

# 331 POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE

*Spring 2009*

*Department of Political Science*

*Muskingum College*

POLS 331-1

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am

218 Montgomery Hall

Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov

Office Hours: Mon & Wed noon-12:50 pm

Tue & Thu noon -1:50 pm

Or by appointment

Location: 106 Cambridge Hall

Phone: (740) 826-8108

EMAIL: iivanov@muskingum.edu

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This is a core course that surveys the political developments and the institutional structure of the countries in Western Europe. The course combines country- an issue-oriented comparative approaches that address the sources of political power and focus on contemporary issues such as sovereignty and nationalism, supra-nationality, democracy and identity in the Western European societies. Several different patterns of West European democracies will be explored: the British, the German, the Nordic and the Southern (Mediterranean) models. Special attention will be paid to the political institutions, decision-making power, parties and elections. Lastly, the course will also briefly survey Europe's seamless web of institutions which includes the European Union, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe as well as the interaction among these institutions on national and supranational level.

At the end of the course students should be able to: (a) identify features and patterns in the development of Western European democracies; (b) discuss various aspects of power-sharing and political systems in Western Europe; (c) study and analyze contemporary events of Western European politics based on the background information and theoretical frameworks presented in this course.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

<i>Course Requirements:</i>	<u>% of final grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Two in-class midterm exam	40 % (2x20%)	2/20; 3/27
Individual Student Presentations	15% (3x5%)	Fridays
Two Reaction Papers (3 pages each)	10% (2x5%)	3/16; 4/22
Final exam	25%	Exam Week
Class attendance (and participation)	10%	throughout the

semester

There will be an in-class midterm scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> and a final exam at the scheduled time of Monday, December 8, 2008 at noon. All students are also expected to complete **two** current issue papers about 3 pages each, which are drawn from and supported by articles in the Financial Times (FT). The instructor will post FT articles to be critically analyzed on Blackboard. Each paper will count for five percent of the final grade, and students are required to provide a brief oral report to the class. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided separately.

*Grading Scale:*

93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	0-59%	F

Please note that grades represent **NON-NEGOTIABLE** assessments of a student's comprehension of course material and they can be appealed only in the order outlined in the Student Handbook.

**POLICIES AND CAVEATS:**

If you have a disability that affects your performance in class (whether you are a part of the PLUS program or not), please feel free to notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order to find an accommodation that meets best student's interests. Students are expected to attend class, and attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (medical), I should be informed **PRIOR** to the test about the student's impending absence and documentation must be provided when you return to class. Absences due to illness or injury will not be excused retroactively unless documentation is provided to the instructor. A student who misses a total of **FOURTEEN** (1/3) or more class meetings will receive a class participation grade of zero (0), and may also have his or her overall course grade reduced. A student who has a total of **TWENTY** (1/2) or more unexcused absences will receive a course grade of F.

I do **NOT** plan makeup examinations or quizzes. Missing an exam without prior permission of the instructor may result in a zero on that exam. Make-up tests will only be arranged in extreme cases, so please be sure to let me know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend at the scheduled time.

Every student has to sign up for one individual student presentation of an academic article related to a specific topic. You should plan about 10-15 minutes presentation that summarizes the argument made in the article, which will be followed by a 20 minute in class discussion. Further instructions will be provided in class. The individual research paper includes a specific topic which the students will be assigned after consultation with the

instructor. The students will be required to conduct research, collect data and write 5-6 pages paper. If necessary, the students may need to check in with the instructor during week thirteen or fourteen of the semester. The total weight of this component is 25 percent.

I also would like to remind you that all of the work you submit in this course is expected to be your own. Students should review the Muskingum Code of Student Conduct and be aware of all activities defined as academic dishonesty. Although I do encourage students to exchange ideas and/or work together on certain assignments, **each student is responsible for completing and submitting his or her own assignments.** Please be advised that according to Muskingum Code of Student Conduct “all forms of dishonesty and misconduct including, but not limited to the following are prohibited:

- a. Cheating plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty (these cases are adjudicated through the processes administered by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs)”<sup>1</sup>

If you have any doubts how to proceed in a certain situation, feel free to contact me, but always remember that your safe bet is to cite the source of information. For further details on plagiarism and appropriate citation visit the University of Wisconsin-Madison website and check a detailed instructional brochure about references on my webpage:

[http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA\\_PC.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA_PC.html)

Please do not forget that all cell phones and pagers should be **turned off completely** (not muted!!!) during class time and I will be very disappointed to hear ring tones during our class.

