

Comparative European Politics
POSC 353.01

Spring 2009
MR 12:00-1:50 p.m.
AC 210

Office Hours: MWR 4:00-5:00,
and by appointment

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Course Description: An introduction to the logic of comparative political inquiry and to government and politics in such European nations as Britain, France, and Germany. Explores how political history and culture, the party system, and governmental structure affect public policy, political stability, and economic performance. Also familiarizes participants with the development, functions, and structures of the European Union (Writing Intensive).

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Successful completion of this course will require attending class regularly and participating actively in class discussions (10% of grade), reading the assigned texts, performing creditably on the midterm (25% of grade) and final (35% of grade) examinations, and completing a 10-12 page research paper (30% of grade; due Monday, Apr. 20). Readings for a given week should normally be completed by the beginning of Monday=s meeting. The midterm will be given in class on Thursday, Feb. 19, and the final will take place Wednesday, Apr. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Students with documented disabilities (physical, learning, or psychological) requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the Disabilities Services Office (TCC 264, 506-6500) as soon as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit www.pepperdine.edu/disabilityservices/ for additional information. Students needing to be absent during a religious holiday should also notify the instructor beforehand.

Academic dishonesty is inexcusable! Examples include writing notes on one=s extremities and consulting said notes during a closed-book exam, forging the professor=s signature, fabricating a doctor=s note, down-loading term papers from the Internet, copying a paper from a previous student, hiring a graduate student to write your term paper for you, and submitting the same term paper for two classes without having previously obtained the permission of both instructors. If you are caught cheating in this class, I will do my best to see that you at least receive an F for the course. The Seaver College Academic Integrity Committee may impose additional sanctions, including suspension from Pepperdine. In short, don=t even think about it!

A student requesting a grade change on substantive grounds (e.g., the number of points given for a particular answer on an exam; substantive grounds do not include errors in adding up the total

number of points for an exam) must submit her or his request to me in writing within one week of the date I returned the graded assignment to her or him. My response will be in writing and is subject to review by and carbon-copying to the chair of the Social Science Division.

Readings: The following works are *required* and may be purchased at the campus bookstore:

- Hancock, M. Donald. 2007. *Politics in Europe*, 4th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
 McCormick, John. 2008. *The European Union: Politics and Policies*, 4th ed.
 Philadelphia: Westview.

In addition, two required texts on comparative methodology and one reading each for Dutch, Norwegian, Spanish, Luxembourgish, Swiss, Romanian, and Irish politics will be placed on electronic reserve at Payson Library (eres.pepperdine.edu/eres/).

Useful Resources:

- journals
 - *British Journal of Political Science*
 - *Comparative Political Studies*
 - *Comparative Politics*
 - *European Journal of Political Research*
 - *Revue française de science politique*
 - *West European Politics*
- WWW sites
 - BBC, European page: news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm
 - European Union (contains links to sites of most West European governments):
www.eurunion.org
 - Euronews (multilingual news service): www.euronews.net
 - *New York Times*, European page (requires registration):
www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/world/index-europe.html

Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan. 8): Introduction to the Study of Europe; The Logic of Comparative Political Analysis

- Reading: on Payson reserve

Week 2 (Jan. 12 & 15): The Logic of Comparative Political Analysis (cont.); Political History of Europe since 1870

- Reading: on Payson reserve

Week 3 (Jan. 22): Germany

- Reading: Hancock, pp. 191-251.
- **Note:** No Monday class: Martin Luther King Day

Week 4 (Jan. 26 & 29): Germany (cont.)
 - Reading: Hancock, pp. 252-276.

Week 5 (Feb. 2 & 5): France
 - Reading: Hancock, pp. 101-167.

Week 6 (Feb. 9 & 12): France (cont.)
 - Reading: Hancock, pp. 168-188.

Week 7 (Feb. 16 & 19): Midterm Review; Midterm
 - **Note:** Most of Monday's class will be devoted to review for the midterm exam. Be sure to come prepared with questions about the previous weeks' material.
 - **Note:** Midterm exam given in class on Thursday.

Week 8 (Feb. 23 & 26): Great Britain
 - Reading: Hancock, pp. 11-52.
 - **Note:** No class March 2 or 5; Spring Break

Week 9 (March 9 & 12): Great Britain (cont.)
 - Reading: Hancock., pp. 53-98.

Week 10 (March 16 & 19): The Netherlands; Sweden
 - Reading: on Payson reserve; Hancock, pp. 393-449.

Week 11 (March 23 & 26): Norway; Italy
 - Reading: on Payson reserve; Hancock, pp. 279-389.

Week 12 (March 30 & Apr. 2): Spain; Luxembourg
 - Reading: on Payson reserve.

Week 13 (Apr. 6 & 9): Switzerland; Poland
 - Reading: on Payson reserve; Hancock, pp. 517-565.

Week 14 (April 13 & 16): Romania; Ireland
 - Reading: on Payson reserve

Week 15 (Apr. 20 & 23): The European Union: Origins and Rationale, Structures and Actors, Policy-Making and Future Trends
 - Reading: McCormick, pp. 1-105 & 337-387.
 - **Assignment:** research paper due at beginning of class Monday

Final examination takes place Wednesday, Apr. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

