

Govt4302 European Politics

1. Course Number and Title: Govt4302, European Politics

Prerequisites: None.

Credits: 3 hours

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Most courses on contemporary Europe consist primarily of descriptions of the European Union's (EU) bureaucratic machinery. This course puts that machinery in the perspective of the realities that are radically changing Europe. The view that Europe's economy would guarantee prosperity for all forever has given way to the reality that an increasingly dysfunctional level of taxation cannot support welfare states undermined by demographic collapse. Moreover, having imputed important decisions to the Brussels bureaucracy, European leaders have produced a citizenry which is simultaneously less loyal to them and increasingly hostile to the EU. EU leaders do not personify a cultural and political identity with which people can identify. This course examines the fundamental realities of this new Europe: Its demographics and their implications, the similarity of politics and the "harmonization" of political institutions throughout the EU, the Union's institutions and their functions, as well as the problems of Europe's economy, of its relationship with masses of immigrants who do not seek assimilation, and of its aversion to military force.

3. COURSE GOALS: A course on European politics today must:

1. Assess realities that are changing Europe today and compare them to the radical transformation of Europe in the eighteenth century.
2. Analyze how a former consensus that Europe's welfare systems assured the good life has transformed into a new consciousness that Europe's economic well being is unsustainable.
3. Compare the former view that Europe's economy would provide guaranteed prosperity for forever with today's perception that Europe's dysfunctional level of taxation cannot support welfare states when those states are challenged by radical demographic change.
4. Examine how Europe's secular social policies that guaranteed social harmony are now seen to be inadequate for deterring Third World hatreds from spilling into Europe.
5. Examine the decline of Christianity throughout Europe and contrast that decline with special privileges granted to Muslim nationals living in Europe.
6. Compare and contrast the contradictions implicit in an all powerful European Union administered by a Brussels-based bureaucracy with a Europe whose citizens are increasingly hostile to the European Union.
7. Evaluate why Europeans cannot relate culturally and politically to the European Union's Brussels-based elite.
8. Evaluate why Europe's free and fair elections do not translate into a consciousness that Europeans control their own lives and their governments.
9. Discuss the international consequences of a Europe that cannot be expected to make sacrifices to defend its national governments.
10. Compare and contrast the Europe of one generation ago in which the differences between Europe's

many political systems were greater than their similarities with the Europe of today in which those differences loom smaller.

11. Examine the role played by homogeneous elites in managing similar functions within different nations and their common problems.

12. Assess recent changes in the character of Europe as seen in:

Demographics

The similarity of European politics

The “harmonization” of political institutions throughout the European Union

How the European Union’s basic institutions function

Problems of Europe’s economy as a whole

Europe’s ability to address the problem of immigrants who cannot or will not seek assimilation, and

The consequences of Europe’s aversion to military force.

4. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will complete the course able to

1. Describe the difficulties encountered in the making of peace in Europe after WWII.
2. Name and understand the role of important people and events that shaped European politics from 1945-1953.
3. Understand more fully how lingering animosities helped propel the Cold War forward.
4. Explain the causes of economic growth and unprecedented prosperity in Western Europe in the thirty years following World War II?
5. Understand why some European nations (e.g. West Germany) experienced better growth than others (e.g. Great Britain) during this time.
6. Discuss the ‘Americanization’ of Europe after World War II.
7. Know how the modern European welfare state got its start.
8. Discuss the causes of Sixties European Cultural Revolution.
9. Explain the economic upheaval of the 1970s European recession.
10. Understand the rise of Mikhail Gorbachev.
11. Discuss the collapse of the Soviet Union and its satellite states.
12. Define the “new realism” of the European right of the late 1970s/early 1980s.
13. Describe the political scene of both Western and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Union.
14. Relate why most efforts to liberalize post-Communist Russia have met with mixed success.
15. Discuss the rise of Islam in Europe.
16. Explain why political parties in Western Europe have lost much of their power.
17. Understand the state of European intellectuals in the 21st century.
18. Understand the differences between hegemonic, balance-of-power, and liberal schools of thought vis-à-vis European interstate relations.
19. Define the following political concepts: mercantilism, liberalism, imperialism, communitarianism, nationalism, and romanticism.
20. Understand the party systems of Germany, France, Italy, and Great Britain.
21. Discuss the reasons for success and failure of European integration since 1957.
22. Understand the Gaullist challenge to European integration.
23. Discuss to what extent the EU might manage more than 27 member states.
24. Explain why so many Europeans are dissatisfied with the EU today.
25. Distinguish the European Union from intergovernmental international organizations.
26. Note in what sense the European Parliament is comparable to national parliaments.
27. Know the role the European Court of Justice plays in the EU system.
28. Understand what is meant by an optimum currency area.
29. Show how the euro impacts international economic relationships.
30. Discuss how migration, environmental, industrial, and welfare policies are established in EU member states.
31. Highlight what impact previous enlargements have had on the process of European integration.
32. Discuss how EU and all its venues, including the commission, its organs and committees, the courts, as well as the council, create, decide on and implement agendas;

