

Government 284: Comparative Politics of Western Europe

Professor Sarah Elise Wiliarty
Office: PAC 420
Phone: 685-2996
Email: swiliarty@wesleyan.edu
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Office hours: Wednesday, 8:45am – 10:45am

Class meetings: MW 2:40-4pm; PAC 422

Teaching Assistant: Kelsey Arnold, ksarnold@wesleyan.edu, 685-6158

Course overview

This course provides an in-depth introduction to the politics of postwar Western Europe. For much of the postwar period, it was widely assumed that “becoming modern” meant becoming like the United States. Yet 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. Government 284 examines the sources, manifestations and limits of these cross-national differences. The course begins with a very brief look at European history and the aftermath of World War II. The first section of the course addresses the postwar political settlements in Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy. In addition to learning the nuts and bolts of the political systems in these countries, we will study both what constitutes “politics as usual” and how and why the usual politics may be changing. The next section of the course explores the political economies of Great Britain, France and Germany. We will study the “national models” for each of these countries and again also investigate causes of change to these models. The third section looks at some contemporary political issues in Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

Course Requirements

25% First paper (due March 4th)
25% Second paper (due April 8th)
35% Final
15% Participation

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 will learn the most from this class if you do the reading on each topic before coming to class.

The following book is available for purchase:

Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger (eds.). 2002. *European Politics in Transition*, 4th 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. On most days I will start by giving a lecture and then we will discuss the readings for the day. 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.

To ensure a good foundation for discussion, I will often ask particular people to come to class prepared to talk about the readings. When it is your turn, please spend some time considering specific questions or issues highlighted by the readings that you would like to discuss with your classmates.

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.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

INTRODUCTION

Jan 19 **Introduction**

Jan 24 **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.

Jan 26 **Why the United States and Europe are Different: Cross National Differences**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Introduction (pp. 1-34).

Marshall, T.H. 2000. “Citizenship and Social Class,” in Christopher Pierson and Francis Castles (eds.), *The Welfare State: A Reader*, Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 32-41.

THE POSTWAR SETTLEMENTS

Jan 31 **Great Britain: Political System**

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

Feb 2 **British Democracy**

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

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

Feb 7 **France: Political System**

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

Feb 9 **French Democracy**

Readings: 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.

Bell, David S. 2004. "Parliamentary Democracy in France," *Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. 57, No. 3, pp. 533-549.

Feb 14 **Germany: Political System**

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

Feb 16 **German Democracy**

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

Feb 21 **Italy: Political System**

Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, Chaps. 21, 23, 24.

Feb 23 **Italian Democracy**

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

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

EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMIES

Feb 28 **British Political Economy**

Reading: 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. 3.

March 2 **British Political Economy**

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

March 21 **French Political Economy**

Reading: 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. Chap. 6.

March 23 **French Political Economy**

Readings: Levy, Jonah. 1999. *Tocqueville's Revenge: State, Society, and Economy in Contemporary France*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 17-56.

Gordon, Philip and Sophie Meunier, "Globalization and French Cultural Identity," *French Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring 2001, pp. 22-41.

March 28 **German Political Economy**

Readings: Shonfield, Andrew. 1965. *Modern Capitalism: The Changing Balance of Public and Private Power*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 239-64.

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.

March 30 **German Political Economy**

- Readings: 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.
- Padgett, Stephen. 2003. "Political Economy: The German Model under Stress," in Stephen Padgett, William E. Paterson and Gordon Smith (eds.), *Developments in German Politics 3*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 121-142.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

April 4-6 **Great Britain**

- Readings: Shaw, Eric. 2002. "New Labour in Britain: new democratic centralism?" in *West European Politics*, July 2002, vol. 25., pp. 147-172.
- Hills, J. and J. Waldfogel. 2004. "A "third way" in welfare reform? Evidence from the United Kingdom," in *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 765-788.
- Dunleavy, Patrick. 2002. "Elections and Party Politics," in Patrick Dunleavy, Andrew Gamble, Richard Heffernan, Ian Holliday and Gillian Peele (eds.), *Developments in British Politics 6*. New York: Palgrave, pp. 127-150.

April 11 **France: Headscarves**

- Readings: To Be Announced.

April 13 **France: The Parity Law**

- Readings: Hasse-Dubosc. 1999. "Sexual Difference and Politics in France Today," *Feminist Studies*, Spring 1999, vol. 25, pp. 183-210.
- Bird, Karen. 2002. "Does Parity Work? Results from French Elections," *Feminist Studies*, vol. 28, no. 3, pp. 691-698.

April 18 **Germany: Political Unification**

- Reading: 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, August 2000, pp. 125-148.

April 20 **Germany Today**

Readings: Zohlnhöfer, Reimut. 2004. Destination Anywhere? The German Red–Green Government’s Inconclusive Search for a Third Way in Economic Policy," *German Politics*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 106-131.

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.

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

April 25-27 **Italy: Political Changes**

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

Donovan, Mark. 2001. "A New Republic in Italy? The May 2001 Election," *West European Politics*, Vol. 24, No. 4, October 2001, pp. 193-205.

Bartolini, Stefano, Alessandro Chiaramonte, Roberto D'Alimonte. 2004. "The Italian party system between parties and coalitions," *West European Politics*, Vol. 27, No. 1, pp. 1-19.

Pasquino, G. 2003. "The government, the opposition, and the President of the Republic under Berlusconi," *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 485-499.

May 2 **Conclusion**

Reading: 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.