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PS153A
Spring 2005
M/W 2-3:50
Bunche 3175

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Comparative Government and Politics of Western Europe

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/05S/polisci153a-1/>

This course is meant to acquaint upper division students with the politics and institutions of Western European countries in the period since World War II. The main focus of the course is on developments in the last twenty years or twenty-five years. The course is topically organized, and each week we focus on an important aspect of political institutions: political parties, elections, government coalitions, etc. We supplement these topically-oriented multi-country readings with more in-depth readings on specific countries (France, Britain, Germany, Italy, and Sweden). In addition, we pay some attention to recent developments in the European Union (EU). Some major questions we ask are how historical and institutional differences across countries affect public policy, and how the traditional domestic processes and policies of the European nations are affected by their integration into the European Union.

Format and Organization: There will be two lectures each week, with adequate time for students to ask questions. No discussion sections are scheduled for this course.

Readings: Students are expected to have completed the assigned reading prior to lecture. The reading load is under 150 pages a week. Two books are in the university bookstore:

Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver, and Peter Mair, *Representative Government in Modern Europe* (3rd edition)

Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, et al., *European Politics in Transition* (4th edition)

In addition, students will gain a great deal more from the course if they keep current with political and economic events in Europe during the quarter. The course website has a list of links to European newspapers available on the web. In English, *The Economist*, a weekly news magazine, is especially recommended. Among newspapers in English, *The Financial Times* (London) has the best European coverage.

Requirements: There will be an in-class midterm examination (40 percent) and a final examination (60 percent), the latter to be held at the officially-scheduled time. Each will feature short identifications and short answer questions, to ensure you have mastered “the

facts,” as well as longer essay questions, to ensure you are able to synthesize and analyze the concepts discussed. Exams will use materials from readings and from lectures.

Grading for the course will be done by Mr. Scott Hoaby, whose contact information is above.

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 8:00-11:00 am. Other examination times cannot be accommodated.

SYLLABUS

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic and Assigned Reading</u>
April 4	<p>Introduction to Postwar Europe</p> <p>Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 1 (pp. 1-13)</p> <p>Kesselman et al., ch. 1 (pp. 1-35)</p>
April 11	<p>Presidential and Parliamentary Systems</p> <p>Gallagher, Laver and Mair, chs. 3-4 (pp. 41-95)</p> <p>Kessleman et al., “Britain” (pp. 151-230)</p>
April 18	<p>Parties, Party Systems and Social Cleavages</p> <p>Gallagher, Laver and Mair, chs. 7-9 (pp. 171-270)</p>
April 25	<p>Party Organization and Party Activism</p> <p>Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 10 (pp. 271-299)</p> <p>In class midterm examination, Wed. April 27</p>
May 2	<p>Elections and Electoral Systems</p> <p>Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 11 (pp. 300-338)</p> <p>Kesselman et al., “Germany” (pp. 315-410)</p>

- May 9 Governments and Coalitions
Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 12 (pp. 339-374)
Kesselman et al, "Italy" (pp. 411-512)
- May 16 Economic and Social Policy Making
Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 13 (pp. 375-397)
Kesselman et al, "France" (pp. 231-314)
- May 23 Interest Groups and Extra-Parliamentary Politics
Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 14 (pp. 398-422)
- May 30 Memorial Day, Monday, no class
The European Union
Gallagher, Laver and Mair, ch. 5 (pp. 96-134)
- June 6 The European Union
Kesselman et al., ch. II (pp. 37-149)