33. Delineate the differences between EU agendas of traditional nation states and how power within the EU organs is negotiated, distributed, or changed.
34. Provide arguments for and against for why EU power organs withhold powers ordinarily exercised by legislative bodies from the European parliament.
35. Elucidate the political significance and the reality of the EU's "transatlantic link" with the United States, especially as it extends into the 21st century and must compete with NATO.
36. Account for the differences and as well as the opportunities as they relate to the United States' vast foreign policy stance and EU's foreign and defense policy apparatus and NATO's.
37. Assess the varied experiences of the British, French, and Germans with regard to the accommodation of Muslim practices.
38. Describe the historical reasons why Britain, France, and Germany have dealt with Muslim emigration differently.
39. Examine the institutional factors shaping British, French, and German immigration policy.
40. Understand the importance of the nation-state in the broader context of European history.
41. Describe the forces that have been at work transforming European democracy and hence the European nation-state.
42. Summarize and evaluate the interplay of Islam, Christianity, and secular humanism in European society.

5. COURSE CONCEPTS:

1. The contrast between yesterday's, today's, and tomorrow's Europe
2. Europe's changing demographic structure, the mentality of Europe's ruling class, and their implications
3. Current constitutional structures, issues, and politics in the main countries of Europe
4. Structure, rules, function, and effects of the European Union
5. Structural problems of European economies
6. Sources, current problems, and long-term prospects of immigration without assimilation
7. European attitudes toward military force, and European foreign policies

6. REQUIRED TEXTS:

David Calleo, *Rethinking Europe's Future*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2001 ISBN: 069111367X \$16.60.

Joel S. Fetzer, J. Christopher Soper, *Muslims and the State in Britain France and Germany*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2005 ISBN: 0-521-53539-5. \$13.00.

Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*, New York, Penguin, 2005. ISBN: 0143037757 \$16.20.

Colin Hay & Anand Menon, *European Politics*, New York, Oxford, 2007. ISBN: 0199284288 \$47.30.

Pierre Manent, *Democracy without Nations: The Fate of Self-Government in Europe*, Wilmington, DE, ISI Books, 2007. ISBN: 1933859423. \$15.

7. RECOMMENDED READING:

Lewis H. Gann & Peter Duignan, *Contemporary Europe and the Atlantic Alliance: A Political History*, Blackwell Publishing, 1997. ISBN: 063120590X.

Neill Nugent, *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, 6th ed., Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006. ISBN: 082233870X.

Larry Neal, *The Economics of Europe*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press 2007 ISBN: 13: 9780521683012.

Alberto Alesina, ***The Future of Europe: Reform or Decline***, MIT Press, 2006. ISBN: 0262012324.

Jack Hayward and Anand Menon, ***Governing Europe***, Oxford, New York Oxford University Press 2003
ISBN 0-19-925015-4.

Patrick Ireland, ***Becoming Europe. Immigration Integration and the Welfare State***, Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh press, 2004. ISBN 0-8229-584.

Peter Duignan, Lewis H. Gann ***The Rebirth of the West 1945-1958***, Stanford, Hoover Press, 1991.
ISBN-13:9780847681983.

Jeanne-Helene Kaltenbach, ***La France, une Chance Pour L'Islam***. Paris: Felin, 1991 ISBN-13978-
2866450823

Melanie Phillips, ***Londonistan***, New York: Encounter Books, 2004. ISBN-13:978-1594031441

Sherrill Brown Wells, ed. ***New Pioneers of European Integration and Peace 1945-1963 A Brief
History with Documents***, New York, St. Martin's 2007 ISBN 0312086164

Walter Laqueur, ***The Last Days of Europe***. New York: St. Martins Press, 2007. ISBN 0312368704

Jeanne-Helene Kaltenbach, ***La France, une Chance Pour L'Islam***. Paris: Felin, 1991. ISBN-13978-
2866450823

Shireen T. Hunter, ed., ***Islam Europe's Second Religion***. London: Praeger, 2002.
ISBN- 0-275-97608-4.

Sherrill Brown Wells, ed. ***New Pioneers of European Integration and Peace 1945-1963. A Brief
History with Documents***. New York, St. Martin's 2007. ISBN- 0312086164

Robert Kagan, ***Of Paradise and Power***, New York. Atlantic Books: 2004.
ISBN -13: 978-1843541783