Introduction:

A long title for this course might be "European Politics: Development, Continuity, and Change." We will begin by examining the origins and development of political institutions in Europe. We will consider why nation states in Europe developed as they did and, in turn, why some became stable democracies and others reverted to (interludes of) authoritarianism. In this and some additional sections, we will focus on Europe as a whole. In many topic areas, however, we will concentrate primarily on Western Europe. This specialization is necessary as it is virtually impossible in one semester to consider in any detail the politics of both the stable, post-WW II democracies of the West as well as the communist/post-communist systems of Central and Eastern Europe. That said, much if not all of the theory we discuss can be applied to East-Central Europe, and we will specifically consider East-Central Europe in sections such as EU enlargement.

Second, we will examine the origins, continuity, and change of electoral and party systems as well as the development and operation of varieties of democratic political institutions, modes of interest representation, and patterns of state-economy relations (welfare states and varieties of capitalism) that emerged in Europe after democratization and with the maturation of industrial capitalism. Then, we will examine the impacts of globalization, post-industrialization and Europeanization on politics with European polities. Substantial attention will be accorded the domestic and international determinants and impacts of European political and economic integration in the post-war era to the present.

For this survey of European politics, we will draw upon the disciplines of political science, sociology, history, and economics and upon varied theoretical perspectives within these disciplines for insights. The goals of this course are twofold. First, the course is designed to provide an understanding of the continuing development and operation of democratic processes and institutions in Europe in the context of advanced capitalism and of continued regional integration. In this regard, we will often consider Europe in the context of theory and empirical research on the democratic capitalist systems as a whole. Second, the course is structured to allow in depth research on a particular question in European politics. (For background readings and suggestions on the study of European politics, see the last section of the syllabus.)
Course Requirements and Grading:

Seminar participants should attend each seminar meeting and be prepared to discuss the material assigned for that session. Informed class participation will constitute 10% of the final grade. Students are also required to select two of the course's weekly based topics for specialized study. The first two sessions -- the introductory session (August 28) and Week II, "the Rise of the European Nation State" (September 4), as well as Week 8 (October 16) and Week 15 (EU’s Impacts: Politics) are excluded. For those topics chosen, students will prepare a critical review essay on the required reading as well as the recommended reading, where the recommended reading usually consists of a handful of important articles or chapters on the focal topic. In addition to the essays, seminar participants are also expected to provide a formal presentation (review and critique) of one of the recommended reading in class. The two critical review-presentation assignments are each worth 20% of the final grade. (More on this with a special handout.)

The final class assignment is to complete a seminar-quality paper on any topic in the field of European politics. A prospectus of this paper, including a preliminary bibliography, is due by October 16 (and is worth 10% of the final grade). On the 16th, each seminar participant will present their prospectus to the whole seminar. The final paper is due by Monday, December 10 and is worth 40% of the final grade. (More about the research paper assignment via a class handout in a couple of weeks.) In sum:

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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Review/Discussant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Paper</td>
<td>50% (10% for prospectus, 40% for final paper)</td>
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Topics, Books and Schedule of Readings

For each topic, readings are grouped into three sections -- required, recommended, and “for further reading.” Seminar participants should complete all required readings by class and, ideally, engage the recommended reading as time allows. Most required reading is in books suggested for purchase; required and recommended readings not in the books are at the reserve desk in Raynor/Memorial Library or are available electronically (in the library’s electronic reserve or via electronic copies of journals in MARQUAT).

Some Preliminaries (Those without much background in European history and politics might benefit from the following; also see the Appendix for more recommendations):

POSC 252: European Politics  
Duane Swank


**Required Books (at the Bookmarq):**


**Optional.** We will read multiple chapters from the Rueschemeyer *et al*; this book will be on reserve. A few copies will be available in the book store. This is a modern classic in comparative politics and the study of democratization.


We will also read two to three chapters from the following recent, highly influential books. A cheap used copy at Amazon.com might be worth the outlay of funds, but the book will be on reserve at Raynor Memorial Library.


Schedule: Overview

Introduction
  Week 1 (August 28): Introduction to Course, Syllabus Distribution

Part A: The Political Development of Europe
  Week 2 (September 4) The Rise of the European Nation State System.
  Week 3 (September 11) Democratization: 20th Century Paths to and from Stable
  Democracy, Fascism, and Communism.

Part B: Change and Continuity in West European Electoral and Party Systems.
  Week 4 (September 18): Frozen in Time? Development of West European Electoral and
  Party Systems.
  Week 5 (September 25): Change and Continuity in Electoral and Party Systems, I.
  Week 6 (October 2): Change and Continuity in Electoral and Party Systems, II.

Part C: Political and Economic Institutions in Western Europe
  Week 7 (October 9): Varieties of Democratic Institutions in Europe: Consensus or
  Majoritarian Democracy?
  Week 8 (October 16): Prospectus Due: Presentations.
  Week 9 (October 23): Modes of Interest Representation.
  Week 10 (October 30): Why Are Some European Welfare States So Big? The
  Development of National Systems of Social Protection
  Week 11 (November 6): Varieties of Democratic Capitalism in Europe: Does One Size of
  Capitalism Fit All?.

