

WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICS

SUMMER 2007

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V42./V53.0510

M-W (5:30-8:30)

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Office Hours (by appointment only)

This course will survey governmental institutions and political processes in four major Western European states: United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy. Among the four cases we will compare systematically general historical patterns of social, economic, and religious conflict; structures of citizen representation in interest groups and political parties; electoral systems; constitutional relationships between executive, legislature, and judiciary; outline of economic and foreign policies; and current problems of national identity.

The course also will consider the structure, functions, and impact of the European Union, not only in its reciprocal relationship to four of its member states, but also in its relationship to the broader political order that is continuing to evolve after the end of the Cold War and the unification of Germany. This will allow us to give some attention to the Western European countries not featured in the course.

Required Texts

Gabriel Almond, Russell Dalton, and G. Bingham Powell, Jr., eds. European Politics Today, 3rd ed., Pearson Longman.

T. R. Reid, The United States of Europe, Penguin Books, 2004.

*Richard Ned Lebow, Wulf Kansteiner, and Claudia Fogu, eds. The Politics of Memory in Postwar Europe. Duke University Press, 2006.

*Since we read only the first chapter, I will provide an electronic version of that chapter.

Course Requirements

The course will be organized as a seminar and students will be responsible for classroom presentations and discussion (1/4 of grade), attendance (1/4 of grade), midterm and final exams each consist of (1/4 of grade). Please note that formal matters—excuses, absences, grades etc.—will not be discussed by e-mail.

Monday May 14

Introduction:

What is to be studied?

How to be studied?

Wednesday May 16

What is European Democracy? Is it unique?

Almond: Chapters 1 and 3

Monday May 21

European Union

Almond: Part IV (Chapter 12)

Reid: Prologue, Chapters 1

Lebow: Chapter 1 (to be provided by the instructor)

Wednesday 23

European Union

Reid: 2, 3

Group Presentation

Monday May 28

The United Kingdom

A. Pattern of Historical Development

Almond: Chapter 5

Group Presentation

Wednesday May 30

The United Kingdom

B. Political Processes and Institutions

C. Public Policy and Issues

Reid: Chapters 4, 5

Group Presentation

Monday June 4

France

A. Pattern of Historical Development

Almond: Chapter 6

B. Political Processes and Institutions

C. Public Policy and Issues

Reid: Chapter 6

Midterm

Wednesday June 6

Italy

A. Pattern of Historical Development

(Recommended reading on reserve)

Group Presentation

Monday June 11,

Italy

B. Political Processes and Institutions

C. Public Policy and Issues

Reid: Chapter 7, 8

Group Presentation

Wednesday June 13,

Germany

A. Pattern of Historical Development

Almond: Chapter 7

Group Presentation

Monday June 18,

Germany

B. Political Processes and Institutions

C. Public Policy and Issues

Reid: Chapter 9

Group Presentation

Wednesday June 20,

Conclusion

European Political Order

Final Exam