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office hrs.: Thursday 3-5

PS246A  
Spring 2006  
Wed. 9:30-11:50  
Bunche 3288

## WESTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES

This course is meant to acquaint students with some important topics and problems in the study of contemporary West European politics. It is aimed both at students who have already decided to pursue dissertation research on West Europe and at students who, although perhaps unfamiliar with the region, are interested in reading some of the recent literature. I have tried to organize the course in such a way that students at all points in the program can all profit, despite varying backgrounds and different levels of expertise in the area. I encourage you to use the course aggressively in exploring and developing your own interests and research expertise.

This course does not presuppose any historical background or familiarity with European political development and may be taken independently of PS250B. However, I encourage you to take that course when offered.

After an introductory discussion of the comparative method, the course itself is divided into two main sections. The first considers the social and organizational bases of democratic politics, with particular attention to political parties and party systems. The second considers what governments do in the realms of social and economic policies, and functions as a kind of survey of recent works in applied empirical political economy.

Classes will be run as mixtures of lecture and discussion. Many weeks, the assigned reading consists essentially of a single book. The instructor will provide intellectual background, presenting earlier literature as well as framing the larger debate of which the assigned reading is a part. It is especially important that everyone arrive having already completed the assigned reading. If necessary, students will be asked to bring short written *précis* of the assigned readings to class.

### Written Requirements

Everyone enrolled will be required to write one short (4-5 page) analytic paper early in the quarter. In addition, students are expected to write research papers. In principle, papers should be similar to a first draft of a field paper. Papers are due during final examination week.

In order to be assured that everyone gets a good start on their research papers, students will give brief (10-15 minute) presentations of their topics at the fourth class meeting. To do this, you should have thought about a topic and done some preliminary reading. Ideally, your presentation will focus on the *puzzle* your paper will seek to explain, and lay out some hypotheses or possible lines of inquiry. That is, you should aim to present something we do not know, and why it would be interesting and important to find an answer. Your presentation should follow a standard format that I will detail early in the quarter.

Please note that writing technique and English (including usage, style, paper organization, etc.) will be considered in grading papers. It is your responsibility to convey your ideas as clearly and with the greatest possible felicity of expression as possible; when reading your papers, I should not have to work as if reading a foreign language. In addition, it is your responsibility to adhere

to the normal standards of professional research (full citations, complete discussion of the sources and nature of data used, etc.). I take your papers seriously, and so should you.

### **Assigned Readings**

I have ordered copies of Gallagher, Laver and Mair, *Representative Government in Western Europe*, which is an excellent and extremely informative undergraduate textbook. You may wish to consult the book for basic factual information on European political institutions, especially if you have never taken an undergraduate course on European political institutions.

In addition, I have ordered copies of the following books for the course. All of these titles are on 2-hour reserve in the research library as well.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton University Press, 1994).

Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System* (Oxford University Press, 1990).

Daniele Caramani, *The Nationalization of Politics: The Formation of National Electorates and Party Systems in Western Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Robert Franzese, Jr., *Macroeconomic Policies of Developed Democracies* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

Torben Iversen, *Capitalism, Democracy, and Welfare* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Isabela Mares, *The Politics of Social Risk* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

### **How To Approach the Readings**

Because there is a relatively large amount of reading assigned every week, you will have to be efficient in your work. Approach each piece with three main questions in mind: (1) what is the main argument of this work? (2) what evidence does the author present in support of the argument (i.e. how is the argument developed)? (3) is the evidence convincing, or are there discrepancies or weaknesses you would like to follow up on? (4) what interesting problem does this piece leave unsolved, or what important question does it raise but leave unanswered?

Your goal should be to engage the readings constructively, fitting them into your own developing intellectual agenda. We will typically not be concerned with displays of intellectual superiority in critiquing the readings. It is very easy to criticize even work by distinguished scholars, but more difficult to learn to appreciate and build on the work of others, however imperfect that work may be.

## SYLLABUS

**Week 1 (April 4) Introduction (no reading)**

**Week 2 (April 12) The Logic of Comparison and Research Design**

Adam Przeworski and Henry Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry* (Wiley, 1970), ch. 2 (pp. 31-46).

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton University Press, 1994), all.

**Recommended**

Henry E. Brady and David Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004).

