EUROPEAN POLITICS

Scope and Purpose:
Europe has witnessed fundamental political, social, and economic changes since World War II. The dramatic events that led to the end of the Cold War in 1989 and the tumultuous developments that followed in many European countries testify to the dynamic nature of European politics. The continued movement of the European nations in the 1990s toward economic and political integration in a single European Union and the current crisis of European integration further underscore the importance of the “new Europe” as an increasingly powerful actor in global affairs that strongly and regularly influences our quality of life.

This course introduces students to the politics of Europe without assuming prior knowledge about the region. The course provides a general survey of the political systems of the European democracies, concentrating on three major European countries and the European Union (EU). The main objective of this course is to enable students to analyze the politics and policies of Europe, describe their main characteristics, and make meaningful cross-national comparisons between the European nations, the United States, and other countries.

We will start with a brief introduction to European history and the development of the advanced industrial societies of Europe. We will then conduct case studies of Great Britain, France, and Germany. The countries were chosen because they represent a cross-section of the European political experience. Each case study will have a topical focus and take about three weeks. Each country segment starts with a brief survey of the political history and culture of that country, followed by a comparative analysis of the political institutions, processes and public policies of each country. In the final sessions of this class, we will discuss the past, present, and future of the European Union (EU) and assess the importance of European political integration for national and global politics.

The major themes that will provide the conceptual lenses through which we will look at the political systems of Europe are the following: 1) The origins of the modern state, or how states emerged and what effects different routes to nation-state building had on a country’s subsequent political development. 2) Political culture and how the values, attitudes, and opinions of people influence politics in a society. 3) Political participation, or how and to what degree people take part in politics. 4) How states are structured and how their institutional structure affects the policy process. And 5) How state and economy interact with one another, and what effect this interaction, called political economy, has on public policy and society.

Course Objectives:
The overall objective of this course is for you to gain the ability to analyze, understand, and objectively evaluate the complex mixture of phenomena that comprise European politics. The course is designed to help you discern current and future problems of a “New Europe.” After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:
Incorporate in your working vocabulary a number of terms and concepts used by scholars, policy-makers, and other observers to analyze European politics.

Understand and apply the comparative method in the analysis of modern European politics.

Use a basic conceptual “toolbox” for studying governmental institutions and performance in European countries and to compare them to the United States and other countries.

Draw on a repertoire of significant empirical cases when making systematic comparisons between politics in different countries.

Contrast and compare different theoretical approaches in understanding the causes of political conflicts and change in Europe.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the University policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. (The academic policies addressing Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog at [http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=22&navoid=882](http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=22&navoid=882) and the Graduate Catalog at [http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=938](http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=938).) If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s) and if you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.”

Please visit the Office of Student Conduct [www.wmich.edu/conduct](http://www.wmich.edu/conduct), the Registrar’s Office [www.wmich.edu/registrar](http://www.wmich.edu/registrar) or Disability Services for Students [www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices) to access the Code of Honor and general academic policies on such issues as diversity, religious observance, student disabilities, etc.

Please also note that the only email address that will be used for communication between WMU students and WMU faculty and staff is the email address associated with a BroncoNet ID. This email address typically takes the form "firstname.middleinitial.lastname@wmich.edu." An example is buster.h.brongo@wmich.edu. Students cannot automatically forward email from this address to other addresses. Students can access this email account or get instructions for obtaining a BroncoNet ID at GoWMU.wmich.edu.

**Class Participation:** This is a lecture-and-discussion course. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to participate in class discussion. Missing class will hurt your class participation and thus result in a lower overall grade for the course. Attendance is mandatory for all exams, except for reasons of documented illness and certain university-sponsored events (after prior consultation with me and at my discretion). For those of you who had to miss any of the exams, one cumulative make-up exam will be given in the final week of the semester, outside of regularly scheduled class hours.

**Examinations and Quizzes:** There will be two in-class examinations and four short quizzes. The exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Both materials discussed in class and material covered in required readings will appear on the exams. In addition to the two regular exams, there will be four short quizzes focusing on the readings and class discussions of the previous two weeks. Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice questions. No make-ups will be given for missed quizzes.
Extra Credit Research/Writing Assignments: Students will have the option to earn extra credit by completing several writing assignments on topics assigned by the instructor. Course textbooks may be consulted, but outside sources must be used. The writing projects will involve research in the library or the World Wide Web, or attending lectures by visiting faculty. All writing assignments will have to be turned in via the Turnitin website to check for plagiarism. Detailed instructions for writing assignments are available on the class home page at http://homepages.wmich.edu/~hega/PSCT340/.

Current News Presentations: At the beginning of the semester, about 10 group teams of of three or four students will be established. Participation is mandatory. Each Wednesday, one designated team will present a brief review of the most important European news events of the week and lead the follow-up discussion. After each presentation, the instructor will evaluate each student’s performance. These evaluations will count 10 % towards the final grade of each student.

To stay abreast of developments in European politics, all students are encouraged to follow current events through the reading of a major national newspaper, such as the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal. Regular reading of newsmagazines such as The Economist is highly recommended. Students with foreign language ability are encouraged to use their skills and contribute to class discussions based on their reading of foreign media. Most of these news sources are available at Waldo Library, and many foreign newspapers and magazines are available for free on the World Wide Web.

