

WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

367/467

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm

Course Description

This course provides a survey of West European politics in the post-WWII period. Countries explored are Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden. The course will focus on domestic European politics. The readings and discussion will focus on the daily topics. In our discussions, we will cover a wide range of topics, such as: constitutions, party systems, new social movements, interest groups, public policies, and the importance of new challenges to the states' domestic politics.

Course Requirements

It is expected that each student will do the weekly readings. Although lectures will cover the readings, they may also cover material that is not in the readings; the student is responsible for the material in both the readings and the lectures. Class participation means coming to each class having read the material and being able to offer your input. Your participation grade will be given as one of three possible grades. A student can get two points added to her final percentage grade for outstanding participation, one point added for good participation, and no points added for no active participation. ***Students can miss up to two days of class, unexcused, and not be penalized in their participation grade. Any days missed beyond the two allowed absences will be assessed a 1%/day penalty to your final class grade.***

The course also requires two exams, including the final. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they are unable to fulfill any of the class responsibilities at the assigned time.

The Paper

The course also requires a 8-10 page paper to be **turned in the day of the final. No Late Papers Will Be Accepted.**

The paper is to be on a major leader in European politics of the student's choosing. Some examples would be Margaret Thatcher, Jean-Marie Le Pen, Konrad Adenauer, Willy Brandt. There are, obviously, many others you can choose.

Here are the questions you need to answer in the paper:

1. How successful was the leader in achieving his/her political goals?
2. What were the reasons for the leader's success or failure?
3. What were the lasting consequences of the leader for his/her country?

To be a success, the paper needs to be structured, clear, and persuasive.

Breakdown of Grading:

Two exams: 40% each
Paper: 20%

Required Texts:

M. Donald Hancock. (ed.) *Politics in Europe*. 2015. 6th Edition. Washington DC: CQ Press.

- Readings will be designated by the chapter, for example, 1.1. This means the first chapter of the first part of the book.

Some readings may be on Blackboard. They are noted as such in the course schedule.

Daily Schedule

January 12: **Introduction and Overview**

Britain

January 14: **British Political Culture** 1.1

January 19: **British Political Parties** 1.3

January 21: **British Political Institutions and Policy-making** 1.2, 1.4

January 26: **Present Issues in British Politics** 1.5

France

January 28: **French Political Culture** 2.1

February 2: **French Political Parties** 2.3

February 4: **French Political Institutions and Policy-making** 2.2, 2.4

February 9: **Present Issues in French Politics** 2.5

Germany

February 11: **German Political Culture** 3.1

February 16: **German Political Parties** 3.3

February 18: **German Political Institutions and Policy-making** 3.2, 3.4

February 23: **Present Issues in German Politics** 3.5

February 25: **Exam One**

Italy

March 3: **Italian Political Culture** 4.1

March 7-11: **Spring Break**

March 15: **Italian Political Parties** 4.3

March 17: **No Class/ ISA Conference**

March 22: **Italian Political Institutions and Policy-making** 4.2, 4.4

March 24: **Present Issues in Italian Politics** 4.5

Sweden

March 29: **Swedish Political Culture** 5.1

March 31: **Swedish Political Parties** 5.3

April 5: **Swedish Political Institutions and Policy-making** 5.2, 5.4

April 7: **No Class/MPSA**

April 12: **Present Issues in Swedish Politics** 5.5

European-level Crises

April 14: **Refugees** TBA

April 19: **Terrorism** TBA

April 21: **Russia** TBA

?: **Final/Paper Due**