

PS622: European Politics

Fall 2007
MW 2:30-3:45 pm
Humanities 1121

Professor Ringe
Office: 201B North Hall
Office Hours: M 12-1, W 1-2
Email: ringe@wisc.edu
Phone: 608-263-2040

Teaching Assistant: Mert Kartal,
kartal@wisc.edu

Course Description:

This class examines political developments, structures, processes, and outcomes in four major European countries in a comparative perspective. It will introduce you to specific information regarding our country cases (the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Poland), while learning how to evaluate similarities and differences between them in a meaningful and systematic fashion. We will also, however briefly, discuss the politics of the European Union, as it is impossible today to separate the national politics of the EU's member states from their involvement in the Union. We will conclude by discussing to what extent the national politics in European countries collectively constitute a genuine type of "European" politics.

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance of and careful attention during classes.
2. Reading and thinking about the assigned materials so that you are able to participate in class discussions. Even in instances where I mostly lecture during a class period, I expect you to consider the readings carefully and thoughtfully before we meet.
3. Subscribing to and *daily reading* of the Financial Times newspaper, the most important daily news source concerning European and EU affairs (see below for details).
4. A mid-term exam covering the materials up to that point in time.
5. A 7-8 page paper written on the basis of articles appearing in the Financial Times during the course of the term. The paper must relate the topic of the articles (which must be attached to the paper) to the class readings and will be due on the last day of class. I expect all papers to be well-written, grammatically correct, free of spelling errors, correctly footnoted, and to include a properly-written bibliography as appropriate. *Papers which do not meet that standard will be penalized when graded.*
6. A final exam covering the entire course.

Research Option: Students who are interested in research and/or who are considering applying to a graduate program in political science or international affairs may want to write a 20-page research paper for this class. This is both useful practice and may become a writing sample that could be included in your application package for graduate school. Students interested in this option should discuss their projects with me by September 26 at the very latest (!). If I accept your request, which may in part be subject to the number of people interested in the research option, the research paper will replace the 7-8 page final paper and weigh more heavily on the final grade. The paper would also be due on the final day of class.

Extra Credit: Students in this class can obtain extra credit by attending lectures hosted by the European Union Center and writing a one-page single-spaced summary of the talk. Eligible events will be announced in class.

Grading:

Class attendance and participation:	15%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final paper:	8-page paper: 30%; research paper: 40%
Final exam:	35% for those writing the 8-page final paper, 25% for those writing a research paper.

A few important notes (*please read – and then re-read – very carefully*):

- Anything covered in lecture or readings is fair game for the exams. So just doing the reading on the last night before the exam means an almost certain failing grade. Come to class and do your readings carefully and on time. Don't fall behind.
- I prefer you contacting me via email. Note, however, that I will have roughly 500 students in my two classes this semester, so getting in touch with me will *never* be the quickest or most straightforward way to get an answer. Please contact the TA for our class, Mr. Mert Kartal, with any questions you might have. He will forward your inquiry to me if need be. If you are convinced that you absolutely have to contact me personally, please be sure that it says "622" in the subject header (otherwise, your email may be discarded as spam). Also be advised that it may take several days for me to get back to you. *Consider this*: if every single one of my 500 students this semester sends me only two emails throughout the next few months that require a little two-minute response each, I will be still be spending 2,000 minutes (or 33 hours and 20 minutes!) replying to these emails.
- If you know that you will be absent from class for religious or other reasons that can be known in advance, please let me know. Also let me know if you have to miss class due to sickness or family emergencies.
- I will not provide any lecture or other class notes to you. Actively taking notes during class time is an important skill and learning tool.
- Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with proper margins, and in 12 point "Times New Roman" font.
- All assignments are due on the relevant date *at the beginning of class!* Materials may be turned in late, but I deduct one letter grade for every day that the assignment is late.
- My policy on re-evaluating grades is the following:
 - You have to wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints.
 - You have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work, i.e. it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.
 - Your grade will be fully re-evaluated. This means that Mr. Kartal or I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes – this is not a risk-free process!

