

Professor Kendra L. Koivu
Spring 2014 POLS 320
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Office SSCI 2048
Office hours: W 1.00-2.00 pm and F 11.30 am-1.30 pm

Western European Politics

Where does the modern state come from? Why do some states become consolidated democracies while others experience democratic breakdowns? How do states encourage economic development, and how do they cope with economic depression? These questions are important in both contemporary and historical discussions of political development. We will examine these questions by looking at the historical experiences of Western European states, particularly Britain, France, and Germany. This course provides both an overview of European history as well as a concentrated focus on national responses to similar pressures: democratization, development, depression, and war. This course assumes no prior background in European history.

There are no book purchases required for this class. The readings (articles and book chapters) will be posted on the course website.

Accommodation of Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request. If you need more information on the Americans with Disability Act, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at 277-5251.

Political Science Program Student Learning Objectives

The following are the learning objectives for the class:

- 1) The students will demonstrate an ability to think critically regarding political problems, trends, and developments.
- 2) The students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
- 3) The students will demonstrate strong analytical writing skills.
- 4) The students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts and theories in political science.

- 5) The students will be able to apply political science theories and/or concepts to real-world cases or be able to apply a case or set of cases using an appropriate theory.
- 6) The students will be able to evaluate theories, either in light of empirical evidence or on theoretical grounds.
- 7) The students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their rights and obligations as a citizen.

Assignments

Your grade in this class will be based on four components:

- 1) Midterm examination (20%): The exam will consist of both short answer and essay questions.
- 2) Final examination (30%): The exam will be cumulative, though focusing more on the content from the second half of the class, and will consist of both short answer and essay questions.
- 3) Paper/Presentation (35%): There are three components to this assignment:
 - (A) Students will turn in a 15-page research paper on a topic of your choice on the last day of class (May 9). The topic is subject to approval. This component will count towards 20% of your final grade for the course.
 - (B) Students will also give a ten minute presentation of their research paper. The presentation is meant for the student to elicit feedback on their paper to incorporate in the final draft. Presentations will begin three weeks before spring break, and a sign-up sheet will circulate in the second week of class for time slots. This component will count towards 10% of your final grade for the course.
 - (C) Students will turn in a one-page proposal of their topic on February 7. The proposal should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font, and written in paragraph form. This component will count towards 5% of your final grade for the course.
- 4) Participation/attendance (15%): Students are expected to attend every class session (barring illness or other emergency). Additionally, students are expected to come prepared (i.e. have completed the readings for that day), and ready to engage in discussion. Participation in and preparation for the class are as important as attendance and your grade will reflect this accordingly.

Topics and Required Readings

January 22, 24: Formation of the Modern State (Week 1)

Tilly, Charles. "War making and State making as Organized Crime," in *Bringing the State Back In* (eds. Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol), pp. 169-191

January 27, 29, 31: From Absolutism to Democracy (Week 2)

Moore, Barrington. *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, pp. 413-452

February 3, 5, 7: Industrial Revolution (Week 3)

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*, pp. 71-80 and 141-157

Gerschenkron, Alexander. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*, pp. 5-30

Paper Topics due on Friday, February 7

February 10, 12, 14: Democratization, part I: gradual transformation in England (Week 4)

Merriman, John. 2010. *A History of Modern Europe*, vol 2, pp. 605-612 and 684-705

Ertman, Thomas. *Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, pp. 187-223

February 17, 19, 21: Democratization, part II: turbulence in France (Week 5)

Merriman, John. 2010. *A History of Modern Europe*, vol 2, pp. 725-741

Elster, Jon. "Beyond Self-Interest: Authors and Actors in French Constitution-Making," in *Rethinking Political Institutions: The Art of the State* (eds. Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek and Daniel Galvin), pp. 260-282

February 24, 26, 28: Democratization, part III: the Sonderweg in Germany (Week 6)

Berman, Sheri. "Modernization in Historical Perspective: The Case of Imperial Germany," *World Politics* 53, 3 (April 2001): 431-462

Ertman, Thomas. *Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, pp. 245-263

Presentations

March 3, 5, 7: Political and Economic Impact of the Great Depression (Week 7)

Lepsius, M. Rainer. "From Fragmented Party Democracy to Government by Emergency Decree and National Socialist Takeover: Germany," in *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Europe*, eds. Juna Linz and Alfred Stepan, pp. 34-79

Weir, Margaret and Theda Skocpol. "State Structures and the Possibilities for "Keynesian" Responses to the Great Depression in Sweden, Britain, and the United States," in *Bringing the State Back In* (eds. Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol), pp. 107-163

Presentations

March 10, 12, 14: Presentations and Review (Week 8)

Midterm exam in class on Friday, March 14

March 17, 19, 21: No class. Spring Break

March 24, 28: Governing the Economy, part I (Week 9)

Note: There is no class on March 26.

Hall, Peter. 1986. *Governing the Economy: the Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France*, Chapters 1 and 9

Presentations

March 31, April 2, 4: Governing the Economy, part II (Week 10)

Olson, Mancur. 1982. *The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities*, chapter 3

Katzenstein, P. 1985. *Small States in World Markets*, Chapter 1

Presentations

April 7, 9, 11: Governing the Economy, part III (Week 11)

Hall, Peter and David Soskice. 2001. *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*, Chapter 1

Moene, K. O. and M. Wallerstein. "How Social Democracy Worked: Labor-Market Institutions." *Politics and Society* 23, 2 (1995):185-211.

Presentations

April 14, 16, 18: Welfare States, part I (Week 12)

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State," in *The State: Critical Concepts*, ed. John A. Hall, pp. 415-439

Ann Shola Orloff. "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States." *American Sociological Review* 58, 3 (1993): 303-28.

Presentations

April 21, 23, 25: Welfare States, part II (Week 13)

Pierson, Paul. "Post-Industrial Pressures on Mature Welfare States," in P. Pierson ed. *The New Politics of the Welfare State*, pp. 80-104

Ferrera, M. "The 'Southern Model' of Welfare in Social Europe." *Journal of European Social Policy* 6, 1 (1996): 17-37.

Presentations

April 2, 30, May 2: The European Union (Week 14)

McCormick, John. 2002. *Understanding the European Union*, chapters 3 and 4

Presentations

May 5, 7, 9: Presentations and Review (Week 15)

Research Papers due Friday, May 9

Final exam in class on May 16, 7.30-9.30 am