

Government 284: Comparative Politics of Western Europe

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Office hours: Mon 10:00 – 12:00

Class meetings: TTh 10:30 – 11:50; Judd 113

Course overview

The leading nations of Western Europe – Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy – have developed vibrant economies and stable democracies that differ in important ways from the United States and from each other. This course explores the ability of European economies to withstand pressures of globalization and the capacity of European democracies to integrate political newcomers such as women and immigrants. We address questions such as: Where is Britain headed in the post-Blair era? With the limited ability of the French people to influence politics, should we still consider that country a democracy? Has Germany definitively overcome its Nazi past or does the strength of German democracy rely on a strong German economy? How can we make sense of the Italian “second republic”? Our readings and discussions over the course of the semester will shed light on these questions.

Course Requirements

25% First paper (due Oct 10)
25% Second paper (due Nov 14)
35% Final
10% Participation
5% Images of Europe project

Course Readings

The readings for this course average around 150-200 pages per week. They contain conflicting interpretations of both theory and history. It is important that you read actively and critically. There is no single accepted “truth” in most of the topics we explore. Your job is to learn to identify, and then to compare and evaluate competing arguments. The readings for this course complement classroom discussion; neither can substitute for the other. You should do the reading on each topic before coming to class.

The following book is available for purchase:
Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger (eds.). 2008. *European Politics in Transition*, 6th edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

The other readings will be on reserve at Olin. Most readings will be available as both on-line reserve and hard-copy reserve.

Participation

This course will have a mixed lecture/discussion format. It is therefore critical that you come to class having done the readings and prepared to talk about the material. Because discussion is critical to the course, attendance is required. Students are allowed two absences. Absences exceeding two will result in a deduction of your participation grade. Attendance alone, however, does not guarantee a good participation grade. You must also actively contribute to class discussion and I will keep track of who has spoken. Smaller assignments, such as short answers to study questions or pop quizzes, will also count towards your participation grade. Frequent absences from class will result in your participation grade counting for significantly more than 10%.

Course Policies

Students are required to complete all readings and attend each class period prepared to talk about the readings. Extensions and incompletes will not be granted under any circumstances other than significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in family). **Late work will be penalized one full grade per day.**

All work that you submit must be your own. You must cite all sources used in completing the assignments using the standard form of citation that we will go over in class. If you are unsure how to use proper citation form, please ask me. Failure to use proper citation is plagiarism. You must adhere to all aspects of the honor code. Please write on each assignment: "No aid. No violation." Please sign your name next to that statement.

Images of Europe

Twice during the semester you will be required to contribute to our Images of Europe blog. We will assign days on the second day of class. Your blog entry should contain at least one image related to the subject matter of that day's course material. You should also write a short paragraph explaining what the image is, where you found it, and how it relates to the course. This work will be done in pairs.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

INTRODUCTION

Sept 2 **Introduction**

Sept 4 **Did the United States Save Europe?**

Reading: Urwin, Derek. 1997. *A Political History of Western Europe Since 1945*. Fifth edition. London: Longman. Chap. 3 “Problems of Reconstruction”.

Maier, Charles. 1981. “The Two Postwar Eras and the Conditions for Stability in Twentieth Century Western Europe,” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 86, No. 2, pp. 327-352.

Heilbroner, Robert. 1986. “The Heresies of John Maynard Keynes,” in *Idem., The Worldly Philosophers*. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 249-87.

Sept 9 **Why the United States and Europe are Different: Cross National Differences**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Introduction.

Seymour Lipset and Stein Rokkan. 1991. “Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments,” in Peter Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 91-138.

MAPQUIZ

THE POSTWAR SETTLEMENTS

Sept 11 **Great Britain: Political System**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chaps. 1, 3, 4.

Beer, Samuel. 1982. *Modern British Politics: Parties and Pressure Groups in the Collectivist Age*. New York: W. W. Norton. Pp. 69-102.

Sept 16 **Great Britain: Political Economy**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chap. 2.

Hall, Peter. 1986. *Governing the Economy: The Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chap. 3.

Sept 18 **France: Political System**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chaps. 6, 8, 9.

Hoffmann, Stanley. 1991. "The Institutions of the Fifth Republic," in James Hollifield and George Ross (eds.), *Searching for the New France*, New York: Routledge. Pp. 43-56.

Sept 23 **France: Political Economy**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chap. 7.

Hall, Peter. 1986. *Governing the Economy: The Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chap. 6.

Sept 25 **Germany: Political System**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chaps. 11, 13, 14.

Conradt, David. 1989. "Changing German Political Culture," in Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba (eds.) *The Civic Culture Revisited*. London: Sage. Pp. 212-272.

Sept 30 **Germany: Political Economy**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chap. 12.

Hall, Peter. 1986. *Governing the Economy: The Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 9, pp. 229-258.

Streeck, Wolfgang. 1991. "On the Institutional Conditions of Diversified Quality Production," in Egon Matzner and Wolfgang Streeck (eds.), *Beyond Keynesianism*. Worcester: Edward Elgar, pp. 21-61.

Oct 2 **Italy: Political System**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chaps. 16, 18, 19.

Patridge, Hilary. 1998. *Italian politics today*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, Chapter 4.

Oct 7 **Italy: Political Economy**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chap. 17.

Spotts, Frederic and Theodor Wieser. 1991. *Italy: A Difficult Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 10, pp. 194-221.

Krause, Elizabeth. 2005. *A Crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making in Italy*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. Ch. 3, pp. 45-56.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

Oct 9 **Britain: Thatcher**

Readings: Kavanagh, Dennis and Peter Morris. 1989. *Consensus Politics from Attlee to Thatcher*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd. Ch. 1, pp. 1-22.

