European Politics

Political Science 8240
Spring 2005
Tuesday 4:30-7:00
1004 General Classroom Building

Dr. William M. Downs                  Office Hours:  TH 10:00-12:00
Department of Political Science                      1007 General Classroom Building
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Course Description
Contemporary crises and enduring puzzles demand that students of politics play especially close attention to Europe. As such, the principal aim of this graduate seminar is to achieve an advanced understanding of major substantive, theoretical, and methodological issues involved in the study of European political systems. A comparative approach will encourage critical thinking about key trends and controversies, and it will enable students to assess the performance of individual political systems in relation to broader patterns in Europe, North America, and elsewhere. Among the topics covered by readings and discussions will be the following:

- State-building experiences and societal cleavages
- Territorial and processual distributions of power
- Party systems and electoral dynamics
- Variable policy performance and the "crisis of democracy"
- Extremist challenges to the existing political order
- Political control over national economic policy making
- Domestic influences on US-European relations (political, economic, military)
- Multiculturalism and the politics of identity
- Challenges and prospects of European integration

Regarding the last item in this list, the course provides analysis of the political and economic rationales for European Union, evidence on the development of trade and growth in the EU, analysis of convergence and disparities within the EU, and assessment of efforts to enlarge the EU by integrating central and eastern European polities. Focus will be on integration theory and measurement and analysis of EU policy performance illustrated with current issues such as monetary union, immigration, and unemployment.

Texts and Course Materials


Notes on Articles and Chapters: Additional readings will come from select journal articles and book chapters, which will be made available to you. Many of these readings may be accessed through E-Reserves (http://reserves.gsu.edu/eres/), read online and/or printed directly from your own computer. The documents are password protected, and we will discuss the details of using E-Reserves early in the semester. Please note also that numerous readings can be read, downloaded and printed from a campus computer via the archive of political science journal articles at JSTOR (www.jsot.org). Articles available at JSTOR are so noted.

Supplementary Sources: Please note below that I provide you with a set of required readings as well as a suggested list of supplementary readings. You will not be held responsible for the supplementary readings, however, if you find a theme particularly engaging or perhaps particularly difficult to grasp, you may want to pursue the supplementary readings to gain a fuller understanding of the material. Doctoral students are especially encouraged to be aware of these additional sources and to become familiar with them in preparation for a comprehensive exam in the area.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

Weekly Commentaries
On select weeks students are required to submit short commentaries on the required readings for that week. Commentaries should be sent to me by e-mail no later than Monday at midnight. They should be the equivalent of 1-2 printed pages in length. Please do not send your commentaries as e-mail attachments but rather as the main text of the message. I will compile the commentaries and circulate them via e-mail on Tuesday morning before our class. Please read the other students’ commentaries before you come to class.

Seminar Presentation
On select weeks (to be scheduled early in the semester), 1-2 students will make a 15-minute formal presentation on the readings for that week. Presentations should critique the readings, not summarize them. Presenters are not required to submit written commentaries for the week of their presentation.

Economics and Elections Small Group Project
The class will be divided into small groups and charged with preparing a short report and presentation on the relationship between economics and elections in a select European country. Results will be discussed in class on February 15. Details will be provided early in the semester.

Research Paper
Each person will complete a research paper. Although the exact length of the paper will vary depending upon your individual style and approach, we have a target length of approximately 20 pages, typed double-spaced, plus endnotes and bibliography. The paper will contain a review of the relevant literature, and it will be written in the professional style of the American Political Science Association. The objective of this project is not simply the production a research design,
but rather original research. You may use whatever methodology you feel is most appropriate to
the issue and which you feel qualified to implement. I will not be impressed by inept quantitative
analysis, nor will I penalize competent hypothesis-driven historical, philosophical or case-study
approaches. Papers will be completed following a process that involves:

- Submission of a research proposal for approval by February 22
  The two-page research proposal must include:
  1. The title or topic of the paper
  2. The propositions to be developed/hypothesis to be tested/central
     research question to be pursued
  3. A one-paragraph rationale for choosing the topic and statement
     of what the paper is expected to accomplish
  4. A one-page preliminary bibliography with varying kinds of sources
     (not all books, articles, or documents)
- Doctoral students (and any interested MA students) will present research findings
  in class on April 26 (students can expect to receive constructive feedback on their
  work)
- Submission of the final paper by 5:00 on Tuesday, May 3

Participation: I expect the course to be conducted as a seminar. That means that you need to talk
as much as I do. Members are thus expected to attend all class sessions and to participate actively
at each. Seminar participants must complete the assigned readings on time and contribute
thoughtfully to class discussions.

