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INTS 281-01, Governments and Politics of Western Europe, Fall 2009

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Rhodes College
Department of International Studies

IS 281 GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF WESTERN EUROPE

Fall 2009
M-W-F 2-2:50 pm
Kennedy 104

Dr. Nuray Ibryamova
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Course Description:

The course examines the past and present political, economic, and social landscape in Western Europe. The course aims to provide students with the necessary tools to compare and analyze political systems and processes in Europe within a conceptual framework. It has four main components. First, the course presents students with the historical, social and political specificities of post-WW II Western Europe as a distinct region, as well as the diversity within the area itself. Second, it discusses the political, governmental, and economic institutions and processes associated the democratic regimes in the region. Third, it introduces students to the process of European integration and its impact on the politics of contemporary Europe. Finally, the course looks at the region's place in international relations and discusses some of the most pressing challenges faced by European states and societies today.

Required Books:

Bale, Tim. European Politics: A Comparative Introduction. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005.

Almond, Gabriel et al. European Politics Today. Boston: Pearson Longman Publishers, 2010.

Pontusson, Jonas. Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005.

Recommended:

Judt, Tony. Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945. New York: Penguin Books, 2005.

Haywood, Paul et al eds. Developments in European Politics. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Additional articles and other reading materials will be assigned as appropriate.

Course Requirements

Exams: There will be two exams in this course: a mid-term and a final. The mid-term examination will take place on October 5, 2009. The final examination will be held on December 14, 2009; it will not be comprehensive.

Quizzes: There will be six unannounced quizzes in this class. The lowest score of these will not be included in the final grade for this component of the course. There will be no make-up quizzes!

Research Paper: Each student will write a paper on a topic of their choice, approved by the instructor. Further information on the paper will be provided at a later time. The length of the paper should be 10-12 pages. The paper is due on December 9th.

Book Review: Students are expected to write 6-7 page of Jonas Pontusson's book. Further instructions on how to write a book review will be given later during the semester.

Mid-term examination	20%
Final examination	20%
Quizzes	20%
Paper	20%
Book Review	10%
Attendance and participation	10%
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Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A	93-100 %	C+	79-78	D-	62-60
A-	92-90	C	77-73	F	59-
B+	89-88	C-	72-70		
B	87-83	D+	69-68		
B-	82-80	D	67-63		

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings on time and to participate in class discussions. In order to make informed and insightful comments, students need to keep up with current events. Therefore, they are strongly encouraged to follow on a daily basis reputable media outlets, such as

The New York Times	www.nytimes.com	Deutsche Welle	www.dw-world.de/
Financial Times	www.ft.com	Corriere della Sera	www.corriere.it/english/
Int'l Herald Tribune	www.ihf.com	Le Monde	mondediplo.com/
BBC	news.bbc.co.uk	The Economist	www.economist.com
The Guardian	www.guardian.co.uk	Daily Telegraph	www.telegraph.co.uk
Der Spiegel	www.spiegel.de/international		

For recent research and writings on West European politics, you can consult a number of scholarly journals, including:

West European Politics

European Journal of Political Economy

Journal of Common Market Studies

Comparative European Politics

European Journal of Political Research

European Economic Review

Journal of European Public Policy

Journal of European Social Policy

Course Policies:

There will be no make up exams unless the instructor has been notified ahead of time. If a student cannot attend an examination, s/he must advise the instructor as soon as possible, and prior to the day of the exam. If the student has a valid and documented excuse, s/he will be allowed to take the exam before the regularly scheduled exam time.

Papers not submitted at the end of class on the due date will be considered late. Late papers will be lowered by 3% for each day they are late, and will not be accepted a week after the due date. If the student has a valid and documented excuse and has notified the instructor ahead of time, s/he may be allowed to submit the paper at a later time.

Papers submitted electronically will not be accepted. Students must submit their written work to the professor in hard copy.

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings on time and to participate in class discussions. In order to make informed and insightful comments the students are encouraged to keep up with current events pertaining to Western Europe and the European Union.

It is understood that the students will observe the honor code of Rhodes College. Any evidence of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade and notification of college officials.

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. To do so as effectively as possible, students who need special accommodations should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester

Please turn off your cell phones before the class begins and refrain from using laptops during class.

Students who use laptops in class must do so exclusively for the purpose of note-taking. Surfing the web, emailing, or playing computer games in class conveys disrespect to your fellow students as well as the instructor, and can be disruptive for the entire class.