Gamble, Andrew. 1994. *The Free Economy and the Strong State: The Politics of Thatcherism*. Houndsmills, UK: Macmillan, Chapter 4.

Oct 14 **Britain: Blair and New Labour**

Readings: Wilson, Graham K. (2007) "A Blair Era? The Political Order of Modern Britain," *The Forum*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 3, Article 2.

Shaw, Eric (2008). "Dirty Politics: New labour, British democracy and the invasion of Iraq," *Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. 61, Iss. 3, pp. 550-557.

Randall, Nick. 2004. "Three Faces of New Labour: Principle, Pragmatism and Populism in New Labour's Home Office," in Steve Ludlam and Martin J. Smith (eds.) *Governing as New Labour: Policy and Politics under Blair*. Houndsmill, UK: Macmillan, Chapter 11.

Oct 16 **France: The French State in Trouble?**

- Readings: Bell, David S. 2004. "Parliamentary Democracy in France," *Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. 57, No. 3, pp. 533-549.
- Levy, Jonah. 1999. *Tocqueville's Revenge: State, Society, and Economy in Contemporary France*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 17-56.
- Oct 21 **French Republicanism**
- Readings: Gordon, Philip and Sophie Meunier. 2001. "Globalization and French Cultural Identity," *French Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring 2001, pp. 22-41.
- Marthaler, Sally. 2008. "Nicolas Sarkozy and the politics of French immigration policy," *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 382-397.
- Freedman, J. 2004. "Secularism as a barrier to integration? The French dilemma," *International Migration*, Vol. 42, No. 33, pp. 5-27.
- Oct 23 **Germany: Unification**
- Readings: Smith, Gordon. 1992. *Developments in German Politics*, Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 9-33.
- Hough, Daniel. 2000. "'Made in Eastern Germany' The PDS and the Articulation of Eastern German Interests," *German Politics*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 125-148.
- Oct 28 NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
- Oct 30 **Germany: Unification and Its Aftermath**
- Readings: Beck, Vanessa, Debbie Wagener, and Jonathan Grix. 2005. "Resilience and Unemployment: A Case Study of East German Women," *German Politics*, Vol 14, No. 1, pp. 1-13.
- Wiesenthal, Helmut. 2003. "German Unification and 'Model Germany': An adventure in institutional conservatism," *West European Politics*, Vol. 26, No. 4, pp. 37-58.

Green, Simon. 2001. "Immigration, asylum and citizenship in Germany: The impact of unification and the Berlin republic," *West European Politics*, Oct 2001, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 82-106.

Nov 4 **Germany under Chancellor Merkel**

Readings: Wiliarty, Sarah Elise. 2008. "Angela Merkel's Path to Power: The Role of Internal Party Dynamics and Leadership," *German Politics*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 81-96.

Clemens, Clay M. (2007) "The Grand Coalition and a Changing Political Order: Shifting Alliances and a New Era in German Politics," *The Forum*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 3, Article 5.

Nov 6 **Italian Politics in the 1990s**

Readings: Partridge, Hilary. 1995. "Can the Leopard Change its Spots? Sleaze in Italy," *Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol 48, No. 4, October 1995, pp. 711-25.

Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 121-85.

Nov 11 **Italy: The Second Republic?**

Readings: Diamanti, Ilvo. 2007. "The Italian centre-right and centre-left: Between parties and 'the party'," *West European Politics*, Vol. 30, Issue 4, pp. 733-762.

Paoli, Letizia. 2007. "Mafia and organized crime in Italy: The unacknowledged successes of law enforcement," *West European Politics*, Vol. 30, Issue 4, pp. 854-880.

Nov 13 **Gender Quotas in Theory**

Readings: Kittilson, Miki Caul. 2006. *Challenging Parties, Changing Parliaments: Women And Elected Office in Contemporary Western Europe*. Ohio State University Press. Chapters 1.

Bacchi, Carol. 2006. "Arguing for and against quotas: Theoretical issues," in Drude Dahlerup (ed.), *Women, Quotas and Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 32-52.

Nov 18 **Gender Quotas in Practice**

Reading: McKay, Joanna. 2004. "Women in German Politics: Still Jobs for the Boys?" *German Politics*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 56-80.

Freedman, J. 2004. "Increasing women's political representation: The limits of constitutional reform," *West European Politics*, Vol. 27, No. 1, pp. 104-123.

Maier, Charles S. and Jytte Klausen. 2001. "Introduction: New Perspectives on the Use of Parity Mandates and Quotas to Guarantee Equality between Men and Women," in Jytte Klausen and Charles S. Maier (eds.), *Has Liberalism Failed Women? Assuring Equal Representation in Europe and the United States*. New York: Palgrave, pp. 3-17.

Lovenduski, Joni and Pippa Norris. 2003. "Westminster Women: The Politics of Presence," *Political Studies*, Vol. 51, Issue 1, pp. 84-102.

EUROPEAN UNION

Nov 20 **European Union: History**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chapters 31, 32.

Nov 25 **European Union: Grand Theories of Integration**

Readings:

THANKSGIVING BREAK1

Dec 2


Dec 4 **Conclusion**

Readings: Markovits, Andrei S. 2004. "European Anti-Americanism (and Anti-Semitism): Ever Present Though Always Denied." Harvard University, Center for European Studies, Working Paper Series #108.

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why Europe dislikes America /

Andrei S **Markovits**

2007

English  Book xvii, 275 p. ; 24 cm.
Princeton : Princeton University Press, ;