
The Politics of Western Europe

Political Science 4075

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Office Hours: 1-2:30 M, 10-11:30 W, or by appointment

Fall 2010

MWF 11:40-12:30

201 Tureaud

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the political systems of four prominent countries in Western Europe: the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy. Throughout the semester, we will be studying the modern histories of each respective country, examining their contemporary political institutions, and discussing their respective political cultures and parties. While comparative politics is generally focused upon politics within states, the emergence of the European Union has changed how we think of European politics. Therefore, we will also trace the development of the European Union and discuss the various institutions that comprise it.

“He who knows one country knows none.”

-Freidrich Muller

“What knows he of England who only England knows?”

-Rudyard Kipling

Course Requirements:

- **Midterm Exam- October 10, 2011 (20 percent of course grade)**
 - **Final Exam- December 5, 2011: 7:30-9:30 a.m. (30 percent of course grade)**
 - **Research Paper- Due November 21, 2011 (25 percent of course grade)**
- 1) You are free to pick any topic that is related to Western European politics, but the topic must ultimately be approved by me. A brief (less than one typed page) description of your project is due in-class on **Wednesday, September 21st**. I will review your proposal and either accept it outright or accept provisionally with a few specific revisions to the topic.
 - 2) You will also turn in an annotated bibliography which will briefly (one paragraph) describe 10 sources you have examined for your paper. The annotated bibliography is due on **Monday, October 28th**.
 - 3) Paper length should be roughly 8-12 typed double-spaced pages. Standard 12-pt font, standard margins.
 - 4) A **hard copy and electronic copy** of your research paper is due at the start of class on **Monday, November 21st**. You will be docked one letter grade for every calendar day that your assignment is late.
 - 5) This assignment is worth 25% of your total course grade.
 - 6) Wikipedia, Ask.com, and other sources that can be edited by nine year olds are not acceptable sources for a formal research paper. However, you are welcome to review Wikipedia articles to get a general understanding of your topic and to search for credible sources.
 - 7) Acceptable sources for this project may include, but are not limited to: books, journal articles, primary documents, newspaper or magazine articles, and interviews. All sources must be cited appropriately in a works cited page, and any quotes or direct information received must be accompanied with a footnote, endnote, or parenthetical citation.
 - 8) Failure to comply with the guidelines set forth in provision 6 will constitute plagiarism. Students are expected to know and abide by LSU policy regarding plagiarism. If you have any questions about the policy I suggest you visit <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/plagiarism.htm> . All cases of suspected plagiarism will be thoroughly investigated. If I find evidence that plagiarism has occurred, I will automatically transfer the matter to judicial affairs.

- **Participation - The Participation grade is a composite of 4 components. (25% of course grade)**

- 1) I expect you to attend every class with the reading assignment completed beforehand. Regular participation in classroom discussions, particularly on seminar days, is the first component of the participation grade.
- 2) You will keep a current events journal to go along with CNN's Sunday Morning talk show *Fareed Zakaria GPS* (Global Public Square). GPS airs at 9 a.m. and again at 12 p.m. Central Standard Time on CNN. If neither of those times is convenient, the show is uploaded to CNN's GPS website. You will type a roughly one page response paper to the program each week, and I will collect them on a random class day the following week. If you are not in class, you may not turn in a paper. The response papers can be about one segment in particular, or the entire show, depending on the student's interest in the topics that were examined. You will receive full credit for this component of your participation grade if you turn in 10 papers that receive full credit.
<http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/category/gps-episodes/>
- 3) In addition to your current events journal, I will begin some class sessions with a news article that is pertinent to the course. Students will complete an in-class reaction paper and we will discuss the article.
- 4) Pop Quizzes over the readings will be given only if I am dissatisfied with the general quality of the classroom discussions. I prefer a vibrant classroom discussion over the material to the stress of a pop quiz, but I will give them if I feel they are needed.

Required Texts:

- Peterson, John and Shackleton, Michael The Institutions of the European Union (Second Edition) Oxford University Press (2006)
- Safran, William The French Polity (Seventh Edition) Longman Publishing (2008)
- Norton, Philip The British Polity (Fifth Edition) Prentice Hall Publishing (2010)
- Conradt, David The German Polity (Ninth Edition) Wadsworth Publishing (2008)

Special Needs:

Any student with a learning disability should make me aware of it so that I may accommodate your situation appropriately and in accordance with LSU policy. Additionally, athletes and club members who will miss class and/or deadlines due to your involvement in extracurricular activities are required to know and follow school policy and procedures for making up the work.

