

Department of Political Science  
SUNY Oneonta  
Spring 2002

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Political Science 294C:

## **Topics in Comparative Politics:**

# **EUROPEAN POLITICS**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5:15 p.m.  
307 Fitzelle Hall

### Course Description

A survey of government and politics in modern and contemporary Europe. The course will provide a comparative overview of historical development, political economy, state institutions, and politics in several influential and distinctive regions or nations of Europe, including Scandinavia, Germany, France, Britain, and East-Central Europe. In addition, a substantial portion of the course will be devoted to investigating the growth and functioning of the European Union. There are no specific prerequisites to this course. However, students who have not taken other courses in comparative politics, European history, or the history of political thought should think carefully about whether they are ready to enroll in this course.

### Course Goals

The course has four goals: first, to give students a solid, basic understanding of European politics, including the ways in which various European polities differ from one another; second, to help students develop an informed perspective on the issues that unite and divide Europeans and Americans; third, to encourage students to recognize the historical and institutional varieties of modern democratic development and the political and moral problems particular to each of these variants; and fourth, to give students an opportunity to begin reading carefully, thinking critically, and writing clearly.

### Course Requirements

*Reading.* This course will have a heavy yet quite rewarding reading list. Students will be expected to keep up with the reading throughout the semester. Plan to spend a fair amount of time reading *before* attending class and, at times, re-reading after class. In general, texts are to be brought to our meetings so that they may be referred to in lecture and discussion.

*Course Meetings and Discussion.* Most course meetings will consist of a mix of lecture and informal discussion. Students should expect to attend class meetings consistently and punctually and be ready to discuss the subjects and texts under investigation in a civil manner. Students will be assigned the job of helping to begin at least one class discussion during the semester, and all students will be expected to participate in class discussions with some regularity. Performance in our discussions will strongly influence the participation grade, and absences or consistent tardiness will be penalized.

*Writing and Examinations.* Written requirements will include two take-home midterms, six short reaction papers, and an in-class final examination. Additional assignments may include short pop quizzes, including possibly some map quizzes. All students will also need to be able to access a course Blackboard website and submit written assignments in digital form on the web. Please note that this entire syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

### Required Texts

Gianfranco Poggi, *The Development of the Modern State: A Sociological Introduction* (Stanford, 1978)  
Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, et al, *European Politics in Transition*, 4th ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 2002)  
Larry Siedentop, *Democracy in Europe* (Columbia, 2001)

### Grading and Attendance Policies

Grades will be assigned on a 100-point scale and weighted in the following manner:

1. First take-home midterm due	Mon., 17 February	20%
2. Second take-home midterm due	Mon., 7 April	20%
3. Six 1½-2 page text reaction papers due	At various times	18%
4. In-class final examination	Date TBA	30%
5. Participation	Always!	12%
TOTAL:		100%

Written assignments will include two take-home essay midterms; six 1½-2 page papers summarizing and reacting to readings; and a take-home final examination.

The schedule of papers and exams appears above and below. You will be expected to meet all of the deadlines listed. Exceptions will be made *only in extreme and unavoidable circumstances*. If you miss or expect to miss a deadline, contact me as soon as possible. Either attend my office hours, or give me a note or an e-mail message explaining your circumstances.

The six 1½-2 page reaction papers will be graded minimally: plus, check, check/minus, minus. Pluses will earn extra credit (3.5%), with checks gaining full credit (3%); check/minuses receiving partial credit (2%); and minuses receiving reduced (1%) or zero credit. There are nine possible reaction papers – each student must write at least six. The grade will be based on the best six papers completed, if more than six are written. *No late papers will be accepted*. Details on this requirement are given a handout next week.

Regular, timely attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences and tardiness will be noted and will affect grades negatively. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your grade one step (for example, from a B+ to a B). *Each subsequent absence will lower your grade another full step*. More than six unexcused absences may result in a failing grade, or involuntary withdrawal from the course.

Tardiness will also be noted. After the third late arrival, every instance of tardiness will be treated as an absence. Course meetings are few and brief, so be in class and be on time.

If you have a good reason to be absent or late, notify me *in writing* as soon as possible, explaining and documenting your absence. Either give me a note in class or send me an e-mail message. I will notify you if I accept your explanation or if we need to talk more about it during my office hours.

Expect to attend class for the whole period, focusing on coursework throughout. If you have a good reason for arriving late or leaving early, please notify me in advance in writing (e-mail is best). If you cannot notify me in advance, do so as soon as you can afterwards.

All students are required to attend class during the final examination period.

As a courtesy to all, please turn off pagers and telephones while in class.

