

**POL3810:
WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FALL 2007**

Professor: Dr. Davidson-Schmich

Phone: (305) 284-2143

Class meets Tues., Thurs. 9:30 – 10:45, LC 120

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Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:30; Wednesday 10:30
– 12:30; after class; by appointment (Room 314J
Jenkins Building)

Class Web Site:
<http://www.courses.miami.edu>

I. Course Objectives

Both the United States and the countries of Western Europe are rich, long-term democracies. Despite these similarities, politics in the U.S. and Europe differ in many ways. Compared to this country, the countries of Western Europe have many more political parties that bring a broader range of issues to public debate than in the United States. Western European governments play a much greater role in redistributing wealth among their citizens than does the U.S. government. On average, Europeans tend to be more secular, more pacifist, more environmentally conscious, and less accepting of multiculturalism than their American counterparts. Finally, major European countries such as the U.K. and Germany have been led by a woman whereas the American Presidency remains a male domain.

This course will not only introduce students to these differences in greater depths, it will also search for explanations as to *why* these differences exist. We will examine institutional, cultural, and economic explanations for the political and economic variance across such similar countries.

II. Required Readings

1. Jürg Steiner and Markus M. L. Crepaz. 2007. *European Democracies*. Fifth Edition. New York: Pearson Longman.
2. Articles reached via Blackboard or sent on e-mail.

III. **Course Requirements**

Students' grades will be based on the following assignments. Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment will result in a failing grade for the entire course.

Midterm Exam: 33%

Final Exam: 33%

2 Analytical Papers: 16.5% each

Class Participation: 1%

Mid-Term and Final Exams

These will both be written exams based on class lectures and assigned readings, including current events articles.

Analytical Papers

The paper assignment will be distributed the first day of class and students will have until November 20 to turn in both papers.

A Note on Participation

Participation grades will be based on several factors including regular class attendance, routine constructive contributions to class discussions, as well as active participation in in-class simulation activities. Students who end the semester with borderline grades and who have excelled in class participation will see their grades rounded up, while those who are not routinely prepared to participate in class will not have earned the extra point.

IV. **Schedule of Class Meetings, Readings, and Assignments**

In addition to the following assignments, students will be occasionally assigned newspaper articles to read. Readings labeled "S & C" come from the Steiner and Crepaz textbook. The other articles are available on our Blackboard website.

Europe is Different

Aug. 23: Introduction: Europe is Different (S & C pp. 1-7, 12-14)

How is Europe Different? Party Systems

Aug. 28: Party Families and Party Systems (S & C Chapter 2)

Aug. 30¹: Left-Wing Parties: Communists and Social Democrats (S & C pages 176-85 and Marliere article)

Sept. 4: Christian Democratic Parties (Shea article; Gallagher et al Chapter 9)

Sept. 6²: Forms of Political Participation and the Rise of Social Movements in Western Europe: The Peace and Environmental Movements (S & C Chapter 7)

Sept. 11: Green Parties (O’Niell article)

Sept. 13: Immigration and Authoritarian Parties (Schain et al article and excerpts of Gallagher et al Chapter 9)

Sept. 18: Regional and Liberal Parties (Hough article; S & C pages 218-222 and 225-227)

How Else is Europe Different? Policy Making

Sept. 20: Corporatism vs. Pluralism (S & C Chapter 8)

Sept. 25: Welfare States (Esping-Andersen article)

Sept. 27: Gender and the Welfare State (Iversen and Rosenbluth article)

Oct. 2³: Globalization and Challenges to the Welfare State (S & C Chapter 15)

Oct. 4: Women’s Political Participation (Interparliamentary Union reading – focus on US and Europe)

Oct. 9: **Mid-term Exam**

Why is Europe Different?

Oct. 11: Explaining variance (S & C Chapter 9)

Oct. 16: Economic Explanations (Inglehart & Norris article)

Oct. 18: Cultural Explanations (Tremblay article; S & C pages 7-12)

Oct. 23: Institutional Explanations & Path Dependency: (Henig article; “About Quotas” website)

Oct. 25⁴: Electoral Systems (S & C Chapter 3)

Oct. 30: Inside Political Parties / Making an Electoral List (Gallagher et al Chapter 10)

Nov. 1: Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism / Heads of State (S & C Chapter 4)

Nov. 6: Coalition Formation (Gallagher et al Chapter 12)

Nov. 8: Coalition Simulation (Simulation materials)

Nov. 13: Legislative Institutions (Gallagher et al Chapter 3)

Nov. 15: Judicial Institutions (S & C Chapter 5)

Nov. 20: Referenda and Federalism (S & C Chapter 6)

Analytical Papers due by the start of class

¹ Friday 8/31 is the last day to add this course

² Friday 9/7 is the last day to drop this course without a W or to change to credit-only

³ Academic alerts due 10/3

⁴ Thursday 10/25 is the last day to drop this course

The Europeanization of Domestic Politics

Nov. 22: Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov. 27: The European Union (S & C Chapter 14)

Nov. 29: The European Union, cont.

Dec. 6: **Final Exam at 8AM**

Dec 20: Final Grades available on My UM