POLI 4075:
Politics of Western Europe

Dr. Leonard Ray
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Office Hours: M, W, 1:00 - 3:00;  
or by appointment.

Semester: Spring 2011  
Time: MWF, 9:40 – 10:30  
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Course Objectives:
This course will introduce students to the political systems in European national states. The course will stress several aspects of European politics which are shared across many of the nations of Europe such as the role of political parties, the creation of multiparty coalitions, and the divide between government and opposition. We will examine the diversity of European political life by contrasting the political traditions and institutions of four of the largest European states, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Italy. While this course focuses on politics within states, Europe has not always been organized along these lines, and the role of the state is being questioned today. The course will close by questioning the future of the nation state in an era of globalization and regional unification.

Requirements and Grading:

2 Map Quizzes (5% each):
There are two “pop” quizzes during the course of the semester. The first, some time in February, will cover Europe in July 1914, the second, in April, will cover the 27 member nations of the European Union in Jan 2011.

Midterm Exam, and Cumulative Final Exam (25% each):
There will be two exams for this course, these will be cumulative, and students are responsible for material from all readings and lectures prior to the exam.

Make up exams are strongly discouraged, and any student who needs to take a make up exam must contact me 24 hours before the normally scheduled exam. Students who ask for a make up after the regularly scheduled exam must obtain written permission from the Dean's office.

Party Politics Simulation (1 short paper worth 10%, 2 group projects 10% each, 1 speech worth 10%):
Groups of students will play the part of political parties in a simulation of politics in a parliamentary system. Each group will write a brief election manifesto for its political party. Students will then study the election manifestos of the other parties and write a paper identifying potential coalition partners and possible compromise positions on the issues covered in the manifestos. The winning coalition will then present a common program to the class for its approval. Parties which did not make it into the winning coalition will discuss why they were unsuccessful in the negotiations. We will hold a number of “sessions” of parliament where the government can enact its manifesto promises.
Textbooks: Readings will be drawn from 3 books available at the Union and area bookstores:

*Citizen Politics: Public Opinion And Political Parties In Advanced Industrial Democracies 5th edition*
Author: Russel Dalton

*Representative Government in Modern Europe 4th edition*
Authors: Michael Gallagher, Peter Mair, Michael Laver

*Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Industrialized Countries, 2nd Edition*
Authors: Jessica R. Adolino and Charles H. Blake

Students are also expected to keep up with current events in Europe. Three excellent sources are the news magazine The Economist, the New York Times, and National Public Radio.

Course Schedule: In order to keep up with the course, try to read the indicated material before class.

**Introduction**
Jan. 19 Course overview
Jan. 21 Introduction to material
   - GLM Introduction – Chapter 1
   - Adolino and Blake- Chapter 3

**Part I Political Institutions in Europe**
Jan.24 Absolutism and monarchy
Jan.26 Heads of State and Heads of Government
   - GLM Chapter 2 pp 24-44
Jan.28 Coalition Formation and cabinet ministers
   - GLM Chapter 2 pp 44-55/ GLM Chapter 6 pp 154-163

Jan.31 Legislatures- their role in European government
   - GLM Chapter 3 pp 57-70
Feb. 2 The Member of Parliament
   - GLM Chapter 3 pp 70-76
Feb. 3 Bicameralism
   - GLM Chapter 3 pp 76-82

Feb. 7 Law and Politics- the status of a constitution
   - GLM Chapter 4 pp 86-93
Feb. 9 Judicial review in Europe
   - GLM Chapter 4 pp 93-105
Feb. 11 An “independent” Judiciary?
   - GLM Chapter 4 pp 105-112
Part II Voters and Parties
Feb. 14 Public Opinion
    Dalton Chapters 1 and 2
Feb. 16 Forms of Participation
    Dalton Chapter 3
Feb. 18 Citizens and Democracy
    Dalton Chapter 12
Feb. 21 Generations and Values
    Dalton Chapter 5
Feb 23 Ideology and policies
    Dalton Chapter 6
Feb. 25 Party systems
    GLM Chapter 7 (Skim)
Feb. 28 Party families and ideology
    Dalton Chapter 7
    GLM Chapter 8
Mar 2 Social bases of party systems
    Dalton Chapter 8
    GLM Chapter 9 pp 263-275
Mar 4 Dealignment
    Dalton Chapter 9
    GLM Chapter 9 pp 277-303
(Group paper on assigned party due March 4)

Mardi gras mar 6 – mar 9

March 11 Mid Term exam

March 14 Vote choice
    Dalton Chapter 10
March 16 Electoral Systems
    GLM Chapter 11
March 18 Representation
    Dalton Chapter 11

Part III Policy and policymaking
March 21 Internal party politics
    GLM Chapter 10
March 23 Government formation
    GLM Chapter 12 381-400
March 25 Cabinets in practice
    GLM Chapter 12 400-419
Hand in background paper March 28
March 28 Interest Groups
    GLM Chapter 14
March 30 Multilevel Governance: The EU
    GLM Chapter 5
April 1 Federalism
    GLM Chapter 6 pp 164-185

Group Election Manifesto due April 4
April 4 Explaining Public Policy
    Adolino and Blake Chapters 1 and 2
April 6 comparative immigration policy
April 8 comparative fiscal and taxation policy
Hand in strategy papers by April 8

April 11 Election Results and Coalition Negotiations
April 13 comparative health and social policy
April 15 comparative education and environmental policy
Hand in Queen’s speech and text of bills by April 15

April 18-24 spring break

April 25 Simulation- opening of parliament
April 27 Simulation- debate – government bills
April 29 Simulation- debate – government bills

May 2 Simulation- debate – government bills
May 4 Simulation- debate – opposition bills
May 6 Simulation- debate – opposition bills