Note that this entire syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

### Office Hours/Communication

I will hold regular office hours on Mondays from 5:15-6:15 p.m., Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m., in my office at 412 Fitzelle Hall. I can also make appointments at other times and on other days, if necessary. My telephone number is 436-2754. Notes can be left for me in my mailbox at the Political Science/Sociology Office, 418 Fitzelle Hall. E-mail messages can also be sent to me at:

[mcennedj@oneonta.edu](mailto:mcennedj@oneonta.edu)

My faculty website is:

<http://employees.oneonta.edu/mcennedj/>

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, TOPICS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Notes: All assignments are to be completed *before* class.  
 Items marked with asterisks (\*) will be placed on electronic reserve or made available on the course Blackboard site.  
 “K&K” refers to the textbook authored by Kesselman and Krieger, et al.

#### ***1. Politics and European States***

Wed., 15 January	<u>Introduction: European Models and the Question of European Identity</u> Suggested: Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger, “Part I: Introduction,” in K&K, pp. 1-33.
Mon., 20 January	<u>That Was Then? Origins of European States and Three Systems of Rule</u> Reading: Gianfranco Poggi, <i>The Development of the Modern State: A Sociological Introduction</i> , chaps. 1-4, pp. 1-85 <b><i>Assignment: Reaction Paper 1 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 22 January.</i></b>
Wed., 22 January	<u>The Modern State and Democratic Politics</u> Reading: Poggi, chaps. 5-6, pp. 86-149.

#### ***2. Scandinavia: Model Europeans?***

Mon., 27 January	<u>The Rise of the Middle Way: Social Democracy in Scandinavia</u> Reading: *A.S. Byatt, “What Is a European?” in <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , 13 October 2002, pp. 46-51. *Eric S. Einhorn and John Logue, “Scandinavia: Still the Middle Way?” in <i>Europe Today: National Politics, European Integration, and European Security</i> , ed. Ronald Tiersky (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999), pp. 197-219. <b><i>Assignment: Reaction Paper 2 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 29 January.</i></b>
Wed., 29 January	<u>From Welfare to Globalization</u> Reading: *Einhorn and Logue, pp. 219-238.

#### ***3. Germany: Perfecting the Neocorporatist Model?***

Mon., 3 February	<u>Conflicts of an Estate Society: The Historical Background to the Postwar Settlement</u> Reading: Christopher S. Allen, “The Making of the German State,” in K&K, chap. 16, pp. 317-343.
Wed., 5 February	<u>Relative Backwardness and the Social Market Society</u> Reading: Allen, “Political Economy and Development,” in K&K, chap. 17, pp. 344-60.

Mon., 10 February	<u>Neocorporatism and Parliamentary Federalism</u>  Reading: Allen, "Governance and Policymaking," in K&K, chap. 18, pp. 361-378.  <b><i>Assignment: Reaction Paper 3 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 12 February.</i></b> <b><i>First Take-Home Midterm Distributed.</i></b>
Wed., 12 February	<u>The Politics of Negotiated Division and Organized Action</u>  Reading: Allen, "Representation and Participation" and "'German Politics in Transition,'" in K&K, chaps. 19-20, pp. 379-410.

#### ***4. France: The Voice of Europe?***

Mon., 17 February	<u>The Absolutist State, Revolutionary Democracy, and Imperialism</u>  Reading: Mark Kesselman, "The Making of Modern France," in K&K, chap. 11, pp. 233-248.  <b><i>Assignment: First Take-Home Midterm Due at Midnight.</i></b>
Wed., 19 February	<u>State Capitalism?</u>  Reading: Kesselman, "Political Economy and Development," in K&K, chap. 12, pp. 249-264.

\*\*\*\*WINTER BREAK\*\*\*\*

Mon., 3 March	<u>Administrative Power, European Unity, and Devolution</u>  Reading: Kesselman, "Governance and Policymaking," in K&K, chap. 13, pp. 265-283.  <b><i>Assignment: Reaction Paper 4 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 5 March.</i></b>
Wed., 5 March	<u>Republican Politics – What Comes after Liberalism and Socialism?</u>  Reading: Kesselman, "Representation and Participation" and "French Politics in Transition," in K&K, chs 14-15, pp. 284-314.

#### ***5. Britain: The First or the Last?***

Mon., 10 March	<u>Modernizing Feudalism</u>  Reading: Joel Krieger, "The Making of the Modern British State," in K&K., chap. 6, pp. 153-167.
Wed., 12 March	<u>Beyond Welfare, Beyond Thatcher: A New Middle Way or Globalized Inequality?</u>  Reading: Krieger, "Political and Economic Development," in K&K, chap. 7, pp. 168-187.

Mon., 17 March	<u>Unitary Government and Divided Nationalities</u> Reading: Krieger, "Governance and Policymaking," in K&K, chaps. 8, pp. 188-205. <b><i>Assignment: Reaction Paper 5 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 19 March.</i></b>
Wed., 19 March	<u>The End of Parliamentary Sovereignty?</u> Reading: Krieger, "Representation and Participation" and "British Politics in Transition," in K&K, chaps. 8-9, pp. 206-230.