**Short required paper topics handed out; due next week in class**

Also read: Cal Tech rules for writing papers  
SSRC guidelines for proposal writing

**Section I: Political Parties and Party Systems, Representation and Accountability**

**Week 3 (April 19) Political Parties and Party Systems**

**Short required papers due this week in class**

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction," (1967) reprinted in Peter Mair, ed. *The West European Party System* (pp. 91-138)

Daniele Caramani, *The Nationalization of Politics: The Formation of National Electorates and Party Systems in Western Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), introduction and chs. 1, 3 and 5.

Maurice Duverger, "The Two Party System and the Multiparty System," reprinted in Mair, ed., pp. 284-295.

**Week 4 (April 26) Party Organization and Party Activism**

**----- Student presentations of proposed paper topics -----**

Maurice Duverger, "Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties," reprinted in Mair, ed., pp. 37-45.

Otto Kitchheimer, "The Catch-All Party," reprinted in Mair, ed., pp. 50-60.

Alessandro Pizzorno, "Parties in Pluralism," (1981), reprinted in Mair, ed., pp. 61-74.

**Week 5 (May 3) Parties, Social Class and Party System Change**

Mair, ed., all the essays in Part III, pp. 185-284.

**Section II: Political Economy**

**Week 6 (May 10)**

Robert Franzese, Jr., *Macroeconomic Policies of Developed Democracies* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

**Week 7 (May 17)**

Torben Iversen, *Capitalism, Democracy, and Welfare* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

**Week 8 (May 24) Instructor out of town; no class. Please use this time on your papers.**

**Week 9 (May 31)**

Isabela Mares, *The Politics of Social Risk* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), chs. 1-2, 4 and 7.  
Peter Hall and David Soskice, "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism" in Hall and Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 2001). (Photocopy in the graduate lounge).

**Week 10 (June 7) The Political Economy of the EU and Regional Economic Integration**

Barry Eichengreen "European Integration," forthcoming in the Oxford Handbook of Political Economy, ed. Barry Weingast and Donald Witten. (Photocopy in the grad lounge.)

Jeffrey Frieden, "Invested Interests: The Politics of National Economic Policies in a World of Global Finance," *IO*, vol. 45, no. 4 (Autumn 1991): 426-51.

([http://weblinks1.epnet.com/citation.asp?tb=1&\\_ua=bo+B%5F+shn+1+db+buhjnh+bt+TD++%22IOR%22+9698&\\_ug=sid+22F0BFA4%2D4D24%2D425D%2D851F%2D7EBB7A491DF7%40sessi onmgr+2+db+buh+cp+1+277F&\\_us=hd+False+fcl+Aut+sl+%2D1+frn+1+sm+ES+mdb+buh+dst b+ES+or+Date+sel+False+ri+KAAACBZD00000236+71E2&\\_uh=btn+N+6C9C&\\_uso=st%5B0+%2DJN++%22International++Organization%22++and++DT++19910901+tg%5B0+%2D+db%5B0+%2Dbuh+op%5B0+%2D+hd+False+107C&fn=1&rn=1](http://weblinks1.epnet.com/citation.asp?tb=1&_ua=bo+B%5F+shn+1+db+buhjnh+bt+TD++%22IOR%22+9698&_ug=sid+22F0BFA4%2D4D24%2D425D%2D851F%2D7EBB7A491DF7%40sessi onmgr+2+db+buh+cp+1+277F&_us=hd+False+fcl+Aut+sl+%2D1+frn+1+sm+ES+mdb+buh+dst b+ES+or+Date+sel+False+ri+KAAACBZD00000236+71E2&_uh=btn+N+6C9C&_uso=st%5B0+%2DJN++%22International++Organization%22++and++DT++19910901+tg%5B0+%2D+db%5B0+%2Dbuh+op%5B0+%2D+hd+False+107C&fn=1&rn=1))

Pierre Jacquet and Jean Pisani-Ferry, "Economic Policy Coordination in the Eurozone : What has been Achieved? What Should be Done?" Sussex European Institute Working Paper no. 40

(<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sei/documents/wp40.pdf>).

Christopher Allsopp and David Vines, "The Assessment: Macroeconomic Policy after EMU," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, vol. 14, no. 3, Autumn 1998

(<http://oxrep.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/14/3/1>)

Alberto Alesina and Roberto Perotti. "The European Union: A Politically Incorrect View." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(4; Fall 2004):27-48.

(<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/aea/jep/2004/00000018/00000004/art00002>)

----- Research papers due June 16, 3:00 pm in the instructors' mailbox -----