## **READINGS:**

The following book is required:

1) M. Donald Hancock et al (2002). *Politics in Europe: An Introduction to the Politics of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and the European Union*, 4th Edition, CQ Press, ISBN: 978-1-93311-645-7

2) The Financial Times: a 15-week Student subscription. You can subscribe online at [https://www.ftnewspaper.com/cgi-bin/ftusa.cgi/fess/vanity\\_us\\_student](https://www.ftnewspaper.com/cgi-bin/ftusa.cgi/fess/vanity_us_student)

The following book is recommended:

Curtis, Michael (2002). *Western European Government and Politics* (2nd Edition), Prentice Hall, ISBN: 0321104773.

There are readings in addition to the required textbook. Most readings will be available on the Internet via the class web page on Blackboard or links from Blackboard. When electronic versions of readings are not available, paper copies will be distributed in class or course pack will be available in the library and/or one of the university bookstores.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Code of Student Conduct: General Regulations;” also available on the Internet: <http://www.muskingum.edu/home/campuslife/downloads/studenthandbook.pdf>, 06/04/2008.

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **Part one.** Introduction to Varieties of European Democracy

Introduction to the Course

Hancock, Politics in Europe, Introduction

#### Academic Articles on Types of Contemporary Democracies:

- 1) Arent Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies" or "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 15, No 2, April 2004.
- 2) Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not"

#### Academic Articles on Social Bases of Democracy:

- 1) Alfred Stepan, Religion, Democracy, and The "Twin Tolerations," *Journal of Democracy* Volume 11, Number 4 October 2000.
- 2) Daniel Ziblatt, Review Article: How Did Europe Democratize? *World Politics* Vol. 58, January 2006, pp. 311–38.

### **Part two.** Continental European Model

A: Germany and Parliamentary Federalism

Pathway to German Democracy

Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 3.1, 3.5

The German State

Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapter 3.2

German Style Democracy

Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 3.3, 3.4

#### Academic articles:

- 1) Markus Kornprobst, "Dejustification and Dispute Settlement: Irredentism in European Politics," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 13(4), pp. 459–487.
- 2) Alesina, et al., "Why Doesn't the US Have a European-Style Welfare State?" NBER Working Paper No. W8524.
- 3) Christian Joppke, "Transformation of Immigrant Integration: civic integration and antidiscrimination in the Netherlands, France, and Germany," *World Politics* Vol. 59, January 2007, pp. 243–73.

### **Part three.** South European Politics

A: France -- toward Stability and Europeanization

Formations of the French State  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 2.1, 2.5

The Mixed Presidential-Parliamentary State  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapter 2.2

The Party System, Electoral System, Groups  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 2.3, 2.4

B: Italy - difficult democracy

Stages of Democratization in Italy  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 4.1, 4.5

The State in Italy  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapter 4.2

Reforming Patron-Client Democracy  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 4.3, 4.5

Academic Readings (Book Chapters):

1) Leonardo Morlino and Jose Montero, "Legitimacy and Democracy in Southern Europe," in Richard Gunther et al (eds), *The politics of democratic consolidation: southern Europe in comparative perspective*

2) Geoffrey Pridham, "The International Context of Democratic Consolidation: Southern Europe in Comparative Perspective," Richard Gunther et al (eds), *The politics of democratic consolidation: southern Europe in comparative perspective*

**Part four.** The British Model: Party Democracy in Crisis

Development of British Politics  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 1.1, 1.5

The British State: Prime Ministerial Government and Beyond  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, 4th ed , 1.2

The British Democracy under Stress  
Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 1.3, 1.4

Academic Article:

Jude C. Hays, Globalization and Capital Taxation in Consensus and Majoritarian Democracies, *World Politics* Vol. 56, October 2003, pp. 79–113

## **Part five.** The Nordic Model

The Corporatism in the Context of Swedish Politics

Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 5.1, 5.5

The State and Democracy in Sweden

Hancock, Politics in Europe, Chapters 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

### Academic Articles:

Torben Andersen et al, *Embracing globalization and sharing risks: the Nordic Model*, the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA), Chapters 1 thru 3 (pp. 11-62).

