

**POSC 4501-101: European Politics  
Spring 2010**

**Dr. Susan Giaimo**

Course time and location:

Mon, Wed, Fri, 1:00-1:50 PM  
Wehr Physics 122

Dr. Giaimo's office:

Wehr Physics 448  
Tel. (414) 288-3356  
[susan.giaimo@marquette.edu](mailto:susan.giaimo@marquette.edu)

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri. 9:15-9:45 AM  
Mon and Wed. 2:00-2:30 PM  
Fri. 12:00-12:30 PM  
and by appointment

This course provides students with an overview of European politics. The emphasis of the course will be on the democracies and capitalist systems of Western Europe, but we will consider Eastern Europe's transition out of communism and the entry of some of these states into the European Union.

The course is organized along the following lines. We begin with a brief introduction to and discussion of the major themes in the study of European politics. Following this is a more detailed examination of major Western European democracies and a shorter section on Eastern Europe. We then examine the European Union. The last part of the course explores salient topics in European public policy: immigration and minorities in Europe, and the challenges facing European welfare states and labor markets.

The course will provide students with an understanding of the major political actors and institutions in Europe and the contemporary challenges facing this part of the world. Upon completion of this course, students will have a firm understanding of European politics and will possess the analytical tools to engage in cross-national comparisons of European politics and policy.

**Course Requirements**

Your grade is based on the completion of the following assignments, as well as on class participation and attendance.

1. A take-home midterm exam. Questions will be distributed in advance.
2. A 3-page analytical paper of a European film that you will choose from a list of films that I will provide. The last possible due date for this paper is April 30; however, I encourage you to turn in the paper anytime during the semester prior to this date. I will distribute further information on this assignment early in the semester.

3. A research paper (10 pages, double-spaced) based on a European country or countries, or on the European Union. The paper topic must be approved by me in advance. The paper can be based on class readings but must also use outside sources. A paper prospectus outlining the topic and problem you will address, the country or countries you will cover, and a preliminary bibliography is due in class on March 12. Each student must also meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your paper. The paper is due on April 19. You must submit a hard copy of your final paper in class and an electronic copy via email.

4. In-class final exam.

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Take-home exam: 20%

Film analysis: 15%

Research paper: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Class participation and attendance: 15%.

There is a significant writing component to your course grade. I will grade written assignments on the content and clarity of argument and on writing style (grammar rules, punctuation, spelling, etc.). Therefore, I encourage students to seek out advice and help from the Writing Center in completing these assignments. The Writing Center is located in Raynor Library R240; tel. 288-5542. (You need to call them to make an appointment.)

Students should complete the readings in advance of class so that they are able to participate in a meaningful way in class discussions. Class meetings will not simply recapitulate the readings but will often bring in additional material, so it is in your interest to attend class regularly and take notes in class. Exams, written assignments, and the group-led class discussion will draw on class material and assigned readings.

Attendance at all classes is mandatory and counts as part of your class participation grade. Therefore, I will take attendance for each class and will follow College of Arts and Sciences policies on attendance. If you have seven (7) or more unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered accordingly. Excessive absences may result in a grade of WA. Class participation means more than merely attending class meetings; it also entails that you do the readings and contribute insightful comments and questions to class discussions.

I do not accept late assignments unless there is a legitimate medical or family emergency, or unless it is the result of an officially-sanctioned, scheduled university activity. Students who miss an exam or assignment because of a university-sanctioned activity must arrange a make-up exam or assignment with me in advance of their absence. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are experiencing a medical or family crisis so that we have time to make arrangements for you to complete the coursework for this class.

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty by students. I will follow all University policies on academic dishonesty.

## Readings

The following required books are available for purchase at Sweeney's or at BookMarq.

Almond, Gabriel A., Russell J. Dalton, G. Bingham Powell, and Kaare Strom, *European Politics Today*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., New York: Longman, 2010.

Bowen, John R., *Why the French Don't Like Headscarves*, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2007.

Carl-Ulrik Schierup, Peo Hansen, and Stephen Castles, *Migration, Citizenship, and the European Welfare State*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

In addition, required reserve readings will be either on D2L or on electronic reserve at Raynor Library. These readings are noted in the syllabus with an asterisk (\*). In some instances, I may announce and distribute additional required readings in class. Therefore, **YOU MUST CHECK D2L REGULARLY** for any updates of assignments and their location.

## Additional sources

I encourage you to read a daily newspaper with coverage of European and international politics, such as *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, or *The New York Times*. These are in the library or available online. You can also get a student-discounted rate for subscriptions. If you want to know how to obtain a student-discounted subscription, please talk to me.

If you are interested in getting perspectives on comparative politics, European politics, and international affairs other than those of American media, you may want to tune to some TV news programs on PBS, channel 36: "The Journal," which is broadcast by the German *Deutsche Welle*, and "BBC World News," which is a British production. "The Journal" airs at 5:30 pm weekdays and "BBC World News" airs at 10 pm weekdays. Other PBS programs dealing with world affairs may be of interest to you, such as "Wide Angle." These air on channels 10 and 36. In addition, National Public Radio stations (stations 89.7 and 90.7) broadcast news programs on comparative politics and international affairs, such as "BBC World Service" (broadcast daily) and "The World" (broadcast Friday afternoons and other times during the week).

