

Western European Politics
Professor Girma Parris
Email: gep53@case.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30 – 4:30

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of contemporary European politics. In pursuit of this goal, the course will focus on the normative and political conceptions of Europe as a political idea; the different historical and institutional developments, and major contemporary issues pertaining to a representative sample of European nations; and the major issues facing Europe as a whole in the 21st century.

The first third of the course will focus on normative conceptions of Europe as a coherent, distinct political entity versus Europe in its actuality. Concerning the latter, the students will learn of the various political and institutional configurations, political party systems, economic systems, electoral and policymaking systems found across the continent. This portion of the semester will conclude with a section on the European Union (EU). Again, the focus will be on normative conceptions of the EU and on the EU in reality—its institutional make up, democratic processes, the sharing of policymaking authority with member states, and the common single market.

The middle section of the course looks at the democratization of Eastern Europe in the late 20th / early 21st century with a focus on Russia, Hungary, [the state formerly known as] Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Poland. The course will then move on to established democracies in Western Europe with a focus on the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Spain, and Italy. The case study-like focuses will be used to draw out general institutional, historic and political profiles for these established and transitioning European democracies. These profiles will serve as entry points for comparisons across these varied forms of democracies where students investigate the significances of different historical, institutional and political developments. The last section will return to Europe as a whole looking at pressing issues that have and are affecting the entire continent. This section will primarily focus on the refugee crisis, the Euro crisis and issues pertaining to the future of European integration.

Course Requirements:

In order to attain a passing grade for the class, all students must attend class regularly, participate in class discussion, make a 5-10 minute presentation during the course of the semester, complete 3 take home examinations.

Attendance:

Students are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Unexcused absences in excess of the two allotted will count against your class participation grade. The course is a seminar course and thus will focus around class discussion. Attendance is subsequently crucial to the functioning of the class.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the assigned readings. Students will not be docked for their lack of participation but will be rewarded for their thoughtful and active contributions to class discussion. Class participation will make up 10% of your grade.

Presentation:

All students are expected to make a presentation of 5-10 minutes during the course of the semester. Students should summarize the major arguments presented in the chosen reading and offer 3 discussion questions for the class. In order to receive full credit, students must either provide a Power Point presentation (or comparable visual accompaniment) or a handout for the class. The presentation will make up 20% of your grade

Exams:

Students must complete three take home examinations. They will each cover a third. These will make up 70% of your grade.

Grading:

Class Participation – 10%

Presentation – 20%

Take Home Exams (Exam no. 1= 20%; Exam no. 2= 20%; Exam no. 3= 30%) – 70%

Reading Schedule:

Week 1 – Normative Europe v. Real Europe

January 14 –

Introduction

January 16 –

Hogwood, Patricia and Geoffrey K. Roberts; “Politics in western Europe: Contexts and Patterns.” in European Politics Today (2nd ed.): Chapter 1

January – 18 – No Class – Attending Conference

Week 2 – European Political Culture

January 21 – No Class – Holiday - MLK Birthday

Wednesday January 23 –

Roberts, Geoffrey, “The Democratic Political Process” in European Politics Today (2nd ed.): Chapter 2

Recommended:

Gallagher, Laver, and Mair. Representative Government in Modern Europe – Introduction

Friday January 25 –
Hogwood, Patricia “Sources of Political Conflict” in *European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 3

Recommended:

Bale, Tim “Politics Over Markets: Does Politics – and Left and Right – Still Matter?” in *European Politics Today: A Comparative Introduction* – Chapter 9

Week 3 – European Interest Groups and Parties

Monday, January 28 –
Roberts, Geoffrey, *Political Parties in European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 5

Wednesday, January 30 –
Roberts, Geoffrey, “Interest Groups” in *European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 6

Friday, February 1 –
Madeley, John TS, and Zsolt Enyedi, eds. *Church and State in Contemporary Europe: the Chimera of Neutrality*. Vol. 26. No. 1. Psychology Press, 2003 – Chapter 1

Week 4 – Electoral Systems and Governing

Monday February 4 –
Roberts, Geoffrey, *Electoral Systems in European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 5

Hogwood, Patricia, *Accountable Governments: Parliaments in European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 8

Wednesday, February 6 –
Hogwood, Patricia, *Constitutionalism, Judicial Review and Civil Rights in European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 9

Friday, February 8 –
Roberts, Geoffrey, “Federalism, Devolution and Local Government” in *European Politics Today* (2nd ed): Chapter 10

Week 5 – European Union

Monday, February 11 –
McCormick, John “What is the European Union?” in *Understanding the European Union*: Chapter 1

Wednesday, February 13 –
McCormick, John “What is the European Union?” in *Understanding the European Union*: Chapter 2

Friday, February 15 –

McCormick, John "Evolution of the European Union" in Understanding the European Union: Chapter 3

Week 6 – European Union (Continued)

Monday, February 18 –

McCormick, John "The EU Policy Process" in Understanding the European Union: Chapter 6

Wednesday, February 20 –

McCormick, John "Economic Policy" in Understanding the European Union: Chapter 7

Friday, February 22 –

Majone, Giandomenico. "Dilemmas of European integration: the ambiguities and pitfalls of integration by stealth." *OUP Catalogue* (2009).

