

Political Science 300: Western European Politics

Fall 2007

MW 12:30-1:45, LUB S171

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OVERVIEW

This course provides a general introduction to contemporary politics in Western Europe. The material is laid out thematically rather than country-by-country; however, it is a goal of the course that students will acquire both an understanding of the general problems affecting Western European politics and a basic sense of how politics operates in the major European nations. We will address topics relating to the different European political systems (elections and the formation of governments, political parties and party systems, etc) and also topics that, while not institutional, are equally political and of equally great importance to European citizens (the welfare state, immigration, etc). In the final weeks of the course, we'll look at the origins and development of the European Union and at Western Europe's relationships with other parts of the world. This course assumes no prior familiarity with European politics, but junior standing is a prerequisite.

Learning objectives. By the end of this course, students will be able to...

- Use the vocabulary of comparative government to describe the political systems of Western Europe, including the European Union.
- Identify similarities and differences between the political systems of different Western European countries, and compare and contrast European politics with politics in the United States.
- Develop arguments (spoken and written) about the important changes underway in European societies and how governments should respond to them.
- Read and critique a variety of types of writing on European politics, including academic journal articles and chapters, journal articles for general audiences (in outlets like *Foreign Affairs*), newspaper reporting, and op-ed commentaries.
- Utilize online resources for studying European politics.
- Apply social-science concepts to the analysis of real-world political events.

COURSE MATERIALS

Text. The following coursebook is available for purchase at the UWM bookstore:

[GLM] Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2005. *Representative Government in Modern Europe: Institutions, Parties, and Governments*, 4th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Note that this is the current edition of a book for which older editions are also available. You may choose to purchase a previous edition, although you do so at your own risk. The third edition of GLM (the most recent they own) is available on the reserve shelf in the library.

Reserve readings. Required readings not found in GLM have been placed on electronic reserve. These articles and book chapters are marked with an [R] in the course outline below. Links to the reserve readings will also be posted on D2L. To access e-reserve readings from D2L, you will need the following login and password: “eres” and “fall.”

Sessions marked “Recent news coverage TBA.” Many of the topics we’ll cover in this course are topics of current interest – new things are happening all the time. For some sessions, I will assign recent newspaper or magazine articles as readings and post those materials on D2L.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades for this course will be calculated as follows (but see caveat under “attendance” below). Details about each assignment can be found in the sections that follow:

News articles and discussion:	10%
Four reading-analysis papers @ 5% each:	20%
Argumentative essay:	20%
Midterm exam (October 22):	20%
Final exam:	<u>30%</u>
Grand total:	100%

The following grade scale will be applied:

100-93	A	77-73	C
92-90	A-	72-70	C-
89-88	B+	69-68	D+
87-83	B	67-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
79-78	C+	59 and below	F

News articles and discussion. One of your responsibilities in this class will be to keep track of developments in the news from Western Europe over the course of the semester. For this purpose, I’ll divide the class into groups and create a discussion thread for each group on D2L. Each week, each group member will post a message to the D2L thread with a link to one (or at least one) recent news or opinion article from Western Europe, together with a paragraph briefly summarizing the article and stating an opinion about the event it describes. Also each week, each group member will post a response to at least two other members’ posts, reading the article in question and then replying to the analysis written by the original poster. Articles should be posted no later than midnight Wednesday and responses no later than midnight Friday. Two

people may not post the same article to a discussion group, so if you see something particularly interesting, get cracking! A resource sheet with suggestions for finding European news coverage online will be posted with the course materials on D2L.

