

PSC/INR 3881: European Politics Simulation Assignment

Because European governance involves the use of political and electoral systems very different from our own, over the course of the next week we will participate in a political simulation of European politics, broadly defined. The activities we will be competing are meant to illustrate the theoretical underpinnings of these systems and demonstrate the 'real world' electoral and governance processes in Europe. You will be graded on your active participation and completion of all simulation activities as discussed below.

- I. On the first day, each student will be assigned to a different party. With members of that party, the party will research their respective party family and write and submit a Party Election Manifesto that generally reflects the policies of that party on each of the following issues:
 1. Taxes
 2. Immigration
 3. Welfare State
 4. Environmental Regulations
 5. Free Trade
 6. Independence/Autonomy for BackroviaAt the end of class, each party's leader presents a summary of the party's positions on the six issues to the people of Gräberia.
- II. Before noon on Friday, students will submit via email an evaluation of each party's six issues. Each student will rank each issue of each party on a 1-10 scale, with 1 being the most leftist and 10 being the most conservative. Your instructor will then compile and distribute an aggregate scoring of the parties to determine the relative positions of the six parties.
- III. Between noon on Friday and noon on Monday, students will vote in an online PR-List election for a new Gräberian Parliament. You are welcome to 'campaign' amongst yourselves and invite your friends to vote as well.
- IV. By the end of Sunday, each party must submit a Coalition Strategy Form to your instructor, assessing the various possible coalition arrangements that might be feasible for your party.
- V. On Monday, the results of the election will be presented and analyzed with the class. Then, using Coalition Negotiation and Agreement Forms, the parties will attempt to form a Government with other parties according to a specified set of rules. After a Coalition Agreement Form has been signed by the respective parties, an investiture vote has been taken, and, notwithstanding further opportunities to undermine the Government, the simulation ends.
- VI. Within a week, students will submit a short written evaluation of the simulation, the details of which will be discussed on Monday.