

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 460/560 - COMPARATIVE POLITICS: EUROPE**

Term II

W 6:35-9:05 P.M., Briggs 349

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Office Hours: M & W 11:00-2:00, and by appointment

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Purpose of the Course: The purpose of Political Science 460/560 is to explore in some depth the politics of contemporary Europe.

We will focus our attention on two particular aspects of this topic: first, we will attempt to discern the similarities and differences between several European countries - Britain, France, Germany, and Italy. In each of these four countries, we will discuss historical development (or state formation), political economy, the mechanisms of governance and policy making, institutions of representation, and the transitional nature of politics. Second, we will explore the concept of Europe as an entity in and of itself, by examining both the transitions currently under way in East-Central Europe and the ongoing attempts to unify Europe via the European Community.

Course Format: This course is part lecture and part discussion.

Although I will on occasion stand at the podium and lecture, especially to introduce materials or concepts that are not in the text, the course is designed to minimize this as much as possible. I believe that genuine learning takes place within a community of scholars dedicated to sharing their passion, knowledge and skills. Within this community that will be our class for the next several months, dialogue and discussion is central. We will engage in the process of articulating and trying to comprehend complicated questions and issues, and each member of the community is expected to assume a responsibility to contribute to not only her or his understanding, but to that of each member of the community's as well. To that end, my more usual role will be to initiate, direct and redirect our discussions. Because these will be discussions rather than a monologue, it is imperative that you come to each and every class period prepared to make an oral contribution. In addition to being a **discussion-oriented** course, this course is **text-based**: our discussions will focus on the readings. This means that you must complete the readings prior to the day they are to be discussed. More importantly, you must complete the readings in such a way that you are prepared to discuss them intelligently. I will frequently ask for your input, both

solicited in advance and otherwise. Your contribution grade depends in large part on the quantity and, more important, the quality of your participation in class. Your consistent inability or unwillingness to say anything intelligent about assigned readings will be taken as a sign that you are not doing the work and/or that you don't care about the community of which you are a member. Both of these are unacceptable. Those who choose to turn their back on the larger community will not be rewarded. If you have any misgivings about your ability or willingness to prepare and participate at this level, see me after the first class meeting.

Course Requirements & Grades: There are four requirements for this course. They are equally weighted: each counts one-quarter, or 25%, of your final grade. The **first** is the aforementioned participation/contribution. You will be graded on your level of preparedness and day-to-day contribution to our class discussions. I am interested in quality, not just quantity, and particularly participation based on the texts we are reading. You will also be asked periodically to report on supplemental readings, typically those on the country that you are writing your paper on. The **second** requirement is a paper of roughly 10 pages. It is described in detail below. The **third** and **fourth** requirements are exams: a mid-term, to be administered on **WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY**; and the final, to be administered, as per the Registrar's final exam schedule, on **WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL, 7:30-9:20 P.M.** One final note: you are encouraged to discuss any and all aspects of your grade with me at any time.

Paper Requirement: The paper for this course **must** be: word-processed, double-spaced, paginated, spell-checked, and edited. In general, the paper can be on any topic germane to Comparative European Politics. Specific topics might focus on a particular country or area (e.g., Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Eastern & Central Europe, the European Community), a particular concept (e.g., comparative electoral systems, the rise of the right), a particular concept in a particular country, or a particular concept in several countries. Another option is to review at least two academic journal articles on one or several countries or concepts. I urge you to begin thinking about this assignment immediately. A proposal, which must include your title, topic, research question, and/or hypothesis, as well as an initial bibliography, is **DUE** no later than **WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY** (this is our fifth class meeting). Please come by early and often to

discuss your paper with me. The final paper is **DUE** no later than the last day of class, **WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL**. I will be happy to read, but not grade, drafts of papers received prior to **WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL**. My experience is that students who submit drafts and subsequently re-write their papers do better than students who do not, and I urge you to take advantage of this option.

