

# Government and Politics of Europe

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## Course Information

Course Number: CPO 3930

Class Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.05-9.55

Place: Bellamy Building 4

Course website: Blackboard

My homepage: <http://www.fsu.edu/~polisci/people/faculty/golder.htm>

## Contact Information for Professor

Name: Matt Golder

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Office Hours: Monday 5.00-6.00pm (and by appointment)

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## Course Description

This course applies the basic concepts of *comparative political science* to the political systems of Europe. Its goal is to illustrate and explain some of the systematic relationships that exist between certain social, economic and political variables in European countries. As a result, the course will NOT be an in-depth study of 3 or 4 European countries (although you will get country-specific knowledge). In addition to comparisons within Europe (East and West), we will compare European political systems to other advanced democratic nations around the world. We will discuss theories of voting, the development of party systems, political protests, transitions to democracy, the choice of political institutions, immigration policy, democratic performance and several other topics.

The course is divided into two sections. In Section I, we focus on the historical development of political systems in Europe since the 1920s. We apply the tools of political science to better understand historical events such as the rise of Nazism, the onset of the Cold War, the establishment of the post-war party system, the transitions to democracy in Southern Europe, and the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe. Having obtained an overview of the historical evolution of Europe's political systems, we then turn to an examination of contemporary European institutions and their effects in Section II.

## Course Goals

The course is designed to give you an overview of both the post-war political development in European countries and the political institutions employed in European countries. With this background, students should be able to better understand contemporary political debates in Europe.

## **Prerequisite**

All students must have successfully completed the core class in comparative politics (CPO: 2002).

## **Requirements**

Attendance at lectures is both recommended and required. In my previous classes, attendance at lectures has been a good predictor of a student's performance on exams. There will be three exams - two midterms and a final - and periodic homework assignments. In the interests of fairness, homework assignments that are handed in late will not be graded and exam makeups will only be possible in the most extenuating of circumstances (oversleeping, leaving early for spring break etc. are not suitable excuses).

## **Exam Dates**

- Midterm 1: Wednesday, February 7
- Midterm 2: Wednesday, March 21
- Final: Wednesday, April 25 at 12.30-2.30pm

## **Grades**

Midterm I: 25%

Midterm II: 25%

Final: 30%

Participation: 20%

Note: Your participation grade will be based on (i) lecture attendance, (ii) participation, and (iii) homework assignments.

## **Required Texts:**

Books have been ordered at the university bookstore.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe (Fourth Edition)*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Soysal, Yasemin. 1994. *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago.

I have attempted to provide as many of the readings on the blackboard site as possible. Any of the remaining readings have been placed on the reserve at the FSU library (<http://eres.lib.fsu.edu/>). For those readings that are electronically available, either on the Blackboard site or at the FSU library reserve, you are encouraged to print them out so that you can make notes and refer

back to them as required. Copies of the required texts by Hitchcock and Soysal have been placed on reserve at the FSU library.

### **Recommended Readings:**

Occasionally, I list recommended readings. These are readings or films that would be particularly interesting if one wished to know more about certain topics we cover in class.

## **Schedule:**

This schedule should be treated as tentative and flexible. It may be the case that it takes us more or less time for a particular topic than I have allotted here. We will adapt accordingly.

### **Section I: Historical Development of European Political Systems**

**Weeks 1-2: January 8-19** – European history as conflict between democracy, communism, and fascism. Political science and understanding the Nazi vote. Ecological inference and retrospective voting. The end of WWII, the division of Europe, the onset of the Cold War, and the emergence of the post-war party system.

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

Mazower, Mark. 1998. *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. New York: Vintage Books. pp. ix-xv, 3-40. [FSU Library Reserve]

King, Gary, Ori Rosen, Martin Tanner, Alexander Wagner. 2004. 'Ordinary Voting Behavior in the Extraordinary Election of Adolf Hitler.' Unpublished manuscript, Harvard University. [BLACKBOARD]

Hitchcock, William. 2003. *The Struggle For Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent, 1945 to the Present*. New York: Anchor Books. pp. 69-97. [Required Book]

Documentary: *World at War*, Volume 25.

**Weeks 3-4: January 22-February 2** – Collective action: protests and revolutions. Failed uprisings in Eastern Europe (Berlin 1953, Budapest 1956, Prague 1968). Political protests in Western Europe, from marching in the street to terrorism in France, Italy, and Germany. Transitions from dictatorship to democracy in Southern Europe and Eastern Europe.