Academic Honesty:

I will not tolerate plagiarism of any kind, and all matters will be automatically referred to judicial affairs. All students are expected to know and abide by LSU policy regarding plagiarism.

<http://lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism/htm>.

Additional Rules and Procedures:

- All cell phones and any other mobile electronic devices are to be turned off and put away for the duration of all of our class periods. Failure to comply with this instruction will have deleterious consequences for your participation grade.
- Students are expected to attend all class sessions and in a punctual manner.
- Laptops are not to be used in this class. While I am fully aware of the benefits that laptops can have in facilitating a student's education, it has been my experience that students are more often than not surfing the web rather than actively engaging the classroom material. The content of this course requires your full attention, and I believe we will all get more from this course without these distractions.

Course Outline:

August 22nd

Course Introduction

August 24th

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Read selection from Kenneth Newton's Foundations of Comparative Politics)

August 26th

Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems (Read Selection from Jose Antonio Cheibub's Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy)

August 29th

Societal Cleavages and Modern Political Party Families (Read Selection from Michael Gallagher et al. Representative Government in Modern Europe: Institutions, Parties and Governments)

August 31st

Majoritarian vs. Consensus Democracies: Part 1 (Read Selection from Arend Lijphart's Patterns of Democracy)

September 2nd

Majoritarian vs. Consensus Democracies: Part 2 (Read Selection from Arend Lijphart's Patterns of Democracy)

September 5th
Happy Labor Day!

September 7th
The Origin of the European Union (Read Selection from Tony Judt's
Post-War: A History of Europe Since 1945)

September 9th
The Institutions of the European Union: Part 1 (Read Peterson: pages 1-34)

September 12th
The Institutions of the European Union: Part 2 (Read Peterson: pages 37-80)

September 14th
The European Union and Public Opinion/Trust in the EU (Read Peterson: pages 81-124)

September 16th
The European Union and the financial crisis (Read Peterson: pages 125-143 and 169-189)

September 19th
The European Union in the World (Read Peterson: pages 252-270)

September 21st
Seminar Day-The European Union (Reading to be assigned)
Research Paper proposals are due in-class.

September 23rd
British History (Read Norton: pages 43-61)

September 26th
British Political Institutions: Part 1 (Read Norton: pages 314-361)

September 28th
British Political Institutions: Part 2 (Read Norton: pages 63-83 and 204-242)

September 30th
British Political Parties (Read Norton: pages 127-174)

October 3rd
British Political Culture (Read Norton: pages 22-42 and 84-122)

October 5th
British Seminar Day (Reading to be assigned)

October 7th
Review for Mid-Term Examination

October 10th
Mid-Term Examination

October 12th
French History: Part 1 (Read Safran: pages 1-15)

October 14th
Happy Fall Break!

October 17th
French History: Part 2 (Read Safran: pages 199-234)

October 19th
French Political Institutions: Part 1 (Read Safran: pages 247-274)

October 21st
French Political Institutions: Part 2 (Read Safran: pages 329-341)

October 24th
French Political Parties (Read Safran: pages 83-166)

October 26th
French Political Culture (Read Safran: pages 61-82)

October 28th
French Seminar Day
Annotated Bibliographies are due in class

October 31st

German History: Part 1 (Read excerpt from Jackson Spielvogel's Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History)

November 2nd

German History: Part 2 (Read Conradt: pages 1-30)

November 4th

German Political Institutions: Part 1 (Read Conradt: pages 181-220)

November 7th

German Political Institutions: Part 2 (Read Conradt: pages 221-248)

November 9th

German Political Parties (Read Conradt: pages 113-152)

November 11th

German Political Culture (Read Conradt: pages 75-112)

November 14th

German Seminar Day (Read Conradt: pages 253-276)

November 16th

Italian History (Read Selection from Robert Putnam's Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy)

November 18th

Italian Political Institutions (Read Selection from Robert Putnam's making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy)

November 21st

Italian Political Parties: (Read Paul Statham's "Berlusconi, the Media, and the New Right in Italy")

Research Papers are due in class AND electronic copy over email

November 23rd
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 25th
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28th
Italian Seminar Day (Reading to be assigned)

November 30th
The Rest of the West/Course Wrap Up

December 2nd
Review for Final

December 5th
Final Exam 7:30-9:30 AM