

Government and Politics of Europe

Professor Matt Golder

Course #: 030:140:001
Time: M, W, F 12:30-1:20
Place: 71 Schaeffer Hall
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Course website: Blackboard
Office Hours: M, W 4-5pm (206 Schaeffer Hall)

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 ask questions such as (i) why do some countries have few parties but others have many? (ii) why do minority governments exist and why do they occur so frequently in some countries but not others? (iii) how do governments form and what determines their stability? (iv) what explains voter turnout? (v) how do different countries elect their representatives and with what consequences? (vi) what are the differences between parliamentary and presidential systems? and (vii) how do various institutions affect government accountability, responsiveness, representation and stability? These are just some of the questions we will address in this course. I will provide you with simple methodological tools for analyzing these questions. For example, you will learn how to employ simple game-theoretic models and interpret regression results.

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.

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 Thanksgiving etc. are not suitable excuses).

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 Iowa Book and Supply. However, I also list the prices for buying them online at amazon.com or bn.com in case there are significant price differentials.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. (\$57.31 amazon.com; \$58.66 bn.com)

Garton Ash, Timothy. 1993. *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague*. New York: Vintage Books. (\$9.60 amazon.com; \$10.80 bn.com)

Soysal, Yasemin. 1994. *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago. (\$14.00 amazon.com & bn.com)

Course Packet: Available at Zephyr Copies, 124 E. Washington Street.

All readings not in the books listed above can be found in the course packet. This can be obtained at Zephyr Copies. All required books and the course packet have been placed on reserve at the library.

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.

Week 1: January 19-21 – Primer on political science and the comparative method. What is political science? What is science? What is comparative politics? Mill's Methods of Agreement and Difference. Induction versus deduction. Logical fallacies.

Clark, William, Matt Golder, and Sona Golder. 2004. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Ch. 2.

Section I: Historical Development of European Political Systems

Week 2: January 24-28 – European history as conflict between democracy, communism, and fascism. Political science and understanding the Nazi vote. Ecological inference and retrospective voting.

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

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

Week 3: January 31 - February 4 – The end of WWII, the division of Europe, the onset of the Cold War, and the emergence of the post-war party system.

Mazower, Mark. 1998. *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. New York: Vintage Books. pp. 212-249.

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.

Documentary: *World at War*, Volume 25.

Week 4: February 7-11 – 1968: Europe and its discontents. Transitions to democracy in Southern Europe - Portugal, Spain, Greece. Game theory - extensive form and normal form games. Protest and transition games.

Colomer, Josep. 1991. 'Transitions by Agreement: Modeling the Spanish Way.' *American Political Science Review* 85: 1283-1302.

Hitchcock, William. 2003. *The Struggle For Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent, 1945 to the Present*. New York: Anchor Books. pp. 247-287.

Week 5: February 14-18 – Eastern Europe and its critics. 1989: The collapse of communism and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

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.

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

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

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

1st Midterm Exam (Friday, February 18)

Section II: Institutions and Their Effects

Week 6: February 21-25 – 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. 41-95 (chapters 3-4).

Week 7: February 28 - March 4 – 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. 339-359 (chapter 12).

Laver, Michael and Kenneth Shepsle. 1996. *Making and Breaking Governments: Cabinets and Legislatures in Parliamentary Democracies*. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 43-78 (chapters 3-4).

Huber, John, & Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo. 2004. 'Cabinet Instability and the Accumulation of Experience in the Cabinet: The French Fourth and Fifth Republics in Comparative Perspective.' *British Journal of Political Science* 34: 27-48.

Week 8: March 7-11 – 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. 300-333.

Clark, William & Matt Golder. 2004. 'Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory. Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws.' Paper presented at the 2003 Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago.

Week 9: March 14-18 – Spring Break

Week 10: March 28 - April 1 – Rules of the Game. Choice of electoral institutions.

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 423-447 (chapter 15).

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

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.

2nd Midterm Exam (Friday, April 1)

Week 11: April 4-8 – 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. 202-270 (chapters 8-9); if you have time, read 271-299 (chapter 10).

Golder, Matt. 2003. 'Explaining Variation in the Electoral Success of Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe.' *Comparative Political Studies* 36: 432-466.

Week 12: April 11-15 – Immigration and citizenship rules. Nation states. National vs. European identity.

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

Week 13: April 18-22 – Federalism, bicameralism, judicial review, central bank independence. Veto players.

Tsebelis, George. 2002. *Veto Players: How Political Institutions Work*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. pp. 17-37 (chapter 1).

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver, & Peter Mair. 2001. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 14-40, 122-229 (chapters 2 and 6-9).

Week 14: April 25-29 – 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).

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).

Week 15: May 2-6 – This is a leeway week that can be used to spend longer on some of the topics covered in the course that students find particularly interesting.

Final Exam (Monday, May 9 at 7.30am)