Reading-analysis papers. Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to submit four short papers in which you respond to a question raised by the assigned readings for a particular session. Every Wednesday, I will post discussion questions for the next week's readings on D2L; you should choose one of these questions on which to focus your paper. (These questions may also come in handy as reading guides and for exam review.) Analysis papers should be no less than two **entire** pages and no more than three pages in length and must be typed, double-spaced, and presented in a standard format (eleven- or twelve-point font; one-inch margins on all sides). You have a free choice of which readings and topics to address and are welcome to write on whichever weeks' material is of greatest interest to you. It is perfectly acceptable to draw on material beyond the course readings in writing your analysis papers, but this is neither required nor expected. Papers are due at the beginning of class; you may turn in a paper in any class you like with this caveat: **At least two analysis papers must be turned in before the midterm.** Make-up work will not be permitted. **It is your responsibility to keep track of how much time is left in the semester and how many papers you have submitted.** If you wish, you may turn in extra analysis papers and drop the lowest grade(s) you receive.

Argumentative essay. In this assignment, you will build on your online discussions and our current-events coverage over the course of the semester to write a 6-8 page paper on a controversial question that matters for European politics today (for example, "Should Turkey join the European Union?"). Your paper should introduce the topic under discussion, present what you see as the strongest arguments on both sides, and then put forward an argument for the position you consider most persuasive. Additional details about this assignment will be provided later in the semester. Essays will be due in our final class meeting on December 12.

Exams. There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Specifics on format will be provided before each exam; however, a mix of short(er)-answer and essay questions is to be expected. On the midterm, you will also be asked to identify the countries of Western Europe on a map. The final exam will be comprehensive, but material from the second half of the course will be weighted more heavily.

Attendance and participation. Regular attendance is important for success in this course. You are adults and this is an upper-level course: I will not begin by taking attendance. However, if attendance or preparation seems to be slipping unacceptably, I reserve the right to alter this policy (to take attendance, give pop reading quizzes, etc) and to factor a penalty for lack of preparation into students' final grades.

Late work. Do not turn work in late. Analysis papers are due *in class*. They will not be accepted at any other time. All students are expected to take exams as scheduled. Absolutely no make-up exams will be given without a university-approved excuse.

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Students found engaged in cheating, plagiarism (taking credit for others' work as their own), or any other violation of academic integrity should expect the severest penalties available

under university policies. If you have concerns about what constitutes plagiarism, please feel free to consult me at any time.

OTHER MATTERS

Special needs. Any student with special needs resulting from a physical or learning disability should contact me as soon as possible. I will make every effort to see that your needs are accommodated.

Religious observances. If you will need to miss class because of a religious observance, please notify me at your earliest possible convenience. In no case should you do so *after* the holiday has occurred.

You can access links to UWM's policies on religious observances, incompletes, academic misconduct, appealing a grade, final exams, students called to military service, discriminatory conduct, and complaint procedures at www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

September 5: Course introduction

September 10: The making of modern Europe

Read: GLM chapter 1, pp 13-22 ("The Vital Statistics").

II. GOVERNING WESTERN EUROPE

September 12: Organizing government: Presidentialism and parliamentarism

Read: GLM chapter 2, "The Executive," and chapter 3, "Parliaments."

September 17: Presidentialism and parliamentarism, continued

Read: [R] Lijphart, Arend. 1992. Introduction. In Lijphart, ed., *Parliamentary versus Presidential Government* (New York: Oxford University Press), pp 1-27.

September 19: Elections: From 'first past the post' to proportional representation

Read: GLM chapter 11, "Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referendums." Skip section on referendums.

September 24: Party systems (1): The effects of electoral rules

Read: GLM chapter 7, "Patterns in Party Politics and Party Systems." Skip Latvia and Poland.

September 26: Party systems (2): The effects of cleavage structures

Read: GLM chapter 9, “Cleavage Structures and Electoral Change.”

October 1: Political parties in Western Europe (1): How are parties organized?

Read: GLM chapter 10, “Inside European Political Parties.”

[R] Duverger, Maurice. 1990 [1954]. Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties. In Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System* (New York: Oxford University Press), pp 37-45.

[R] Kirchheimer, Otto. 1990 [1966]. The Catch-All Party. In Mair, ed., pp 50-60.

