.
09/12/19	15/12/19	<b>Exams</b>
16/12/19	22/12/19	
23/12/19	29/12/19	<b>Holidays</b>
30/12/19	05/01/20	
06/01/20	12/01/20	