## **Part six.** The European Seamless Web of Institutions: NATO, EU, OSCE, the Council of Europe

Hancock, Politics in Europe, (the section on the European Union) Chapters 8.1 thru 8.5

Other Institutions: OSCE and the Council of Europe. Check the following links (additional links will be Posted on Blackboard):

<http://www.osce.org/>

<http://www.coe.int/>

<http://conventions.coe.int/>

<http://www.oscepa.org/About%20OSCE%20PA>

### Academic Articles:

#### **The European Union**

1) Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, “EU Accession is no ‘End of History:’ Is East-Central Europe Backsliding?”, *Journal of Democracy* Volume 18, Number 4 October 2007.

2) Robert Thomson, “National Actors in International Organizations: the Case of the European Commission.” *Comparative Political Studies*, Volume 41, No 2, February 2008, pp. 169-192.

3) Philippe C. Schmitter, “Democracy in Europe and Europe’s Democratization: making sense of the EU.” *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 14, No4, October 2003.

#### **NATO**

1) Ronald Asmus and Alexander Vondra, “The Origins of Atlanticism in Central and Eastern Europe.” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, Vol. 18, No 2, July 2005.

2) Celeste Wallander, “Institutional Assets and Adaptability: NATO after the Cold War.” *International Organization*, Vol. 54 (2000), pp. 705-35.

3) Renee de Nevers, “NATO’s International Security Role in the Terrorist Era.” *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 4, (Spring 2007), pp. 34-66.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to add supplementary readings if necessary.

POLS 331  
 Politics of Western Europe  
 Spring 2009  
 Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov

## Tentative Schedule

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week One 1/12-1/16	1/12 Introduction	1/14 Core features of European democracies	1/16 Varieties of Capitalism
Week Two 1/19 – 1/23	<i>1/19 MLK Jr. Day (no classes)</i>	1/21 Continental Europe: the German State I	1/23 <b><u>Article Discussion:</u></b> contemporary democracies
Week Three 1/26 – 1/30	1/26 The modern German state II	1/28 The modern German state III	1/30 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> social bases of democracy
Week Four 2/2 – 2/6	2/2 Survey of French political development	2/4 The modern French State I	2/6 The modern French State II
Week Five 2/9 – 2/13	2/9 Southern Europe: Italy	2/11 The modern Italian state	2/13 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> Continental Europe (irredentism & immigrant integration)
Week Six 2/16 – 2/20	2/16 [Video: Bloody Sunday I]	2/18 [Video: Bloody Sunday II]	2/20 <b>Midterm One</b>
Week Seven 2/23 – 2/27	2/23 The modern Italian state II <b>Early assessment grades due</b>	2/25 Introduction to Britain	2/27 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> Europe and America in comparative perspective (Alesina et al)
3/2 – 3/6	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week Eight 3/9 – 3/13	3/9 Modern Britain I	3/11 Modern Britain II	3/13 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> Southern Europe
Week Nine 3/16 – 3/20	3/16 <b>Reaction Paper 1 due – topic discussion</b>	3/18 Introduction to Swedish politics	3/20 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> British vs. Continental politics: article and topic discussion
Week Ten 3/23 – 3/27	3/23 Swedish politics	3/25 The European seamless web of institutions	3/27 <b>Midterm Two</b>
Week Eleven 3/30 – 3/4	3/30 Introduction to the European Union	4/1 History of the European Union	4/3 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> the European Union
Week Twelve 4/6 – 4/10	4/6 European institutions	4/8 Policies of the European Union	4/10 <i>Easter Holiday break (no classes)</i>

Week Thirteen 4/13 – 4/17	4/13 Introduction to NATO	4/15 NATO in the post-Cold War world	4/17 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> EU& NATO
Week Fourteen 4/20 – 4/24	4/20 Other European institutions: OSCE, Council of Europe	4/22 <b>Reaction Paper 2 due – topic discussion</b>	4/24 <b><u>Article discussion:</u></b> NATO
Week Fifteen 4/20 – 4/24	4/27 Conclusion about European politics and institutions	4/29 Conclusion: Q&A about the final exam	