Part D: Globalization, Europeanization and European Politics
  Week 12 (November 13): The Crisis of the Welfare State: Globalization, Post-
  Industrialization and European Welfare States.
  Week 13 (November 20): The Politics of European Economic and Political Integration.
  Week 14 (November 27): The Impacts of European Integration: Policies
  Week 15 (December 4): The Impacts of European Integration: Politics

Schedule: Weekly Readings

Week 1 (August 28). Introduction, Syllabus Distribution
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Part A: Political Development in Western Europe

Week 2 (September 4). The Rise of the European Nation State.

Required:
Chs. 1 through 4, and 6 in Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*.

For Further Reading:
Remainder (Chs. 5 and 7) of Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*.


Week 3 (September 11). Democratization: 20th Century Paths to and from Stable Democracy, Fascism, and Communism.

Required:
Ch. 2, "Economic Development and Democracy" in Lipset's *Political Man*.

Recommended:


For Further Reading:

Adam Przeworski *et al* *Democracy and Development* (NY: Cambridge U Press, 2000).


**Part B: Change and Continuity in West European Electoral and Party Systems.**

**Week 4 (September 18).** Frozen in Time? Development of European Electoral and Party Politics.

Required:

Chs. 3-8 in Lipset, *Political Man*

Recommended:

13-15 in Lipset, *Political Man*

For Further Reading:
Parts II and III in Lipset and Rokkan, *Party Systems and Voter Alignments.*

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Required:
Ronald Inglehart, Modernization and Postmodernization

Recommended:

“Forum” (on the measurement of post-materialism), Pp. 637-677, American Political Science Review, Volume 93 (September 1999).

For Further Reading: (see list after Change and Continuity II)

Week 6 (October 2): Change and Continuity in Electoral and Party Systems, II (Post-industrial Capitalism and New Cleavage Politics):

Required:

Chs. 1, 2, and 9 in Herbert Kitschelt, The Radical Right in Western Europe. NY: Cambridge University Press, 1996 (Library reserve)
POSC 252: European Politics

Duane Swank

Recommended:


For Further Reading:


Hans-Georg Betz, Radical Right-Wing Populism in Western Europe (St Martins 1994).


Part C: Political and Economic Institutions in Western Europe

Week 7 (October 9): Varieties of Democratic Institutions in Europe: Consensus or Majoritarian Democracy?

Required:

Arend Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy
Recommended:

On Selecting Political Institutions (the Origins of PR and consensus democracy):


For Further Reading:

On the Classic Debate between Parliamentarism versus Presidentialism:


On the Institutional Approach to Politics (also see Week XI on Varieties of Capitalism):


On the Origins of Effectiveness of Democratic Institutions

**Week 8 (October 16)**: Prospectus Due: Class Presentations

**Week 9 (October 23)**: Modes of Interest Representation.

Required:

Recommended (Origins and Recent Evolution of Corporatism):


For Further Reading:

Philippe Schmitter, "Modes of Interest Representation and Models of Change in Western Europe." *Comparative Political Studies* 10 (1977): 7-38


**Week 10 (October 30):** Why Are Some European Welfare States So Big? The Development of the Welfare State.

**Required:**
Chs. 1-6 in Hicks, *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism*.

**Recommended:**


**For Further Reading:**


**Week 11 (November 6):** Varieties of Democratic Capitalism in Europe: Does One Size of Capitalism Fit All and What Difference Does it Make?

**Required:**

Chs. 1-7 in Pontusson, *Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal American*.

**Recommended:**


**For Further Reading:**


Part D. Globalization, Europeanization and European Nation States


Required:

Chs. 7-8 in Hicks, *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism*

Chs. 8-9 in Pontusson, *Inequality and Prosperity*

Recommended:

For Further Reading:

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, *Welfare States in Transition* (Sage, 1996); Esping-Andersen *Social Foundations of Post-Industrial Economies* (Oxford University Press, 1999); and


**Week 13 (November 20):** The Politics of European Economic and Political Union.

Required:
- Kathleen McNamara, *The Currency of Ideas*.

Recommended:


For Further Reading (see end of Week 15)

**Week 14 (November 27):** The Domestic Impact of European Integration, I: Policies.

Required:
- Paulette Kurzer, *Markets and Moral Regulation: Cultural Change in the European Union*

Recommended:

For Further Reading (see end of Week 15)

**Week 15 (December 4): The Domestic Impact of European Integration, I: Politics.**

**Required:**


For Further Reading:

**On the Politics and Economics of Deepening and Broadening:**


On the Policy Impacts of European Integration:


Gerda Falkner et al, *Complying with Europe: EU Harmonization and Soft Law in the Member States*


On the Political Impacts of European Integration:


Stefano Bartolini, *Restructuring Europe: Centre Formation, System Building, and Political Structuring Between Nation State and the EU*. (New York: Oxford University Press.)