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

Hitchcock, William. 2003. *The Struggle For Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent*,

*1945 to the Present*. New York: Anchor Books. pp. 193-220, 247-310, 347-379 [Required Book]

Kuran, Timur. 1991. 'Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989.' *World Politics* 44: 7-48. [BLACKBOARD]

#### RECOMMENDED READINGS/FILMS:

Garton Ash, Timothy. 1993. *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague*. New York: Vintage Books.

Rosenberg, Tina. 1996. *The Haunted Land: Facing Europe's Ghosts After Communism*. Journalist's account of the dilemma facing new democracies: what is to be done with the former elite and those who collaborated with the dictatorial regime?

Movie: *Z*. 1969. Satirical view of Greek politics during the military dictatorship that ruled Greece at the time of its making.

Movie: *The Sorrow and the Pity*. 1969. Two part documentary about the French resistance and collaboration with the Vichy government and the Nazis during World War II.

Movie: *La Battaglia di Algeri (The Battle of Algiers)*. 1965. Reconstruction of the struggle of Algerians for independence from French rule.

Movie: *The Eye of Vichy*. 1993. Compilation of film footage and newsreels from the Vichy period produced by the Nazis and French collaborators.

Movie: *Tito and Me*. 1993. Political comedy about a young boy's obsession with the Communist ruler of Yugoslavia, Josep Tito.

Movie: *Przesluchanie (Interrogation)*. 1982 (1990). Grim look at prison life in communist Poland in the 1950s.

Movie: *Was tun, wenn's brennt? (What to do in Case of Fire)*. 2002. Dark comedy about anarchists in Berlin during the 1980s.

Movie: *Goodbye Lenin*. 2003. Entertaining look at German reunification.

Movie: *Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others)*. 2006. Examines the role of East Germany's secret police, the STASI.

Documentary: *When the Wall Came Tumbling Down*. 1999.

## Section II: Institutions and Their Effects

**Week 5: February 5-9** – Parliamentary, presidential, semi-presidential regimes. Executive-Legislative relations. Government formation - formateurs, votes of no-confidence, investiture etc..

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 24-85 (chapters 2-3). [REQUIRED BOOK]

Episode of *Prime Minister's Question Time*. Shown in class.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm Exam (Wednesday, February 7)

**Week 6: February 12-16** – Minority, minimal winning, and surplus governments. More on government formation - cabinet portfolio allocation, government survival and political experience.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 381-421 (chapter 12). [REQUIRED BOOK]

Clark, William, Matt Golder, & Sona Golder. 2006. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Ch. 12. [BLACKBOARD]

**Week 7: February 19-23** – Federalism, bicameralism, judicial review, bureaucracy.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 86-112, 154-185 (chapters 4 and 6). [REQUIRED BOOK]

Episode of *Yes, Prime Minister*. Shown in class.

**Week 8: February 26 - March 2** – Electoral rules - majoritarian, proportional, multi-tier and mixed. Turnout. Effect of electoral rules on party system size. Strategic voting, mechanical effect of electoral rules, and Duverger's theory.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 340-380 (chapters 7 and 11). [REQUIRED BOOK]

### Spring Break (March 5-9)

**Week 9: March 12-16** – Rules of the Game. Choice of electoral institutions.

Kaminski, Marek. 1999. 'How Communism Could Have Been Saved: Formal Analysis of Electoral Bargaining in Poland in 1989.' *Public Choice* 98: 83-109. [BLACKBOARD]

Bawn, Kathleen. 1993. 'The Logic of Institutional Preferences: The German Electoral Law as a Social Choice Outcome.' *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 965-989. [BLACKBOARD]

**Week 10: March 19-23** – Parties and party families. Social cleavages, freezing hypothesis and electoral change. Extreme right parties and greens.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 230-306 (chapters 8-9); if you have time, read 307-339 (chapter 10). [REQUIRED BOOK]

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm Exam (Wednesday, March 21)**

**Weeks 11-12: March 26 - April 6** – Policy-making in corporatist and pluralist systems. Immigration and citizenship rules. Nation states. National vs. European identity.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 230-306 (chapter 14). [REQUIRED BOOK]

Soysal, Yasemin. 1994. *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago. [REQUIRED BOOK]

#### SOME RECOMMENDED FILMS ON IMMIGRATION AND IDENTITY:

Movie: *East is East*. 1999. Life in a mixed Pakistani-English household. British comedy.