There are a number of excellent journals that will be useful for your paper. Several cover European Politics more generally; others are devoted to specific countries. This list is by no means exhaustive, but these are the more important journals:

<i>West European Politics</i>	<i>French Politics and Society</i>
<i>Comparative Political Studies</i>	<i>Scandinavian Politics</i>
<i>World Politics</i>	<i>British Journal of Political Science</i>
<i>German Politics</i>	<i>German Politics and Society</i>
<i>Parliamentary Affairs</i>	<i>Government and Opposition</i>
<i>Governance</i>	<i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>
<i>Europe-Asia Studies</i>	<i>Slavic Studies</i>
<i>Communist and Post-Communist Studies</i>	

There are also a number of journals that cover the European Union:

<i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>	<i>International Organization</i>
<i>European Law Review</i>	<i>Common Market Law Review</i>
<i>West European Politics</i>	<i>Comparative Political Studies</i>

You must take care when using the web as a research tool to consult good sources. As we all know, there is a lot of junk on the internet. Some websites are suspect and vulnerable to erroneous information. Therefore, I will not accept Wikipedia as a source for any assignments. However, there are useful websites that you may want to consult:

The European Union has its own website: [www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)

Some other websites on the EU:

<http://lib.berkeley.edu/GSSI/eu.html>

[www.europaguide.org](http://www.europaguide.org)

<http://eiop.or.at/euroint>

<http://olymp.wu-wien.ac.at/erpa>

[www.cix.co.uk/~fedtrust](http://www.cix.co.uk/~fedtrust) (Federal Trust, pro-European views)

[www.FreeBritain.co.uk](http://www.FreeBritain.co.uk) (Euroskeptic views)

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has a number of excellent individual country studies as well as publications exploring specific topics. It also provides a wealth of statistical information. You can find publications on its website.

Marquette University's Raynor Library also has a number of excellent resources for researching your paper. From Raynor Library's website, go to Research Help, then to Research Guides, then to Political Science. Click on Articles and Databases for a number of excellent electronic collections of academic journals and newspapers. See especially

Proquest, JStor, PAIS, and EBSCO. Do not hesitate to ask a reference librarian at Raynor for additional assistance.

The Almond, et. al. textbook also provides a list of useful sources and websites at the end of each chapter.

I will also recommend relevant books or articles for your paper. Again, I encourage students to consult important English-language newspapers and news magazines, such as *The Economist* and the *Financial Times*, as well as the major newspapers, newsweeklies, and periodicals in each European country. *The Economist* periodically provides in-depth surveys on individual countries or the EU; these may be very helpful for your paper.

## Class Schedule and Assignments

\*= required reserve readings on D2L

### I. INTRODUCTION AND CORE THEMES

Jan. 20: Course introduction. No reading assignment.

Jan. 22: Reading: Almond, et al. *European Politics Today*, chap. 1.

**Jan. 25: No class; instructor out of town.** Reading: Almond et al. chap. 2.

Jan. 27: Almond et al. chap. 3

Jan. 29: Almond et al. chap. 4.

### II. MAJOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES AND EASTERN EUROPE

#### A. Great Britain

Feb. 1, 3, 5: Rose, "Politics in Britain," chap. 5 in Almond et al.

Feb. 5: \*"Who killed New Labour?" *The Economist*, September 20, 2008, pp. 37-39.

\*James Blitz, "Not brooding but smiling," *Financial Times*, Sept. 9, 2006.

#### B. France

Feb. 8, 10, 12: Schain, "Politics in France," chap. 6 in Almond et al.

Feb. 12: \*The Gaullist revolutionary," *The Economist*, May 12, 2007;

\*Ben Hall, "Sarkozy's stage," *Financial Times*, December 23, 2008.

#### C. Germany

Feb. 15, 17, 19: Dalton, "Politics in Germany," chap. 7 in Almond et al.

Feb. 22: \*Readings on 2009 German election TBA.

#### D. Spain

Feb. 24, 26: Share, "Politics in Spain," chap. 8, in Almond et al.

March 1: \*Excerpts from "The Party's Over," special report on Spain, *The Economist*,  
Nov. 11, 2008.

\*Victor Mallet, "Mass graves reopen Spain's civil war wounds," *Financial Times*,  
Nov. 4, 2008, p. 9.

**March 3: TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE in class**

### E. Eastern Europe

March 3: \*David Ost, chaps 26-27 in *European Politics in Transition*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger, eds., Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin.

March 5: \*Ost, chaps. 28 and 30 in Kesselman and Krieger.

\**The Economist*, Nov. 7. 2009:

“Walls in the mind” and “The man who trusted his eyes,” pp. 23-25

“Down in the dumps,” pp. 49-50

## III. THE EUROPEAN UNION

March 8, 10, 12: Sbragia, “Politics in the European Union,” chap. 12 in Almond et al.

