Politics of Western Europe
Political Science 4075

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Office Hours: 1-3 W, 11-12 Th., or by appointment

Fall 2009
T, Th. 12:10 –1:30
114 Audubon

Course Description:
This course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of Western European politics. We will take a comparative approach to studying the institutions and political cultures of prominent states in Western Europe, as well as focusing on the progression of the supranational European Union. While no prerequisite is required to take this course, familiarity with the core concepts of comparative politics that are covered in Poli. 2053 will help students excel in this course.

“He who knows one country knows none.”
-Friedrich Muller

“What knows he of England who only England knows?”
-Rudyard Kipling

Course Requirements:
1) Mid-term Exam- In-class October 8, 2009......................................................20%
2) Research Paper- Due November 19, 2009.....................................................25%
3) Participation- This includes reading quizzes, participation in classroom discussions, and successful completion of in-class reaction paper assignments. 25%
4) Final Exam- TBA.........................................................................................30%
Required Texts:


Recommended Texts:

Putnam, Robert (1993) *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*

Special Needs:

Any student with a learning disability should make me aware of it so I that I may accommodate your situation appropriately and in accordance with LSU policy. Additionally, athletes and club members who will miss class and/or deadlines due to their involvement in extracurricular activities are required to know and follow school policy and procedures for making up the work.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated, and all matters will be automatically referred to judicial affairs. All students are expected to know and abide by LSU policy regarding plagiarism. [http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism.htm](http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism.htm)

Tentative Course Schedule and Assignments:

August 25, 2009- Typical first day.

August 27, 2009- Re-introduction to Comparative Politics
Read pages 1-55 in Gallagher

September 1, 2009- Elections and Electoral Systems
Read page 340-377 in Gallagher

September 3, 2009- The origin of the European Union
Read pages 1-34 in Peterson

September 8, 2009- The institutions of the European Union
Read pages 37-80 in Peterson

September 10, 2009- The changing of the European Union
Read pages 81-123 in Peterson
September 15, 2009- The debate over the European Union
Read pages 125-142 in Peterson and 115-150 in Gallagher

September 17, 2009- Introduction to the United Kingdom
Read pages 293-309 and 331-347 in Peterson

September 22, 2009- The Institutions of the United Kingdom
Read pages 57-82 in Gallagher

September 24, 2009- Politics of the United Kingdom
Read pages 154-185 in Gallagher

September 29, 2009- Special topics in the United Kingdom
Read Chapter 6 of Opposing Europe: The Comparative Politics of Euroskepticism

October 1, 2009- Fall break, no class.

October 6, 2009- Review for mid-term, catch up.

October 8, 2009- In-class mid-term examination

October 13, 2009- Introduction to France
Read pages 263-303 in Gallagher

October 15, 2009- The Institutions of the 5th Republic
Read pages 187-227 in Gallagher

October 20, 2009- Politics of France
Read pages 230-260 in Gallagher

October 22, 2009- Special topics of the French Republic
Reading Assignments to be selected in-class

October 27, 2009- Introduction to Germany
Read Betram, Christoph 1990 “The German Question” Foreign Affairs Vol. 69, No. 2
Pages 45-62
October 29, 2009- German Institutions
Read Pages 86-111 in Gallagher

November 3, 2009- The Politics of Germany
Read Pages 307-335 in Gallagher

**November 5, 2009- Special Topics of Germany**
Readings to be selected in-class

November 10, 2009- Introduction to Italy
Read Selections from *Making Democracy Work*

November 12, 2009- Italian Institutions
Read Pages 381-419 in Gallagher

November 17, 2009- The Politics of Italy
Read Selections from *Making Democracy Work*

**November 19, 2009- Special Topics of Italy**
Read Giordano, Benito (2000) “Italian regionalism or ‘Padanian’ nationalism — the political project of the Lega Nord in Italian politics” *Political Geography* Vol. 19, No. 4
Pages 445-471

November 24, 2009- The Rest of the West
Read pages 422-463 in Gallagher

November 26, 2009- Happy Thanksgiving!
December 1, 2009- Western Europe looks East
Read Grzymala, Anna and Innes, Abby (2003) “Great Expectations: The EU and Domestic Political Competition in East Central Europe” East European Politics and Societies pages 64-75

December 3, 2009- Concluding Remarks, Review for Final