***** **Midterm No. 1 posted** *****

Week 7 – Political Transitions to Democracy in Eastern Europe in the late 20th century

Monday, February 25 –

Huntington, Samuel P. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Vol. 4. University of Oklahoma press, 1993. Chapters 1 and 2

Wednesday, February 27 –

Fish, M. Steven. *Democracy from Scratch: Opposition and Regime in the New Russian Revolution*. Princeton University Press, 1996 (Chapter 2)

Friday, March 1 –

Wejnert, Barbara. "Transition to Democracy in Eastern Europe and Russia": Chapter 1

Week 8 – Political Transitions to Democracy in Eastern Europe (continued)

Monday, March 4 –

Fish, M. Steven. *Democracy Derailed in Russia: The failure of open politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2005 – Introduction (Chapter 1)

Wednesday, March 6 –

Lijphart, Arend. "Democratization and constitutional choices in Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Poland 1989-91." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 4.2 (1992): 207-223.

Friday, March 7 –

Ganev, Venelin. "Bulgaria: The (Ir)Relevance of Post-Communist Constitutionalism" in *Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe Volume 1: Institutional Engineering*: Chapter 7

***** **Midterm No. 1 due March 7 at 11:59 pm** *****

March 11 – 15 – No Class*****Spring Break*****

Week 9 – Established Democracies

The United Kingdom

Monday, March 18 –

Laski, Harold. *Parliamentary Government in England* (Works of Harold J. Laski) – Introduction

Wednesday, March 20 –

Heffernan, Richard. "New labour and Thatcherism." *Political change in Britain* (2000) – Chapter 1

Friday, March 22 –

Kaufmann, Eric. "It's NOT the economy, stupid: Brexit as a Story of Personal Values." *British Politics and Policy at LSE* (2016).

Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. "Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism: Economic Have-Nots and Cultural backlash." (2016).

Week 10 – France

Monday, March 25 –

Elgie, Robert. "Duverger, Semi-presidentialism and the Supposed French Archetype." *West European Politics* 32.2 (2009): 248-267.

Wednesday, March 27 –

Hainsworth, Paul. "The Extreme Right in France: The Rise and Rise of Jean-Marie Le Pen's Front National." *Representation* 40.2 (2004): 101-114.

Friday, March 29 –

Grabar, Henry. "France's Latest Protests are a Rejection of All Things Macron." *Slate* December 4, 2018: <https://slate.com/business/2018/12/french-protests-macron-yellow-vests-gas-tax-paris.html>

Week 11 – Germany

Monday, April 1 –

Katzenstein, Peter J. *Policy and Politics in West Germany: The Growth of a Semisovereign State*. Temple University Press, 1987

Wednesday, April 3 –

Saalfeld, Thomas. "Stable Parties, Chancellor Democracy and the Art of Informal Settlement" in *Coalition Governments in Western Europe* eds. Wolfgang C. Mueller and Kaare Strom – Chapter 2

Friday, April 5 –
Story, Jonathan “The Euro Crisis and German Primacy” in *The Eurozone Crisis and the Future of Europe: The Political Economy of Further Integration and Governance* eds. Daniel Daianu et al – Chapter 7

*******Midterm No. 2 Posted*******

Week 12 - Scandinavia

Monday, April 8 –
Esping- Andersen, Gosta and Walter Korpi “From Poor Relief to Institutional Welfare States: The Development of Scandinavian Social Policy” in *The Scandinavian Model: Welfare States and Welfare Research* – Chapter 2

Wednesday, April 10 –
Brochmann, Grete and Anniken Hagelund “Welfare State, Nation and Immigration” in *Immigration Policy and the Scandanavian Welfare State, 1945-2010* – Chapter 1

Friday, April 12 –
Einhorn, Eric “Scandinavia: Still the Middle Way?” in *Europe Today: A Twenty-First Introduction* eds. Ronald Tiersky and Erik Jones – Chapter 5

Week 13 - Italy

Monday, April 15 –
Baldini, Gianfranco. “Still the Age of Berlusconi?” in *Europe Today: A Twenty-First Century Introduction* eds. Ronald Tiersky and Erik Jones

Wednesday, April 17 –
Veugelers, John WP, and Roberto Chiarini. "The Far Right in France and Italy." *Shadows over Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan US, 2002. 83-103.

Friday, April 19 –
D’Abba, Carlos “Italy and the Euro” in *The Eurozone Crisis and the Future of Europe: The Political Economy of Further Integration and Governance* eds. Daniel Daianu et al – Chapter 9

***** **Midterm No. 2 due April 19 at 11:59 pm*******

Week 14 - Spain

Monday, April 22 –
Encarnación, Omar G. "Spain after Franco: Lessons in Democratization." *World Policy Journal* 18.4 (2001): 35-44.

Wednesday, April 24 –

Guibernau, Montserrat. "Spain: Catalonia and the Basque country." *Parliamentary Affairs* 53.1 (2000): 55-68.

Friday, April 26 –

Nayler, Mark "Spain's Lost Generation" *The Spectator* July 1, 2017:
<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2017/07/spains-lost-generation/>

*****Midterm No. 3 Posted *****

Week 15 – Contemporary Issues in Europe

Monday, April 29 –

Blyth, Mark. "The austerity delusion: why a bad idea won over the west." *Foreign Aff.* 92 (2013): 41.

Carrera, Sergio, et al. "The EU's Response to the Refugee Crisis: Taking Stock and Setting Policy Priorities." (2015).

Henley, Jon "How Populism Emerged as an Electoral Force in Europe." *The Guardian*; November 20, 2018: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2018/nov/20/how-populism-emerged-as-electoral-force-in-europe>

Hall, Peter. "The Evolution of Varieties of Capitalism in Europe" in *Beyond Varieties of Capitalism: Conflict, Contradictions, and Complementarities in the European Economy* eds. Bob Hancké, Martin Rhodes, and Mark Thatcher, eds. Oxford University Press, 2007: Chapter 2 pp. 39 – 88.