Grading of each of the exams, the writing assignments, and your overall class performance will be based on a percentage of a total possible score of 100 points:

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<th>%</th>
<th>100-93 % = A</th>
<th>87-83% = B</th>
<th>77-73% = C</th>
<th>67-60% = D</th>
<th>60% below = E</th>
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Class attendance, preparation of readings, participation in group teams and class discussions are integral parts of this course. As such, your grade will reflect your attendance, preparation and participation. Please also be aware that any form of academic dishonesty will automatically result in a failing course grade and further steps to be determined by the instructor in accordance with WMU’s policies and procedures on student academic conduct. The relative weight assigned to each of the course requirements is:

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<tr>
<th>Grading %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Quizzes and Optional Writing Assignments</td>
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<td>Class Participation and Current News Presentations</td>
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Course Readings:

Required:

Publisher’s/textbook student website:
http://college.cengage.com/polisci/kesselman_et_al/euro_pol/6e/student_home.html
Recommended:
Class Schedule:

Week 1: Sept. 3: Topic 1

Week 2: Sept. 8: Topic 2
Sept. 10: Topic 2 cont’d

Week 3: Sept. 15: Topic 3
Sept. 17: Topic 3 cont’d

Week 4: Sept. 22: Topic 4
Sept. 24: Topic 4 cont’d

Week 5: Sept. 29: Topic 5
Oct. 1: Topic 5 cont’d

Week 6: Oct. 6: Topic 6
Oct. 8: Topic 6 cont’d

Week 7: Oct. 13: Topic 7
Oct. 15: Topic 7 cont’d

Week 8: Oct. 20: Topic 8
Oct. 22: Topic 8 cont’d

Week 9: Oct. 27: Topic 9
Oct. 29: Topic 9 continued

Week 10: Nov. 3: Topic 10
Nov. 5: Topic 10 cont’d

Week 11: Nov. 10: Topic 11
Nov. 12: Topic 11 cont’d

Week 12: Nov. 17: Topic 12
Nov. 19: Topic 12 cont’d

Week 13: Nov. 24: Topic 13
Nov. 26: Topic 13 cont’d

Week 14: Dec. 1: Topic 14
Dec. 3: Topic 14 cont’d

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 8 am – 10 am: Final exam
**Reading Assignments:**

Reading assignments will be drawn from the required books and occasionally from other materials, which will be made available as the course progresses. Copies of the required and recommended books are available for purchase at the WMU Campus Bookstore and are also placed on reserve in Waldo Library and in the Political Science Department Library in 3301 Friedmann Hall.

Unless instructed otherwise, read assigned readings in the order listed. Divide readings up so that you have completed them prior to the class meeting they are listed under. Readings in italics are optional but recommended.

**Week 1-2: Introduction**

**Topic 1:** Introduction to the Course and Review of Requirements and Assignments  
Kesselman, Part I: Introduction, pp. 1-34  
Opello, Chapter 1, pp. 1-9

**Topic 2:** The Emergence and Development of Modern Europe  
Kesselman, Part I, Introduction, pp. 1-34  
Opello, Chapter 2, pp. 13-40

**Week 3-5: Great Britain: Constitutional Monarchy and Parliamentary Democracy**

**Topic 3:** The Gradual Evolution of British Democracy  
Kesselman, Part II, chapter 1-2, pp. 35-69  
Opello, Chapter 3, pp. 41-59

**Topic 4:** British Political Institutions: Parliamentary Supremacy and Cabinet Government  
Kesselman, Part II, chapter 3-4, pp. 71-94  
Opello, Chapter 4, pp. 61-89

**Topic 5:** Political Processes and Public Policy in Britain: A Unitary System in Devolution  
Kesselman, Part II, chapter 5, pp. 95-102  
Opello, Chapter 5, pp. 91-119

**Week 6-8: France: The Mixed Presidential-Parliamentary Republic**

**Topic 6:** The Birth of the French Fifth Republic: From Crisis to Stability  
Kesselman, Part III, chapter 6-7, pp. 103-130  
Opello, Chapter 6, pp. 123-150

**Topic 7:** French Political Institutions and Processes: The Powers of the Double Executive  
Kesselman, Part II, chapter 8-9, pp. 131-163  
Opello, Chapter 7, pp. 151-178

**Topic 8:** Public Policy in France: The Strong Administrative State and Decentralization  
Kesselman, Part III, chapter 10, pp. 165-174  
Opello, Chapter 8, pp. 179-197

**Week 9-11: Germany: From Authoritarianism to Dictatorship and Democracy**

**Topic 9:** Germany’s “Special Path” in Modern History: From Division to Unification  
Kesselman, Part IV, chapter 11-12, pp. 175-207
Topic 10: Political Institutions and Processes: Federalism and Chancellor Democracy
Kesselman, Part IV, chapter 13-14, pp. 209-238

Topic 11: Public Policy in Germany: Neo-Corporatism and Social Market Economy
Kesselman, Part IV, chapter 15, pp. 239-247

Week 12-14: The European Union (EU): An Ever Closer Union?

Topic 12: The History of European Integration: From the ECSC to the EU
Kesselman, Part VIII, chapter 31-32, pp. 477-490
Opello, Chapter 9, pp. 201-231

Topic 13: The Institutions and Policies of the European Union: A Democratic Deficit?
Kesselman, Part VIII, chapter 33-34, pp. 492-524
Opello, Chapter 10, pp. 233-259

Topic 14: Europe’s Future: Conclusions and Review
Kesselman, Part VIII, chapter 35 and Part IX, pp. 525-542
Opello, Chapter 11-12, pp. 261-298