Additional Requirements for Graduate Students: Political Science 560 is offered for credit to students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In general, graduate students, in addition to completing the afore-mentioned requirements, are expected to perform according to graduate-level standards. All work is evaluated at the appropriate graduate level in terms of quality, sophistication, and thoroughness. In particular, graduate students are expected and required to engage in a significant research project. Part of this project will entail more reading at a more challenging level. You are expected to share the insights gained from this supplemental reading with the class. Ultimately, the research project will culminate in a written research paper of 15-20 pages in length. The topic of this paper will be determined after consultation with the instructor. All graduate students - those registered for Political Science 560-G1 - are required to identify themselves as such by the second day of class to set up a meeting to discuss the particulars of their research design.

Policies Concerning Late Work, Incompletes & Academic Integrity:

I have very specific policies on both the submission of late work and Incompletes. They are described, respectively, in Appendices A and B, attached. Both the College and the University have a very specific policy concerning academic integrity, including plagiarism. It is copied and attached to the last page of this syllabus. Please familiarize yourself with these policies.

Readings: Since this is a text- and discussion-based course, the reading is absolutely essential. The reading load is moderate (usually 2 or 3 chapters, totaling 40-50 pages, per week) to encourage not only completion of all reading assignments prior to the due date, but also to allow a certain amount of time beyond mere reading to comprehend the reading in a way that will prepare you to contribute to class discussion. Thus, you must read the required pages, but with enough concentration and rigor to be able to contribute to our understanding through class discussion. The following book has

been ordered through the bookstore. It is required; you should purchase it and bring it to each class period.

Mark Kesselman & Joel Krieger et al, European Politics in Transition, 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1997 (referred to in the syllabus as K & K).

In addition, a liberally-educated person is committed to keeping informed about the world in which we live. One of the best ways of doing this is to read a reputable daily national/international newspaper. Thus, you are *required* to purchase and read The New York Times, which is available at special discount student rates through the bookstore, the details of which I will provide at our first class meeting. I *recommend* The Economist, a very high-quality weekly newsmagazine, on the order of a Time or Newsweek (except better), published in London.

**NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the schedule as circumstances may warrant.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION & FOUNDATIONS**

- 7 Jan.: Introduction to Course
- 14 Jan.: Introduction to Europe & European Politics  
read: K & K, Preface and Introduction, pp. xi-xii & 1-37.

### **II. BRITAIN**

- 21 Jan.: I: History & Political Economy  
read: K & K, chs. 1 & 2, pp. 41-82.
- 28 Jan.: II: Governance, Representation & Transition  
read: K & K, chs. 3-5, pp. 83-132.

### **III. FRANCE**

- 4 Feb.: I: History & Political Economy

read: K & K, chs. 6 & 7, pp. 135-176.

**WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY: MID-TERM EXAM**

18 Feb.: II: Governance, Representation & Transition

read: K & K, chs, 8-10, pp. 177-238.

**IV. GERMANY**

25 Feb.: I: History & Political Economy

read: K & K, chs. 11 & 12, pp. 241-285.

**SPRING BREAK**

11 Mar.: II: Governance, Representation & Transition

read: K & K, chs. 13-15-, pp. 287-334.

**V. ITALY**

18 Mar.: I: History & Political Economy

read: K & K, chs. 16 & 17, pp. 337-393.

25 Mar.: II: Governance, Representation & Transition

read: K & K, chs. 18-20, pp. 395-464.

**VI. EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE**

1 Apr.: I: History & Political Economy

read: K & K, chs. 21 & 22, pp. 467-513.

**WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL: LAST DAY FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPER DRAFTS**

8 Apr.: II: Governance, Representation & Transition

read: K & K, chs. 23-25, pp. 515-567.

**VII. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

15 Apr.: The EU and European Politics

read: K & K, ch. 26, pp. 571-656.

**FRIDAY, 15 APRIL: PAPERS DUE**

**FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL, 7:30-9:20 P.M.**