Movie: *My Son the Fanatic*. 1999. Westernized Pakistani immigrant in England who is forced to reexamine his life when his son becomes a religious fundamentalist.

Movie: *My Beautiful Laundrette*. 1985. Young Asian runs a laundrette. Tackles issues of homosexuality and racism in Thatcherite Britain.

Movie: *Bhaji on the Beach*. 1993. British women of South Asian descent spend at day at Blackpool's beach.

Movie: *Wild West*. 1992. Pakistanis trying to be accepted as a country/western music band.

Movie: *Brothers in Trouble*. 1995. Story about an illegal Pakistani immigrant smuggled into England in the 1960s.

Movie: *Last Resort*. 2000. Love story involved asylum seeker from Russia.

Movie: *The Buddha of Suburbia*. 1993. Life of a man born to an Indian father and an English mother.

**Week 13: April 9-13** – Majoritarian and proportional visions of democracy.

Powell, G. Bingham. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy: Majoritarian and Proportional Visions*. New Haven: Yale University Press. pp. 3-43 (chapters 1-2). [FSU Library Reserve]

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press. pp. 1-47 (Chapters 1-3). [FSU Library Reserve]

**Week 14: April 16-20** – Review.

**Final Exam (Wednesday, April 25 at 12.30-2.30pm)**

## **Additional Information**

### **Students with Disabilities**

Instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students with physical, mental or learning disabilities. Students with disabilities which may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements are to inform the instructor (after class or during the instructor's office hours) so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Students should register with the Student Disability Resource Center, 97 Woodward Avenue (644-9546) and bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating the required accommodations in the first week of class.

### **Department/Collegiate Complaint Procedures**

A student who has a complaint against any member of the college's teaching staff is responsible for following the procedures described in the Student Handbook available on the following website: <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/>. The student should attempt to resolve the issue with the faculty member or teaching assistant involved. Lacking a satisfactory outcome, the student can turn to the department chair. (If the complaint concerns a teaching assistant, the student should contact the supervising faculty member first). If a satisfactory outcome still is not obtained,

the student can turn to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Complaints may concern inappropriate faculty conduct (including inappropriate course materials), incompetence in oral communications, inequities in assignments, scheduling of examinations at other than authorized and published times, failure to provide disability accommodations, or grading grievances. FSU has a specific policy regarding sexual harassment - this can be found at <http://www.auditservices.fsu.edu/>.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

All students are bound by the Academic Honor Policy (<http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/academics.htm>). You are expected to be honest and honorable in your fulfillment of assignments and in test-taking situations. Plagiarism and cheating are serious forms of academic misconduct. Examples of them are given in the Student Handbook: <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/2003codes/honor.html>. The department of Political Science works with individual instructors to detect plagiarism and cheating and to ensure that appropriately serious punishments are applied. An instructor who suspects a student of plagiarism or cheating must inform the student (preferably in writing) as soon as possible after the incident has been observed or discovered. Instructors who detect cheating or plagiarism may decide to reduce the student's grade on the assignment or course, even to assign an F. The instructor will discuss the matter with the student, put any agreement regarding academic penalty in writing signed by both the instructor and the student, and report the infraction to the Chair and the University judicial office. If no agreement can be reached, the instructor refers the matter to the Academic Honor System Hearing Panel.

### **Your Responsibilities**

Your responsibilities to this class - and to your education as a whole - include attendance and participation. This syllabus details specific expectations the instructor may have about attendance and participation. You have a responsibility to help create a classroom environment where all may learn. At the most basic level, this means you will respect the other members of the class and the instructor and treat them with the courtesy you hope to receive in turn.

### **Plus-Minus Grading**

All the department's instructors can append plus or minus grades to the letter grades they assign for the course. If the instructor does not specifically indicate in the syllabus that he or she will not assign pluses or minuses, students should assume that this form of grading will be used.

Please visit the Political Science Department's website: <http://www.fsu.edu/~polisci/>. It is frequently updated with new events and procedures in our department, changes in the Schedule of Courses, plus TA and faculty office hours when available. You also may find current information on pre-advising and registration.