Grade: The final seminar grade will be determined on the basis of the following weights:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics and Elections Group Project</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly summaries</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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100%

SCHEDULE:

Section I: Introduction

January 11  Introduction to European Politics and Political Economy
Introductory comments and discussion of seminar format.
Framing of central issues and questions.

January 18  Historical Foundations of “Europe”
- Urwin, Political History of Western Europe (Chapters 1-6)
- Pagden, The Idea of Europe (Chapters 1-8)

Supplementary reading:
- Charles Tilly, ed. The Formation of National States in Western Europe.
- Mark Mazower. Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century. New York:
- Cyril E. Black et al. Rebirth: A Political History of Europe Since World War II, 2nd

Useful Websites:
Western Europe Since 1945 http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook49.html
History of Europe -- Primary Documents http://library.byu.edu/~rdh/europdoc/4c.html
Europe on the Internet http://www.eurunion.org/index/doc4.html
Section II: Players, Institutions, and Rules of the Game

January 25  Structuring Institutions: The Territorial Axis


Supplementary reading:
- Pagden, The Idea of Europe (Chapter 14)

Useful Website:
Assembly of European Regions http://www.are-regions-europe.org/

February 1  Structuring Interests: Parties and Party Systems

- Lane and Ersson, Politics and Society in Western Europe, Chapters 3-5 [E-Reserves]

Supplementary reading:

Useful Website:
European Political Resources http://www.politicalresources.net/europe.htm

February 8  Structuring Influence: Parliamentary Government


Supplementary reading:

Useful Website: Parliaments Online  http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp

Section III: Domestic Political Economy

February 15  Politics, Economics and the Structure of Credit and Blame

• Economics and Elections Group Assignment due

Supplementary reading:

Useful Website: Parties and Elections in Europe http://www.parties-and-elections.de/

February 22  Public Sector Politics and the European Welfare State


Supplementary reading:


March 1  Welfare Chauvinism and the Radical Right in Europe

• Pagden, The Idea of Europe (Chapter 10)
• Unwin, Political History of Western Europe (Chapter 11)
Supplementary reading:


Useful Website:
- ECPR Standing Group on Extremism [http://www.bath.ac.uk/Departments/ESML/ps/](http://www.bath.ac.uk/Departments/ESML/ps/)

### March 8

**Spring Break**

### Section IV: Politics and Policy in the European Union

### March 15

**Integration and European Union Politics I (Background and Institutions)**

- Urwin, *Political History of Western Europe* (Chapters 7-9, 14-15, 20)
- Wiener and Diez, *European Integration Theory* (Chapters 1-4)

Supplementary reading:


Useful Websites:
- Council of the European Union [http://ue.eu.int](http://ue.eu.int)
- European Parliament [http://www.europarl.eu.int/default.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/default.htm)
- Committee of the Regions [http://www.cor.eu.int/](http://www.cor.eu.int/)

### March 22

**Integration and European Union Politics II (Theory)**

- Wiener and Diez, *European Integration Theory* (Chapters 5-12)

Supplementary reading:


Useful Website:

### March 29

**European Monetary Policy**


Supplementary reading:

- Pagden, *The Idea of Europe* (Chapter 12)

Useful Website:
April 5  

**Lifting the Iron Curtain: Enlargement of the European Union**


**Supplementary reading:**

**Useful Websites**

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**Section V. Foreign Policy and Europe’s Identity in the World**

April 12  

**Whither the Atlantic Alliance? US-EU Relations**

- Urwin, *Political History of Western Europe*, Chapters 13, 16, 21-23

**Supplementary reading:**

**Useful Websites**
- West European Union [http://www.weu.int](http://www.weu.int)
- NATO [http://www.nato.int/](http://www.nato.int/)

April 19  

**Dealing with the French**


**Supplementary reading:**

**Useful websites**

April 26  

**Synthesis/Paper Presentations**

- Pagden, *The Idea of Europe* (Chapter 15)
Supplementary reading:

Useful Website:

May 3 Research Paper due (by no later than 5:00)

Notes:
• This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
• March 4 is the last day to withdraw and possibly receive a W.
• Students are responsible for the information contained in the Academic Honesty policy found in On Campus.