## 6. The New Europeans

Mon., 24 March	<u>"Eastern" or "Middle" Europe?</u> Reading: David Ost, "The Making Modern East-Central Europe," in K&K., chap. 26, pp. 515-536.
Wed., 26 March	<u>On Shocks and Therapies - East-West and North-South</u> Reading: Ost, "Political Economy and Development," in K&K., chap. 27, pp. 537-557.
Mon., 31 March	<u>(Re-)Creating States</u> Reading: Ost, "Governance and Policymaking," in K&K., chap. 28, pp. 558-576. <b><i>Assignment: Reaction Paper 6 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 2 April.</i></b> <b><i>Second Take-Home Examination Distributed.</i></b>
Wed., 2 April	<u>(Re-)Organizing Parties and Identities</u> Reading: Ost, "Representation and Participation" and "East-Central Europe in Transition," in K&K, pp. 557-610.

## 7. The New Europe

Mon., 7 April	<u>The Rebirths of Contemporary Europe/Building a Federation?</u> Reading: George Ross, "The Making of the European Union," "Politics and Economics," and "European Institutions," in K&K, chaps. 1-3, pp. 39-102. <b><i>Assignment: Second Take-Home Midterm Due at Midnight.</i></b> <b><i>Reaction Paper 7 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 9 April.</i></b>
Wed., 9 April	<u>Politics or Markets</u> Reading: Ross, "The EU and Its Policies" and "Europolitics in Transition: Four Challenges," in K&K, chaps. 4-5, pp. 103-149.

\*\*\*\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\*\*\*\*

Wed., 23 April	<p><u>The Liberal Constitutional Legacy in Perspective</u></p> <p>Reading: Larry Siedentop, <i>Democracy in Europe</i>, Preface and chaps. 1-2, pp. ix-46.</p>
Mon., 28 April	<p><u>Modern Democracy and the Decline of Britain</u></p> <p>Reading: Siedentop, <i>Democracy</i>, chaps. 3-4, pp. 47-80.</p>
Wed., 30 April	<p><u>Constitutionalism and European States</u></p> <p>Reading: Siedentop, <i>Democracy</i>, chaps. 5-7, pp. 81-150.</p> <p><b>Assignment: Reaction Paper 8 due at 10 a.m. Monday, 5 May.</b></p>
Mon., 5 May	<p><u>This Is Now? Legitimacy in Modern States and Politics</u></p> <p>Reading: Siedentop, <i>Democracy</i>, chaps. 8-11, pp. 151-231.</p> <p><b>Assignment: Reaction Paper 9 due at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 7 May.</b></p>
Wed., 7 May (Follow Monday Schedule)	<p><u>The U.S. and Europe: Is There One “Western” Politics?</u></p> <p>Reading: *Robert Kagan, “Power and Weakness,” <i>Policy Review</i>, no. 13  <a href="http://www.policyreview.org/JUN02/kagan_print.html">http://www.policyreview.org/JUN02/kagan_print.html</a>.          *Stephen Erlanger, “America the Invulnerable? The World Looks Again,” <i>New York Times</i>, 21 July 2002.          *Daniel Rubin and Andrea Gerlin, “Europeans Frustrated, Irritated with U.S. Foreign Policy,” <i>Miami Herald.Com</i>  <a href="http://www.miami.com/mld/miami/news/4475879.htm">http://www.miami.com/mld/miami/news/4475879.htm</a>          *P.M. Nilsson, “Europeans Are Wiser” <i>Expressen</i> (Stockholm, Sweden), 4 August 2002 &lt;<a href="http://worldpress.org/Europe/696.cfm">http://worldpress.org/Europe/696.cfm</a>&gt;          *John Lloyd, “Americans See Us as Subordinates,” <i>New Statesman</i> (London, England), 5 August 2002 &lt;<a href="http://www.aei.org/nai/news020805.htm">http://www.aei.org/nai/news020805.htm</a>&gt;          *Rudolf Maresch, “Condemned to Empire,” <i>Telepolis</i> (Hanover, Germany), 20 Nov. 2002 &lt;<a href="http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/kolumnen/mar/13487/1.html">http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/kolumnen/mar/13487/1.html</a>&gt;, trans. Marc Batko, &lt;<a href="http://hawaii.indymedia.org/print.php?id=188">http://hawaii.indymedia.org/print.php?id=188</a>&gt;          * Jean-Claude Casanova, “Power Won't Lead to Victory,” <i>Le Monde</i> (Paris, France) July 30, 2002 &lt;<a href="http://worldpress.org/Europe/695.cfm">http://worldpress.org/Europe/695.cfm</a>&gt;</p>
Wed., 14 May (Tentative – date to be set by Registrar)	<p><u>FINAL EXAMINATION</u></p>