Entering or leaving the room while class is in progress is not acceptable, so please plan your arrival to the classroom accordingly.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

8/26 Introduction to the course

8/28 Bale, Chapter 1: Europe: Continent in the Making

Week 2:

8/31 Judt, The Legacy of War

9/2 Judt, The Rehabilitation of Europe

9/4 Judt, The End of Old Europe; The Politics of Stability

Week 3:

9/7 **LABOR DAY**

9/9 Almond et al, Chapter 2: Democratic Political Culture and Political Action

9/11 Bale, Chapter 4: Governments and Parliaments

Week 4:

9/14 Bale, Chapter 5: Parties
Judt, The Social Democratic Moment

9/16 Bale, Chapter 6: Elections, Voting, and Referendums

9/18 Bale, Chapter 8: Pressure Politics

Week 5:

9/21 Bale, Chapter 9: Politics over Economics
Judt, The Age of Affluence

9/23 Almond et al., Chapter 5: Politics in Britain

9/25 Almond et al., Chapter 5: Politics in Britain Cont'd

Week 6:

9/28

Almond et al., Chapter 6: Politics in France
Perry Anderson, "Degringolade," London Review of Books, September 2, 2004.
http://www.lrb.co.uk/v26/n17/ande01_.html

9/30

Almond et al., Chapter 6: Politics in France Cont'd
Perry Anderson, "Normalising France," London Review of Books, September 23, 2004,
http://www.lrb.co.uk/v26/n18/ande01_.html.

10/2

Mid-Term Exam Review

Week 7:

10/5

Mid-Term Exam

10/7

Almond et al., Chapter 7: Politics in Germany
The Economist, "Germany's Political Fragmentation:
People's Parties Without the People," August 8, 2009: 45-
46.

10/9

Almond et al., Chapter 7: Politics in Germany Cont'd
The Economist, "Redesigning Europe's Biggest Economy:
Unbalanced Germany," August 8, 2009, 10.

Week 8:

10/12

Judt, "A Tale of Two Economies"
Recommended Movie: *The Marriage of Maria Braun*

10/14

Almond et al., Chapter 8: Politics in Spain

10/16

Almond et al., Chapter 8: Politics in Spain Cont'd

Week 9:

10/19

FALL RECESS (!)

10/ 21

Hay and Menon, eds.: Italy
Perry Anderson, "An Entire Order Converted into What it
was Intended to End," London Review of Books, February
26, 2009, http://www.lrb.co.uk/v31/n04/ande01_.html.
Perry Anderson, "An Invertebrate Left," London Review of
Books, March 12, 2009,
http://www.lrb.co.uk/v31/n05/ande01_.html.

10/23

Hay and Menon, eds.: Italy

Week 10:

10/26

Movie: The Bicycle Thief
Book Reviews Due

10/28

Hay and Menon, eds.: Scandinavia

10/30

Almond et al., Chapter 12: Politics in the European Union

Week 11:

11/2

Mark Pollack, "Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?" Annual Review of Political Science 8 (2005): 357-98.

11/4

Almond et al., Chapter 12: Politics in the European Union, Cont'd

11/6

Almond et al., Chapter 12: Politics in the European Union, Cont'd

Week 12:

11/9

Movie: L'Auberge Espagnol

11/11

Bale, Chapter 9: Politics over Markets
Haywood et al., European Welfare States

11/13

Bale, Chapter 10: Not Wanted but Needed
Haywood et al., Immigration and Asylum

Week 13:

11/16

Politics of Demographic Changes
Paolo Lanzieri, "Population in Europe 2007."
The Berlin Institute: Europe's Demographic Future:
Growing Imbalances

11/18

Haywood et al., The State and Religion

11/20

Bale, Chapter 11: Europe's International Politics
Perry Anderson, "Depicting Europe," London Review of Books. September 20, 2007,
http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n18/ande01_.html

Week 14:

11/23

European Security Challenges (Dev'ts in European Politics)

European Security Strategy:
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>.

11/25-27

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15:

11/30

The US and Europe
Tony Judt, "Europe vs. America," New York Review of Books. February 10, 2005.
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/17726>

12/2

Europe and its Near Abroad
Karen E. Smith, "The Outsiders: The European Neighborhood Policy," International Affairs. 81.4 (2008): 757-773.

12/4

Europe and Turkey
Jose I. Torreblanca, "Europe's Reasons and Turkey's Accession," Real Instituto Elcano, 2005.
Hans Arnold, "Political Arguments Against Turkey's Accession to the European Union," International Politics and Society 3 (2007): 101-113.

Week 16:

12/7

Energy Security in Europe
Gawdat Bahgat, "Europe's Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities," International Affairs. 82. 5 (2006): 961-97.
Julianne Smith and Derek Mix, "The Transatlantic Climate Change Challenge," The Washington Quarterly, 31.1 (2007): 139-154.

12/9

Final Paper Due