

POLS 3375

Spring 2024

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BUS: 120

SYLLABUS

European Political Systems

In 1945, Western Europe laid in ruins, the collective action of more than four years of total war. The international political hegemony of Europe had been shattered, and the new superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, had supplanted Europe as models of political and economic development. In 1945, few observers would have predicted that within less than two decades Europe would find a new way to industrial prosperity and political stability. Yet, Western Europe did experience a remarkable phase of economic and political resurgence, characterized by industrial growth, collective affluence, and effective parliamentary governance.

Today, many Western European nations enjoy higher per capita standards than the United States. How are we to explain the success of post-war Western Europe? What does the future hold for such an economically, politically, and culturally diverse continent?

Will Europe unite in the twenty-first century, or will a new hegemon arrive to dominate the continent? This course seeks to explore these and other questions by providing the student with a thorough analysis of the historical, political, and economic situation in Western Europe.

Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with terminology used to study Political Science and Comparative Politics
- basic knowledge of a variety of histories, cultures, and ideologies and their impact on current European societies
- an understanding of major governmental and economic structures throughout Europe

- comprehension of the interrelationships of domestic policies and international events

Office Hours:

Online by appointment

Communication Policy:

E-mails will be answered within 24 hours during the school week and 48 hours on weekends.

Class Meetings:

Class will meet online.

Course Requirements:

Exams:

Exams will be open for 24 hours on exam day and students will have one hour to complete the exam on Canvas.

1. Successful completion of two exams to be held on February 16 and March 29, 2024.
1. Successful completion of the Final Exam scheduled for May 1, 2024.

Research Paper:

3. Successful completion of a 3–5-page research paper with the topic to be discussed below and in the introductory section on Canvas. The paper will be due on April 12, 2024, and has to be uploaded through Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Each exam, including the final, will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of essay questions and short identifications. The report is worth an additional 100 points and will be discussed below and in the introductory section on Canvas. The grading scale will be the following:

A=400-360 points

B=359-320 points

C=319-280 points

D=279-260 points

F=259 or fewer points

Course Outline:

Introduction: Core Concepts and Core Terminology

Forms of Government, Systems of Government, and Political Processes

The Politics of Economic Success: Germany

The Republic and the Politics of Institutional Forms: France

A Reversal of Decline: The Politics of Great Britain

The European Union: European Unification in the 21st Century?

Conclusion

Guidelines for Research Paper for POLS 3375

Spring 2024

Due: April 12, 2024

1. Write a three-to-five-page paper on a major Western European political figure (current or historical). Examples include Charles de Gaulle of France, Konrad Adenauer of Germany, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, and literally hundreds more.
2. Discuss his/her life (autobiography) and then focus on the person's contributions to his/her country and/or Europe overall.
3. Conclude by analyzing the political figure's successes and/or failures.

The paper should be three to five pages in length, excluding title page and bibliography.

The font size should be 12-point Times New Roman and the paper needs to be double spaced.

Use at least three sources and use proper citation styles. (MLA, APA, or Chicago style (footnotes or endnotes plus bibliography) are acceptable).

For citation style question please consult Kate Turabian "A Manual for Writers" on reserve in the library.