- The exam days are set. Clear your schedules now. There will be no make-up examinations unless you can provide proper documentation that your absence is due to a) a genuine family emergency, b) illness or injury, or c) travel away from Madison for university-related (!) obligations. If an exam is missed for a valid reason, you will receive a substitute assignment. *This will be an essay of 10 pages based on the material covered in the exam and will be due two days after the date of the missed exam.*
- A note to McBurney students: You must present your McBurney Visa to your TA in the first week of the class. Your exams will be administered by Testing and Evaluation Services at the same time as the regular exams. *You are responsible for the scheduling of exams at Testing and Evaluation Services.* This is done through an online scheduling system (for details, please see <http://testing.wisc.edu/>). If you fail to schedule your exam, you will have to take it with the rest of the class without any special accommodations.
- *Plagiarism* and *cheating* are very serious offenses that will get in you great trouble. Professors know their areas of expertise well enough to detect it, and there are now thoroughly reliable software programs to check if plagiarism has occurred. Please use proper citation form for all materials obtained from primary and secondary sources. If you are caught cheating, you will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript. This will make it extremely difficult for you to gain entrance to graduate or professional schools and will jeopardize your opportunities with a large number of employers in the future.

→ **There will be absolutely no exceptions to these rules.**

Required readings:

Shively, W. Phillips. *Comparative Governance: Political Structure and Diversity Across the Globe*. Primis, ISBN: 978-0-390-80511-9

NOTE: This is a *custom textbook* that was printed specifically for our class, meaning that you must purchase a new copy available at the university bookstore; used copies from previous years are *not* the same book!

Steiner, Jürg and Markus M.L. Crepaz. 2007. *European Democracies, 5th Edition*. Longman.

Alesina, Alberto and Edward Glaeser. 2005. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. Cambridge University Press.

Joel Fetzer and J. C. Soper. 2004. *Muslims and the State in Britain, France, and Germany*. Cambridge University Press.

Course Reading Packet (available *upon order* at the Social Sciences Copy Center, 6120 Social Science Building; soccopy@ls.admin.wisc.edu).

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FINANCIAL TIMES.

To subscribe to the Financial Times (student rate):

1. Go to the Financial Times subscription services website: www.ftnewspaper.com
2. Select “U.S. Subscriptions” in the left panel.
3. Select “Academic Subscriptions” in the left panel.
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5. Select “Resources for students.”
6. Select “Subscribe to the Financial Times” for the paper version OR “Subscribe to the FT Electronic Edition” for the electronic online version.

<u>Paper version</u>	<u>Electronic version</u>
7. Select the 15-week option for \$31.95 8. Fill out the form and submit (Note: for the first field of the form, “Student ID,” use the first four digits of your SSN).	7. Select “Click to see pricing options” 8. Select “Students” or “Students click here.” 9. Select the 15-week option for \$21.95 10. Fill out the form and submit (Note: for the first field of the form, “Student ID,” use the first four digits of your SSN).

September 5: Introduction

No readings.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

September 10: History.

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 1
Shively, "Politics in Britain" (pp. 21-42)

September 12: Institutions.

Shively, "Politics in Britain" (pp. 42-65)
Steiner & Crepaz, pp.111-114

"Britannia redux: a survey of Great Britain," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "A lost opportunity," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "Living by their wits," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "Suck it and see," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "Clever stuff," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "A house with many mansions," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "The rose and the thistle," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "The changing of the guard," The Economist, February 1, 2007
 "Full steam ahead," The Economist, February 1, 2007
"Yo, Brown!" The Economist, Jul 19th 2007
"The king is dead," The Economist, Jul 5th 2007
"The coronation," The Economist, Jun 28th 2007
"The parable of the smiles," The Economist, Jun 21st 2007

September 17: Elections, Parliaments and Cabinets.

Steiner & Crepaz, chs. 3, 4

September 19: Minorities in the UK and Other Current Issues.

Fetzer & Soper, chs. 1 and 2

GERMANY

September 24: History.

Shively, "Germany" (pp. 66-90)

September 26: Institutions.

Shively, "Germany" (pp. 90-114)

Steiner & Crepaz, pp. 115-117

October 1: Interest Articulation (1) – Political Parties and Party Systems.

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 2

October 3: Interest Articulation (2) – Federalism, Referenda, Interest Groups/Corporatism, Social Movements.

Steiner & Crepaz, chs. 6, 7, 8

October 8: Minorities in Germany and Other Current Issues.

Fetzer & Soper, ch. 4

"Waiting for a wunder: a survey of Germany," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"In a bind," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Wasting brains," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Squaring the circle," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Land of cliques," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Thinning blood," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Reincarnation valley," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Letting go," The Economist, February 11, 2006

"Back above the bar again," The Economist, Jul 12th 2007

"Merkel's magic," The Economist, Jun 28th 2007

"Shareholders at the gate," The Economist, May 31st 2007

"Raving ravens," The Economist, May 3rd 2007

"The integration dilemma," The Economist, Jul 19th 2007

FRANCE

October 10: History.

