
The Politics of Western Europe

Political Science 4075

Normal Price

310 Stubbs Hall

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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 cultures 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 (20 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) Research articles should be 9-13 typed double spaced pages. Standard 12 pt

4) Turn in your paper 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

quotes or direct information received must be accompanied with a footnote, endnote, or parenthetical citation.

8) Failure to follow the guidelines set forth in provision 6 will constitute

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Participation: The Participation grade is a component of 4

- 1) I expect you to attend every class with the reading assignment completed beforehand. Regular participation in classroom discussions is essential to your learning. In the first semester, participation grade.
- 2) You will keep a current events journal to go along with CNN's Sunday Morning talk show *Edward Zeharia 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. You will receive 10% credit for this component of your participation grade if you turn in 10 papers that receive full credit.
<http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/category/ons-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 overall quality of the class discussion. I reserve the right to cancel classroom discussion over the material to the student's benefit.

Required Texts:

- Peterson, John and Shekleton, 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)
- Giddens, David The Constitution of Society (Fourth 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 I SU 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 must abide by I SU policy regarding plagiarism

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

consequences for your participation grade.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and in a virtual

benefits that laptops can have in facilitating a student's education, it

the web rather than actively engaging the classroom material. The content of this course requires your full attention, and I believe we

Course Outline

August 22

Course Introduction

August 24th

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

Selected Cases of Modern 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
D. W. A. History of Europe Since 1945)

The Institutions of the European Union: Part 1 (Read Peterson: pages 1-

September 12th
The Institutions of the European Union: Part 2 (Read Peterson: pages 27-
80)

September 14th
The European Union and Public Opinion/Trust in the EU (Read Peterson:

September 16th
The European Union and the financial crisis (Read Peterson: pages 125-
142 and 160-190)

September 19th

September 21st
Session D: 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 214-261)

September 29th

242)

September 30th

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 Sefton: pages 1-15)

October 14th

Happy Fall Break!

October 17th

October 19th

French Political Institutions: Part 1 (Read Sefton: pages 24-27)

October 21st

French Political Institutions: Part 2 (Read Sefton: pages 320-341)

October 24th

French Political Parties (Read Sefton: pages 92-166)

October 26th

October 28th

French Seminar Day

Annotated Bibliographies are due in class

October 31st

Germany: A History (Read Paul Statham's "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 Culture (Read Conradt: pages 13-23)

November 11th

German Political Culture (Read Conradt: pages 7-11)

November 14th

German Seminar Day (Read Conradt: pages 25-26)

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 Institutions (Read Paul Statham's "Dionusconi, the Media and the New Right in Italy")

Read Paul Statham's "Dionusconi, the Media and the New Right in Italy" 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