

**Department of Political Science  
Case Western Reserve University**

**Fall 2013  
POSC 367/467**

**Dr. Vincent McHale  
Mather House #222**

**EUROPEAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

The purpose of this course is to explore the evolution and contemporary dynamics of political life in selected European political systems. The course will be organized around the themes of conflict and integration in modern society. It will focus on the developmental experiences of various European societies; their uniformity and diversity; and the mass political consequences of economic growth and stagnation, demographic and social change, and the emergence of new political forces and issues. Although theoretically-oriented in its approach, a substantial portion of the course will be devoted to a discussion of contemporary social, economic, and political trends in the European regional context.

The course assumes no previous student background in the subject matter; however, a certain familiarity with elementary political science concepts would be helpful. Students having difficulty with the concepts discussed in class are advised to consult with Jack Plano *et al.*, *Dictionary of Political Analysis*, or Carl Beck, *Political Science Thesaurus II*. Background information on political parties can be found in V. McHale and S. Skowronski, *Political Parties of Europe*. These sources are available on-line and in the reference section of the Kelvin Smith Library. Also available are two British publications -- *Keesing's Archives* (a compendium of events) and the *Financial Times* (daily newspaper) -- which are indispensable for day-to-day coverage of important political events in Europe. Students are also encouraged to explore the Internet for current European materials (e.g., the weekly *EU Observer*) and additional sources.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be a midterm and a final examination. Both examinations will be primarily essay in nature, drawing largely on the lectures but also including the reading and research materials. The major exercise will be a team project. Depending on the issue, two to three students will be assigned to a specific issue related to one of the major topics on the syllabus. The team will research the issue in depth, prepare a briefing report, and conduct an oral seminar presentation on a designated date toward the end of the semester. Details regarding the team research assignment and seminar will be described in a separate handout. Regular class attendance and participation in class discussion are expected (see attached *Evaluation of Student Performance*). Attendance will be monitored. Since the lectures are largely independent of the reading, it will be most difficult for students to master the subject matter without regular class attendance. *Students with more than three (3) unexcused absences, or those with excessive class absences (7) will have their final course grade reduced by one letter grade.* The final course grade will be based on the following weighted distribution:

**Class attendance and participation (10%)**  
**Midterm examination (25%)**  
**Research and oral presentation (40%)**  
**Final examination (25%)**

*Consult the attached performance sheet for a more detailed explanation of grade evaluation.*

*Several handouts (calendars, notes, charts, graphs, etc.) will be distributed in class or may be sent via email attachments. Students are responsible for obtaining all class handouts even when absent from class.*

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

*Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating on examinations, etc.) is a serious offense that can result in loss of credit, suspension, and possibly expulsion from the university. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.*

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor regarding any problem they may be having in the course. This can be done through regular office hours (Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 - 3:50 p.m.) or by leaving telephone messages at 368-2425. Messages to the instructor can be sent via e-mail (user = "vem"). Appointments other than office hours must be confirmed with the instructor.

#### **CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS:**

*Please turn off cell phones before entering class. The class period is only 50 minutes. No texting; no tweeting. Note book and ebooks are permitted in class provided they do not disturb the other students.*

## IMPORTANT DATES:

A monthly calendar of lecture topics and other relevant information pertaining to the class will be provided to each student on a timely basis. Students will be notified of any changes in the class calendar.

First class .....	August 26th
Labor Day holiday .....	September 2 <sup>nd</sup> (NO CLASS)
<b>Midterm Exam</b> .....	October 16th
Fall Break .....	October 21-22 <sup>nd</sup> (NO CLASSES)
Last class meeting .....	December 6th
<b>Final Exam</b> .....	December 12 <sup>th</sup> (8:30 to 11:30 a.m.)
<i>All outstanding work due</i> .....	December 16 <sup>th</sup> (before 5:00 p.m.)

## TEXTS:

There is no single text for this course. Readings will be based on class handouts, research, and web-based materials. Optional reference material is cited under each heading.

## CLASS LECTURE TOPICS (Monthly Calendars)

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. THE CONTEXT OF POLITICAL LIFE IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Europe as a cultural, economic, and political entity  
The aftermath of wars in the 20th century  
International cooperation and community-building  
Developmental change, social tensions, and mass politics

Reading: “ The Decline and Fall of Europe” *Time Magazine* (August 22, 2011).

