

POLS 231: Politics of Western Europe Fall 2000

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This course focuses on West European politics with special emphasis on changes in political and economic institutions and behavior since World War II. This includes historic and recent developments in the European Union. The main topics we will address are the relationship between political institutions and democracy and politics and the economy. We will also look at how the European Union has affected traditional domestic political processes in individual countries. The course will cover all of the West European countries, but, following the textbook, readings will focus more on six countries: France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. The course does *not* deal much with the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

While there are no formal pre-requisites for this course, there is a presumption that students will have had an introduction to comparative politics or its equivalent and some previous course(s) in the social sciences. Such classes will tend to make the material easier to understand.

Evaluation

Midterm	30%
Papers (2-3)	20%
Final (cumulative)	30%
Quizzes (4-5)	10%
Participation, mini-assignments, improvement. etc.	10%

Assignments/Requirements

Reading The average weekly reading load is light-- about 110 pages, some weeks more, some weeks less. All students are expected to keep up with the reading. Doing the reading is essential to doing well in the class.

Quizzes During the semester there will be four or five very short unannounced quizzes. The lowest grade will be dropped. An absence (unless there is a dean's excuse or you have notified me ahead of time) on a quiz day means you get a 0 for that quiz.

Exams There one in-class midterm (October 24) and a two hour final (date TBA). The exam formats will be discussed later. There are no make-up exams.

Writing Writing well is very important for social science majors (and the real world). Though this is *not* a "W" class, there will be several short writing assignments. Each student will become an "expert" on a particular Western European country (to be assigned by me with your input). You will write two or three short papers (4-5 double spaced pages each) in teams, (also assigned by me) answering various questions as they relate to your country. These papers will require some research, and will require you to combine facts about your country and concepts from the class lectures and readings.

Papers should be turned in no later than 5 pm on the day they are due. Late papers will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late, i.e., 6 pm on the due date means 5 points off, 6pm on the following day 10 points off. Only in very rare and severe cases will extensions be granted.

All writing assignments should conform to high standards. Work should be grammatically correct, well-organized, clearly written, etc. Bibliographies and embedded citations, where called for, are expected

for all writing assignments. Papers that do not conform to these standards will be returned and penalized. Below are several sources that can help you with writing. You are not limited to these, but bear in mind that writing for a social science class is not always the same as writing for an English class.

1. The University of Strathclyde (yes in the UK) Politics Department
http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/Government/department/good_essays0.htm
2. Schmidt, *Writing in Political Science*, New York: Longman, 2000. Particularly sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11.
3. Scott and Garrison, *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual* (2nd Edition), Prentice Hall.

Perhaps the best way to learn how to write, is to read class readings carefully and follow those styles.

Email, internet, and student communication. Students are *required* to have an email account and should check the class website. Updates, announcements and assignments will be distributed via email or through the website. (You can email me to give me your email address.) Students are also encouraged to communicate with each other via the class discussion group in order to get missed assignments, have questions answered, collaborate on projects, etc..

Books should be available for purchase at the Co-op.

- Gallagher, Laver and Mair. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. (2nd edition) McGraw Hill, 1995.
- Curtis, et al. *Western European Government and Politics*. Longman, 1997.
- Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale, 1999
- In addition, some time in October there will be a book on the European Union available for purchase.*

Additional readings will be available from the on-line reserve system and in the library.

Course outline, readings and review questions

Part I Introduction and History

August 31 Intro

Sept. 5, 7, 12 States and Empires in European history 1000 years in a week (125)

Tilly, *Coercion Capital and European States* Ch. 2 38-66

Gallagher, Laver and Mair (GLM) Ch. 1

Curtis Chapter 1; UK, 27-33; France, 99-110; Germany, 154-158; Italy, 223-37; Spain 282-290; Netherlands 341-50.

How can we explain the historical development of such different types of states in Europe?

Part II Democratic Institutions and Politics in Western Europe

Sept. 14 & 19: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems (175)

GLM Ch. 2, 3

L, ch 1-3 and 7

Curtis pp. 67(c1)-84, 126(c1)-139, 189(c2)-201, 253(c2)-262, 314(c1)-327, 370(c1)-381.