**Research Papers Due: 12:00 p.m., December 10**
POSC 252: European Politics

Duane Swank

Additional Background and General Suggestions:


For recent scholarly research and writing about West European politics, a number of good (English language) social science journals exist, including:

- *West European Politics*
- *European Journal of Political Research*
- *Acta Sociologica*
- *European Economic Review*
- *Journal of Common Market Studies*
- *Journal of European Political Economy*
- *Comparative European Politics*
- *Journal of European Public Policy*
- *Journal of European Social Policy*

The following political science journals, among others, also have a fair portion of articles of interest to Europeanists and fellow travelers:

- *British Journal of Political Science*
- *World Politics*
- *Political Studies*
- *Comparative Politics*
- *Comparative Political Studies*
- *Politics and Society*
- *Government and Opposition*
- *Electoral Studies*
- *International Organization*
- *Socio-Economic Review*

Beyond these journals, I recommend that students who wish to develop expertise in a particular nation read at least two or three country-specific periodicals on a regular basis. For instance, the student interested in Sweden may stay apprised of economic performance, policy, and politics by reading *OECD Economic Survey: Sweden* and *Current Sweden*.

In addition, one should read the better country-specific political science and public affairs journals. For example, for France, regular reading of *French Politics and Society, Revue francaise de science politique, Revue politique et parlementaire,* and *Revue de droit public et de science politique* is advised; for Germany, one might look regularly at *German Politics, Das Parlament,* and *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte.*
Guidelines for Critical Review/Presentation Assignments

As noted on the main syllabus, you should select two of the relevant topics/weeks for your critical review/presentation assignments. (See attached sheet for the available weeks and the form for declaring your preferences.) For each of the two weeks, you have two tasks. First, complete a critical review essay where you summarize, integrate, and critique the main required reading and the recommended reading. Second, prepare a class presentation for the recommended reading (usually a particularly important article or book chapter).

Critical Review Essay

Content: For each of the two topic areas/weeks selected, provide a critical review essay that covers the required reading and recommended reading. (These materials will be included in purchased texts or will be on reserve at the library.) The critical review essay should include the following. (a.) You should provide a synopsis of the main arguments of each author and a concise overview of the evidence used to substantiate those arguments. Do not attempt any detailed recapitulation of all that is discussed in a book or article; a few concise paragraphs on the arguments of an author and another few paragraphs on the evidence and analysis will suffice. (b.) You should also critically reflect on each reading. This may be done by contrasting and comparing the readings where the relative strengths and weaknesses of each are highlighted; commenting on the logic of the argument and the adequacy of evidence; and, where appropriate, using theories and evidence from other sections in this course or knowledge gained in other courses to assess whether the author's thesis is correct.

Organization: One might organize the essay by sequentially discussing the readings and by providing a comparative synthesis in a concluding set of paragraphs. Alternatively, one might organize the essay by specific questions or themes common across the readings discussing each article's arguments and contributions to each issue. Generally, the readings themselves and reviewer's analytical style and talents will suggest one or the other format. Suggested length: 5-8 pages, double spaced (10-12 point font).
Class Presentation:

For each session/class meeting, I will make a brief introductory or summary presentation of background and material relevant to that week’s particular topic. Generally, we will then proceed with a discussion and dissection of that week’s required reading; the presenter will have some responsibility to be particularly active during the general discussion. The main in-class task for each of the two selected weeks is to present one key recommended reading to the class. We will devote the last 20 to 30 minutes to those presentations and subsequent discussion. Specifically, plan to present the arguments — the theory and hypotheses — of the selected recommended reading, an overview of the methodology used, and a synopsis of major findings and conclusions of the author(s). To complete the presentation, you should provide a concise critique of the reading — a statement of its major strengths and weaknesses. Remember, you will have only (approximately) 15 minutes to present the article/chapter. Be concise and polish your presentation before class. (The use of a class handout that summarizes arguments or findings is often useful.)

NOTE: The written critical review essay is due at the beginning of the relevant class session.
Please select four of the following weeks/topics for critical review/presentation assignments. You will be assigned two.

Available weeks are:

- **Week 3 (September 11)**: Democratization: 20th Century Paths to and from Stable Democracy, Fascism, and Communism.
- **Week 4 (September 18)**: Frozen in Time? Development of West European Electoral and Party Systems.
- **Week 5 (September 25)**: Change and Continuity in Electoral and Party Systems, I.
- **Week 6 (October 2)**: Change and Continuity in Electoral and Party Systems, II.
- **Week 7 (October 9)**: Varieties of Democratic Institutions in Europe: Consensus or Majoritarian Democracy?
- **Week 9 (October 23)**: Modes of Interest Representation.
- **Week 10 (October 30)**: Why Are Some European Welfare States So Big? The Development of National Systems of Social Protection
- **Week 11 (November 6)**: Varieties of Democratic Capitalism in Europe: Does One Size of Capitalism Fit All?.
- **Week 13 (November 20)**: The Politics of European Economic and Political Integration.
- **Week 14 (November 27)**: The Impacts of European Integration: Policies

Preferences (list four weeks and you will be assigned two):

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