Reference: \*C. Tilly (ed.), *The Formation of National States in Western Europe*

## 2. **A FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS: CONCEPTS, PROCESSES, AND ISSUES**

The idea of a political system  
Basic geographic and demographic factors  
History and political culture  
Groups, parties, and electoral behavior  
Formal decision-making and implementation structures  
Political recruitment and the changing political class in Europe  
Political futures under changing domestic and international conditions

Reading: To be announced

Reference: \*R.H. Chilcote, *Theories of Comparative Politics*  
\*L.C. Mayer, *Comparative Political Inquiry*  
\*M. Dogan and D. Pelassy, *How to Compare Nations*

## **SELECTED POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

A brief overview of the political cultures, political parties, and major governmental institutions for selected European polities. Class handouts will be provided. Polities for Sections 3 through 6 are as follows:

### 3. **THE UNITED KINGDOM**

### 4. **FRANCE**

### 5. **GERMANY**

### 6. **POST-COMMUNIST RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE**

### 7. **THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

The development of the European Community  
Political institutions and processes  
Community decision-making and bureaucratic politics  
Major economic and political issues facing the EU

Reading: Class handout

Reference: \*E.B. Haas, *The Uniting of Europe* (classic history)  
\*N. Nugent, *The Government and Politics of the European Community*  
\*A.M. Sbragia (ed.), *Euro-Politics: Institutions in the New European Community*  
\*D.W. Urwin, *The Community of Europe: A History of European Integration Since 1945*

## MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES

### 8. THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF MASS POLITICS: REGIONS AND REGIONALISM

The relevance of political geography  
Regionalism and center-periphery conflicts  
Coping with regional inequalities in social welfare and political access  
Spatial patterning of mass politics  
The search for territorial optimality  
Regional development and the EU

Reading: V. Mc Hale and S. Shaber, "Reflections on the Political Economy of Regional Development in Western Europe"

Reference: \*R. Rose, *The Territorial Dimension in Government*

### 9. ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND THE VIABILITY OF THE WELFARE STATE

The historical roots of the welfare state  
The politics of welfare and unemployment  
Problems of the welfare state: social policy and national resources  
Government-industry relations  
Issues surrounding the future of the welfare state

Reading: Class handout

Reference: \*E.S. Einhorn, *Welfare States in Hard Times*  
\*N. Furniss (ed.), *Futures for the Welfare State*  
\*P. Flora and A.J. Heidenheimer (eds.), *The Development of Welfare States in Europe and America*  
\*OECD, *The Welfare State in Crisis*

### 10. ENVIRONMENTALISM AND THE EMERGENCE OF "GREEN" PARTIES

The emergence of political concern about the environment  
From movement to organized groups and parties  
The political impact: success, accommodation, resistance  
The salience of environmental issues for mass politics  
Environmentalism and the role of the EU

Reading: Class handout

- Reference: \*G. Langguth, *The Green Factor in German Politics*  
\*F. Muller-Rommel (ed.), *New Politics in Western Europe: The Rise and Success of Green Parties and Alternative Lists*

11. **RACE, RELIGION AND IMMIGRATION**

Pre-World War II immigration to Europe  
Post-World War II migration of labor and political refugees  
The status of marginal ethnic groups in Europe  
The foreign presence  
The *de facto* creation of multiracial states  
The rise of racism and racial discrimination  
Immigrant children: citizens or exiles?  
Race, religion, immigration, and foreign policy  
The effects of the Balkan conflict  
Closed or open borders in an age of transnational terrorism

Reading: Class handout

- Reference: \*Z. Layton-Henry, *The Politics of Race in Britain*  
\*G. Freeman, *Immigrant Labor and Racial Conflict in Industrial Societies*

12. **FEMINISM AND WEST EUROPEAN POLITICS**

The status of women in postwar Europe: demographics and economic marginalization  
Variations in European feminist thought: liberal, socialist, radical  
The rise of the Women's Liberation Movement and women's parties  
The impact of feminism on government and public policy

Reading: To be announced

- Reference: \*D. Dahlerup (ed.), *The New Women's Movement: Feminism and Political Power in Europe and the USA*  
\*J. Lovenduski, *Women and European Politics*  
\*V. Randall, *Women and Politics*