March 12: “The future’s Lisbon,” *The Economist*, October 10 2009, pp. 25-28.

**March 12: PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE in class**

**March 14-21: No class; spring break**

## IV. ISSUES IN EUROPEAN PUBLIC POLICY

### A. **Immigration and minorities in Europe**

#### 1. Immigration trends in Europe; EU immigration policies

March 22: Schierup et al., *Migration Citizenship, and the European Welfare State*, chap. 2.

#### 2. Muslims in Europe

March 24:

\*R. Khalaf, “Muslims’ integration in Europe is urgent challenge, *Financial Times*, July 15, 2005.

\*J. Christopher Soper and Joel S. Fetzer, “Explaining the Accommodation of Muslim Religious Practices in France, Britain, and Germany,” *French Politics*, vol. 1, 2003, pp. 39-59.

#### 3. Different approaches toward (Muslim) minorities

##### a. Laïcité and assimilation in France

March 26: John R. Bowen, *Why the French Don’t Like Headscarves*, Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2007, chaps. 1-3.

March 29: Bowen, chaps. 4-7 (skim chap. 6).

March 31: Bowen, chaps. 8-10.

\*"Minority report," in "The art of the impossible" survey on France, *The Economist*, Oct. 28, 2006.

**April 2, 5: No class; Easter break.**

b. Multicultural tolerance or isolation?: The Netherlands

April 7: \*Jane Kramer, "The Dutch Model," *The New Yorker*, April 3, 2006.

4. Social policy, social inclusion, or exclusion?

a. Multicultural approaches in Britain

April 9: Schierup et al., chap. 5.

\*"A house with many mansions," in "Britannia redux" survey on Britain, *The Economist*, Feb. 3, 2007.

b. Germany's belated recognition as a country of immigration

April 12: Schierup et al., chap. 6

5. Conclusions on European immigration approaches

April 14: \*"Charlemagne: Islam in Europe," *The Economist*, April 15, 2006.

**B. Welfare states and labor markets in Western Europe and the EU**

1. Welfare regimes

April 16: \*Mark Kleinman, "One Social Model or Many?" in *A European Welfare State?* Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2002, pp. 28-58.

**April 19: RESEARCH PAPER DUE. You must turn in a hard copy in class and an electronic copy via email.**

2. Challenges to the welfare state

April 19: Finish discussion of Kleinman.

\*Paul Pierson, "Post-Industrial Pressures on Mature Welfare States," in *The New Politics of the Welfare State*, Paul Pierson, ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

3. Social Policy in the European Union

April 21: \*Stephan Leibfried and Paul Pierson, "Social Policy: Left to Courts and Markets?" in *Policy-Making in the European Union*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Helen Wallace and William Wallace (eds.), Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 267-292.

#### 4. Welfare state challenges and responses in specific cases

##### a. April 23: Britain

\*Martin Rhodes, "Desperately Seeking a Solution: Social Democracy, Thatcherism and the 'Third Way' in British Welfare," *West European Politics*, 2 (2) pp. 161-186.

\*Nicholas Timmins, "Spending power: How Labour has taken Britain's welfare state to new plateau," *Financial Times*, April 20, 2005, p. 11.

##### b. April 26: France

\*Bruno Palier, "'Defrosting' the French Welfare State," *West European Politics* (23:2, April 2000), pp. 113-136.

\*"Insiders and Outsiders," in "The art of the impossible" survey on France, *The Economist*, Oct. 28, 2006.

##### c. April 28: Germany

\*Wolfgang Streeck and Christine Trampusch, "Economic Reform and the Political Economy of the German Welfare State," *German Politics*, 14 (2) June 2005, pp. 174-195 (omit section on health care, pp. 186-189).

\*"Squaring the Circle," in "Waiting for a Wunder" survey on Germany, *The Economist*, Feb. 11, 2006.

\*Bertrand Benoit, "A temporary solution? Germany's labour market develops a second tier," *Financial Times*, Oct. 27, 2006.

**April 30: LAST DAY FOR FILM ANALYSIS TO BE TURNED IN. You must turn in a hard copy in class *and* an electronic copy via email.**

##### d. April 30: Southern European welfare states

\*Maurizio Ferrera, "Welfare states and social safety nets in Southern Europe: an introduction," in *Welfare State Reform in Southern Europe*, M. Ferrera (ed.), London and New York: Routledge, 2005, pp. 1-32 and Spanish case (you may skip the country cases other than Spain).

##### e. Flexicurity approaches in Denmark and the Netherlands

May 3: \*Per Kongshoj Madsen, "The Danish Model of *Flexicurity*: a Paradise—with Some Snakes," in *Labour Market and Social Protection Reforms in International Perspective*, Hedva Sarfati and Guiliano Bonoli (eds.), Hampshire, UK: Ashgate, 2002, pp. 243-263.

May 5: \*Cox, Robert Henry, "The Social Construction of an Imperative: Why Welfare Reform Happened in Denmark and the Netherlands but not in Germany," *World Politics*, 53 (April 2001), 463-498.

May 7: Course wrap-up. No reading.

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 10, 1:00-3:00 PM, Wehr Physics 122.**