October 3: Political parties in Western Europe (2): What kinds of parties are there?

Read: GLM chapter 8, “Party Families.” Skip section on post-communist Europe.

October 8: Europe’s party families: Christian democracy

Read: [R] Kalyvas, Stathis N. 1998. From Pulpit to Party: Party Formation and the Christian Democratic Phenomenon. *Comparative Politics* 30(3): 293-312.

October 10: Europe’s party families: Social democracy

Read: [R] Przeworski, Adam, and John Sprague. 1986. “Prologue” and “The Dilemma of Electoral Socialism.” In Przeworski and Sprague, *Paper Stones: A History of Electoral Socialism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), pp 1-11 and 29-56.

October 15: The organization of civil society: Interest groups, corporatism and pluralism

Read: GLM chapter 14, “Politics Outside Parliament.”

October 17: Politics and the economy

Read: [D2L] Recent news coverage TBA

October 22: MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS

III. SOCIETY IN WESTERN EUROPE

October 24: States and societies. No readings for today.

October 29: Democratization in Southern Europe

Read: [R] Hitchcock, William I. 2003. Southern Renaissance: The Transition to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, and Greece. In Hitchcock, *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent, 1945-2002* (New York: Doubleday), pp 269-287.

[R] Schmitter, Philippe C. 1986. An Introduction to Southern European Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey. In Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe C. Schmitter and Laurence Whitehead, eds., *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Southern Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins), pp 3-10.

October 31: The welfare state in Western Europe (1)

Read: [R] Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State. In Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), pp 9-34.

November 5: The welfare state in Western Europe (2). No readings for today.

November 7: The future of European welfare states

Read: [R] Pierson, Paul. 1994. Introduction: Conservatives and the Welfare State. In Pierson, *Dismantling the Welfare State? Reagan, Thatcher, and the Politics of Retrenchment* (New York: Cambridge University Press), pp 1-9.

[D2L] Recent news coverage TBA

November 12: Immigration (1)

Read: [R] Soysal, Yasemin Nuhoğlu. 1994. *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Read pp 1-44 (optional but recommended: pp 45-64).

November 14: Immigration (2)

Read: [D2L] Recent news coverage TBA

IV. THE EUROPEAN UNION

November 19: The project of European union: History and theory

Read: [R] Dinan, Desmond. 2007. The European Integration Process. In Colin Hay and Anand Menon, eds., *European Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press), pp. 151-66.

November 21: How does the EU work?

Read: GLM chapter 5, “The European Union and Representative Government,” through p. 135.

November 26: Policy and policymaking in the EU

Read: [D2L] Reading(s) TBA

November 28: The future of the EU (1): Enlargement of the Union

Read: [R] Teitelbaum, Michael S., and Philip L. Martin. 2003. Is Turkey Ready for Europe? *Foreign Affairs* 82(3): 97-111.

[R] Cem, Ismail. 2003. Turkey in Europe. In Susan Stern and Elisabeth Seligmann, eds., *Desperately Seeking Europe* (London: Archetype), pp 95-100

[D2L] Recent news coverage TBA

December 3: The future of the EU (2): A European constitution and the ‘democratic deficit’

Read: [D2L] Recent news coverage (or other readings) TBA

V. EUROPE AND THE WORLD

December 5: Western Europe and the world: Foreign affairs

Read: [R] Bicchi, Federica, Karen Smith and Richard Whitman. 2006. International Politics and European States. In Paul M. Heywood, et al., eds., *Developments in European Politics* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), pp 35-53.

December 10: Western Europe and the United States

Read: [R] Perle, Richard. 2003. Europe: Ally or Counterweight? In Stern and Seligmann, eds., pp 44-52.

[D2L] Recent news coverage TBA

December 12: Final discussion and review. No reading for today.

Final Exam: As scheduled by the university: Tuesday, December 18, 12:30-2:30 PM.