

**POLI 4075:
Politics of Western Europe**

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Semester: Spring 2016
Time: T TH, 9:00 – 10:20
Room: 132 Prescott Hall

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce students to politics in European nations. The course will stress several aspects of European politics which are shared across many of the nations of Europe such as the importance of ideology, the role of political parties, the creation of multiparty coalitions, and the divide between government and opposition. We will focus primarily on the political traditions and institutions of four of the largest European states, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Italy. The role of parties in European politics will be illustrated by a semester long simulation of multi party politics in a parliamentary system.

Idiosyncratic policies: There will be no use of personal electronics in class. This includes laptops. Research shows that notes taken by hand improve retention of material far better than notetaking on a computer or phone. And the temptation of multitasking is simply too great when an electronic device is in front of you. The exception to this policy is the day of coalition negotiations when your laptop may be very useful.

Requirements and Grading:

2 Map Quizzes (5% each):

There are two “pop” quizzes during the course of the semester. The first, some time in February, will cover Europe in July 1914, the second, in April, will cover the 28 member nations of the European Union in July 2014.

Midterm Exam, and Cumulative Final Exam (25% each):

There will be two exams for this course, these will be cumulative, and students are responsible for material from all readings and lectures prior to the exam.

Make up exams: any student who needs to take a make up exam must contact me 24 hours before the normally scheduled exam. Students who ask for a make up after the regularly scheduled exam must obtain written permission from the Dean's office.

Party Politics Simulation (4 parts, worth a total of 40%):

Groups of students will play the part of political parties in a simulation of politics in a parliamentary system. Each group will write a brief election manifesto for its political party. Students will then study the election manifestos of the other parties and write a paper identifying potential coalition partners and possible compromise positions on the issues covered in the manifestos. The winning coalition will then present a common program to the class at the opening of parliament. Parties which did not make it into the winning coalition (aka LOSERS, aka the loyal opposition) will discuss why they were unsuccessful in the negotiations. We will hold a number of “sessions” of parliament where the government can enact its manifesto promises.

The 4 graded parts of the party politics simulation are:

- Group project on party ideology
- Individual paper presenting background on an issue
- Group project on party manifesto
- Individual parliamentary speech for or against proposed legislation.

- Other short group writing projects for the simulation include
- A strategic analysis of the party manifestos of the other parties
 - A short text outlining the positions of the governing coalition
 - A short analysis of the reasons why opposition parties were not included in the governing coalition.

Textbooks: Readings will be drawn from 2 books available at the LSU bookstore and area bookstores and a number of essays and articles on Moodle:

Representative Government in Modern Europe 5th edition
 Authors: Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver, Peter Maier (GLM)
 Open University Press; 5 edition (Jan, 2011) ISBN-13: 978-0077129675

Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Industrialized Countries, 2nd Edition
 Authors: Jessica R. Adolino and Charles H. Blake
 CQ Press (July 16, 2007) ISBN-13: 978-1933116785

Students are also expected to keep up with current events in Europe. Three excellent sources are the news magazine The Economist, the New York Times, and National Public Radio. Students with reading knowledge of a European language other than English would do well to check out national news sources in that language.

Course Schedule: In order to keep up with the course, try to read the indicated material **before** class.

Jan. 14 Introduction to course, review of 2000 years of European History
 GLM Chapter 1

Part I European ideologies and party systems

Jan 19 European Party Systems
 GLM Chapters 7 and 8

Jan 21 Social Cleavages and party families
 GLM Chapter 9 sections 9.1 through 9.6

Jan 26 Classical Liberalism
 US Bill of Rights/ French declaration of rights
 John Locke "on property"
 Adam Smith "Private Profit, Public Good"
 John Stuart Mill "On Liberty and Individuality"

Jan 28 Conservatism and Christian Democracy
 De Maistre "Conservatism as reaction"
 Oakeshott "On Being Conservative"
 Bork "Modern Liberalism and Cultural Decline"
 Pope Leo XIII "Rerum Novarum"

Jan 26 Socialism: utopian, scientific, revolutionary and democratic
 Thomas Moore "Utopia"
 Karl Marx selections from Das Kapital
 Marx and Engels The Communist Manifesto
 Bernstein "Evolutionary Socialism"

Gould "Socialism and Democracy"

Jan 28 Fascism and Nazism

Mussolini "The Doctrine of Fascism" and "Fascist Decalogue"

Gould "Flaws in a Victorian Veil"

Hitler "Nation and Race"

Feb 2 Postmaterialism?

GLM Chapter 9 (remainder)

Feb 4 Ecology, the New Left, and the Far Right

Petra Kelly "Thinking Green"

Foreman "Putting the Earth First"

Part II Public Policy

Feb 9 (Mardi Gras)

Feb 11 Explaining Public Policy

Adolino and Blake Chapters 1 and 2

(Ideology statements due Feb 13)

Feb 16 Comparative Fiscal and Taxation policy (and the EURO)

Adolino and Blake Ch 6, 7

Feb 18 The EURO

Readings TBA

Feb 23 Immigration Policy, Schengen, and the asylum crisis

Adolino and Blake Ch 5

Feb 25 Security policy and counterterrorism

Readings TBA

March 1 Comparative Health Care and Social Policy

Adolino and Blake Ch 9

March 3 Education and Environmental policy

Adolino and Blake Ch

March 8. Mid Term Exam

Part III Institutions of Government

March 10 The executive branch

GLM Chapter 2

March 15 Government and cabinets: Coalition formation

GLM Chapter 12

March 17 Legislatures

GLM Chapter 3

(March 18 Background Papers Due)

March 22 24 (Spring Break)

March 29 Vote Choice and Elections

GLM Chapter 11

March 31 Judiciaries and Constitutions

GLM Chapter 4

(Party Manifesto due April 1)

April 5 Election Results and Coalition Negotiations

April 7 Local and Regional Government

(Hand in Queen's speech and text of bills by April 10)

April 12 Interest Groups

April 14 The European Union

(Submit videos of speeches for feedback by April 15 or April 22 depending on schedule)

April 19 Simulation- opening of parliament

April 21 Simulation- debate – government bills

April 26 Simulation- debate – government bills

April 28 Simulation- debate – opposition bills

Final Exam Tuesday May 3 10:00 – 12:00