13. **ELECTORAL CHANGE AND ELECTORAL REFORM**

Socioeconomic change and the structuring of European politics  
Conflict versus consensus: end of ideology, deradicalization, managerial politics?  
The consequences of electoral systems for political recruitment and public policy  
Electoral reform as an emergent issue

Reading: To be announced

Reference: \*R. Dalton *et al.* (eds.), *Electoral Change in Advanced Industrial Societies*  
\*A. Siaroff, *Comparative European Party Systems*

14. **THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN PERIPHERY  
MEDITERRANEAN EUROPE: GREECE, SPAIN, PORTUGAL**

Authoritarian rule, historical legacies, political culture  
Transition to democracy in the 1970s  
Persisting issues

Reading: To be announced

Reference: \*A. Williams (ed.), *Southern Europe Transformed*  
\*T.C. Bruneau, *Politics and Nationhood: Post-Revolutionary Portugal*  
\*K. Featherstone and I.K. Katsoudas, *Political Change in Greece*  
\*P. Preston, *The Triumph of Democracy in Spain*

15. **POST-COMMUNIST EAST CENTRAL EUROPE: POLAND AND ROMANIA AS  
CASE STUDIES**

Communist rule, historical legacies, and political culture  
Transition to democracy in the later 1980s  
Reintegrating the former communist states into the European community  
Persisting issues

Reading: V. McHale, "Democratic Transition and the Evolution of Mass Politics in Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe"

Reference: \*L.H. Legters, *Eastern Europe: Transformation and Revolution 1945-1991*

16. **LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: MORE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS**

The individual in modern society: individual identity and individual freedoms  
The growth of complexity and interdependence: technocracy , politics, and the information society  
Changes in the scope of government activity: beyond the welfare state -- what?  
National variations of a type of society or different societies?  
The rise of political extremism and global criminal and terrorist networks  
The problem of governance: culture conflict and the search for political order in emergent multiethnic and multi-religious societies

Reading: To be announced

Reference: \*R.J. Harrison, *Pluralism and Corporatism: The Political Evolution of Modern Democracies*  
\*R. Inglehart, *Culture Shift in Advanced Democracies*  
\*C. Kerr, *The Future of Industrial Societies*

17. **EMERGENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE**

A brief history of transatlantic relations in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries  
From isolation to wartimes alliances  
The consolidation of the EU and friction over US security and trade policies  
Will the EU survive in its present form?

\*\*\*\*\***FINAL EXAMINATION (December 12, 2013; 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.)**\*\*\*\*\*

*All outstanding written work for the class (e.g., paper rewrites) must be submitted on or before Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Materials may be dropped off at my office Mather House 222), or left in my mailbox in the first floor mailroom of Mather House.*

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**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

In order for a student to receive a passing grade for this course, all requirements must be completed. The following criteria will be employed in determining the final grade:

- A** - **Superior work:** Student demonstrates command of the subject matter in *considerable detail; exhibits a clarity, precision, and some originality in analytical argument;* written work well-organized, neat, proofread, and free of grammatical and/or spelling errors. All assignments completed on time. *Almost perfect attendance.*
- B** - **Good Work:** Student demonstrates command of the subject matter; exhibits clarity and precision in analytical argument; written work well-organized, neat, proofread, and free of grammatical and/or spelling errors. All assignments completed on time *unless specifically excused.* Good class attendance – no excessive class absences.
- C** - **Fair or Competent Work:** Student demonstrates *reasonable* command of the subject matter; exhibits clarity and *reasonable* precision in analytical argument; written work *reasonably* organized, with few grammatical and/or spelling errors. *Failure to complete one or more assignments on time. Excessive class absences.*
- D** - **Passing:** Less than competent work.
- F** - **Failure:** Student demonstrates little, if any, command of the subject matter; unsatisfactory written work in content or style; failure to complete one or more written assignments (*unless specifically excused*); failure to take either the midterm or final examinations (*unless specifically excused*); poor class attendance.
- I** - **Incomplete:** Assigned at my discretion according to the provisions outlined in the General Bulletin of the University. *An I grade is not automatic; it must be arranged in advance. Students must be aware of the deadline in removing an I grade before it becomes an F. It is not my responsibility to notify students of the impending deadline for removal of the I grade.* Please check the University calendar.