Shively, "Politics in France" (pp.116-150)

October 15: Institutions.

Shively, "Politics in France" (pp. 150-195)

Steven Philip Kramer. "The End of French Europe." *Foreign Affairs*, July/Aug 2006, pp. 126-138.

William Pfaff. 2007. "In Sarkoland." *The New York Review of Books* 54(10), June 14, 2007.

October 17: Political Economy.

Shively, "The State and the Economy"

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 9

October 22: Minorities in France and Other Current Issues.

Fetzer & Soper, chs. 3, 5, 6

"The art of the impossible: a survey of France," *The Economist*, Oct 28, 2006

"Insiders and outsiders," *The Economist*, Oct 28, 2006

"Lessons from the campus," *The Economist*, Oct 28, 2006

"Reforming the unreformable," *The Economist*, Oct 28, 2006

"Minority report," *The Economist*, Oct 28, 2006

"Beyond these shores," *The Economist*, Oct 28, 2006

October 24: MIDTERM EXAM

THE EUROPEAN UNION

October 29: History and Institutions.

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 14 (pp. 260-278)

October 31: What does the EU do?

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 14 (pp. 278-288)

ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE:

Andrew Moravcsik: "A Too Perfect Union? Why Europe Said 'No'," *Current History*, November 2005.

George Parker: "Bored by 'Results', Europe Regains Its Taste for Grand Plans," *Financial Times*, October 27, 2006.

"A Venture at a Standstill," *The Economist*, May 27, 2006.

November 5: The State of the (European) Union.

"Fit at 50? A survey of the European Union," *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"Are you sitting comfortably?" *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"The quest for prosperity," *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"Constitutional conundrum," *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"The ins and outs," *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"Four Ds for Europe," *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"The EU at 100," *The Economist*, Mar 15th 2007

"Tailoring a compromise," *The Economist*, June 24, 2007

"Treaty blues," *The Economist*, June 28, 2007

Additional articles TBA

POLAND

November 7: History.

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 10
Shively, "Poland" (pp. 197-226)

November 12: Institutions.

Shively, "Poland" (pp. 226-247)

George Sanford. 2001. "Poland's Place in the New Europe." In George Sandford: *Poland - The Conquest of History*. Amsterdam: Harwood, pp. 81-112.

November 14: Democratic Transition.

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 11

November 19: Minorities in Poland and Other Current Issues.

Janusz Mucha. 1997. "Getting out of the closet: cultural minorities in Poland cope with oppression." *East European Quarterly* XXXI(3), pp. 299-309.

"Cheer up: a survey of Poland," *The Economist*, May 11th 2006
"The accidental government," *The Economist*, May 11th 2006
"Spy games," *The Economist*, May 11th 2006
"So much to do," *The Economist*, May 11th 2006
"A country to run from," *The Economist*, May 11th 2006
"Prickly to a fault," *The Economist*, May 11th 2006
"Poland and the EU," *Business Week*, May 10, 2004
"A Swamp of paranoid nostalgia," *The Economist*, Jul 3rd 2007
"Worrying about a crash," *The Economist*, Jul 5th 2007
"Doctor Who?" *The Economist*, Jun 21st 2007
"False luster," *The Economist*, May 17th 2007
"Black Mischief," *The Economist*, Apr 12th 2007
"Heavy vetting," *The Economist*, Apr 5th 2007
"Right question, wrong answer," *The Economist*, Feb 13th 2007

NATIONALISM AND ETHNIC CONFLICT

November 26: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict.

Steiner & Crepaz, chs. 12, 13

POVERTY AND THE WELFARE STATE

November 28: Fighting Poverty I

Alesina & Glaeser, chs. 1, 2, 3

December 3: Fighting Poverty II

Alesina & Glaeser, chs. 4, 5

December 5: Fighting Poverty III

Alesina & Glaeser, chs. 6, 7, 8

CONCLUSIONS

December 10: Conclusions I

T.R. Reid. 2004. *The United State of Europe*. New York: Penguin.

“Prologue: Sleeping Through the Revolution,” pp. 1-6.

“The Atlantic Widens,” pp. 7-25.

“The Invention of Peace and the Pursuit of Prosperity,” pp. 26-62.

December 12: Conclusions II

Steiner & Crepaz, ch. 15

Review Session: TBA

Wednesday, December 19, 2007, 12:25pm: FINAL EXAM