What kind of system best describes your country? Which is better, a Presidential or a Parliamentary system? If it depends, why?

Sept 21 & 26 Elections and Electoral Systems (100)

GLM, Ch. 11

Curtis 47-58, 118-126, 182-185, 239-240, 307-309, 357-359

L., 4, 8

What role do elections play in different European countries? How is it affected by electoral rules? How does the electoral system effect party strategies and voter choices?

Sept 28 & Oct 3 Political Parties, Social Cleavages and Identity (150)

GLM Ch., 7, 8, and 209-219 in Ch. 9

Curtis UK, 58-64; Fr, 117-26; Ge, 175-9, It, 239-51; Sp, 299-307; NL, 350-2, 360-70

L Ch. 5

What have been the sources of the major divisions found in European politics since World War II? How have voters been tied to parties? What is a mass party and what are its origins?

Oct 5 and 10: Governments, Coalitions and Other institutions of Democracy (85)

GLM, Ch 12

L, Ch. 6, 10, 11

How and why are coalitions formed? What determines how long they last? How "representative" are they? Why are minority governments formed?

Oct. 12 & 17: Voting Patterns and Partisan Change (90)

GLM, pp. 219-237 in Ch 9

Curtis, 185-189, Table 7.15

Kitschelt, "European Party Systems: Continuity and Change" , 131-150

Mair, "Myths of Electoral Change..." *European Journal of Political Research* 24, 1993, 121-33

Dalton, et al. *Electoral Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies*, pp3-22, 451-76.

What do we mean by realignment and dealignment? Are voter identities changing in Europe? Does the concept even have meaning anymore?

Oct 19: Representation of Interests at the End of the 20th century-- Old and New Social Movements (110)

GLM, Ch. 14

Curtis, 64-7, 111-7, 180-2, 251-3, 309-314, 352-355, 370-1

L, Ch. 9

Dalton and Kuechler, "The Challenge of New Movements" (on reserve)

Koopmans, "New Social Movements and Changes in Political Participation in Western Europe" *West European Politics* 19(1), 1996, 28-50.

What is/was neo-corporatism? What are the major issues in contemporary European politics and how do they compare with traditional issues? How has representation changed in the last several decades?

EXAM Oct 24

Interlude Oct 26

Part III: Political Economy

Oct 31 & Nov 2: National Institutions (120)

Curtis, UK, 86-91; Fr, 141-8; Ge 206-10, It, 264-81, Sp 333-8, NI, 382-6

GLM, Ch 13

L, Ch. 13, 14, 15

Economist 'Desparately Seeking the Perfect Model' April 10, 1999 (2)

How do different institutional arrangements change the way the economy works? Are there patterns in the way these arrangements vary across Europe? Are there only a limited number of "good" combinations?

Nov 7 & 9: Labor, Employers and Macroeconomic Performance in Europe (90)

Eichengreen, 'Institutions and Economic growth in Europe after World War II,' in Crafts and Toniolo, eds. 1996, 38-72

Soskice, 'Divergent Production Regimes' in Kitschelt, Lange, Marks and Stephens, 1999, 101-134.

Pontusson and Swenson, 'Labor markets, production strategies, ..' *Comparative political Studies* 29 (1996) 223-50.

Is there a European model of labor relations? If not, what explains differences across countries?

Nov 14, 16, & 28: The Rise (and Decline?) of the European Welfare State (150)

Esping Andersen, *Social Foundations...* Ch 2 (30) Ch 5 (21) Ch 9 (15)

Pierson, New Politics of the Welfare State, *World Politics*, 48 1996, 143-79

Iversen and Wren, Equality, Employment and Budgetary Restraint: The Trilemma of the Service Economy, *World Politics*, 50, 1998, 507-46,

L, Ch. 16

How do welfare state traditions differ and why? Is a strong Welfare State "bad" for economic performance? In what ways? What distinguishes the politics of welfare expansion with retrenchment?

Part IV European Union

Nov 30 & Dec 5 McCormick, *The European Union: Politics and Policies*. Part I (Ch. 1-5)

Dec 7 & Dec 12 *The European Union*. Part II (Ch. 6-9)

Date for review session will be announced