POLS V3401: Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe
Mondays and Wednesdays 11:40am-12:55pm

Course Description: This course will examine the development of democracies and dictatorships in Europe from the ancien régime to the present day. It will analyze the nature and dynamics of European political history and use the European experience as a foundation upon which to build a broader understanding of how different types of political regimes emerge, function and are consolidated over time.

Prior knowledge of European history and comparative politics is welcome, but not presumed.

Requirements/Grading:
* Lecture attendance: is not optional. Students are expected to attend lectures.

* Sections: 15%. This course will combine lectures and sections. Students are expected to carefully read all relevant materials before class and be prepared to discuss them in section. Reading/study questions for each set of readings will be posted online to help students with the readings and preparation for section.

* Take home exams: 50%. There will be two take home exams. (each exam will be worth 25% of the grade).

* Final exam: 35%. The final exam for this class will give students an opportunity to think holistically and synthetically about the material and topics covered in the course as well as analyze the “hows” and “whys” of political development more generally.

All exams are take-home and must be taken when scheduled. No late exams will be accepted. Exceptions will only be granted in cases of medical or family emergency (verification will be required for both).

All work must be done in accordance with the Barnard Honor Code, descriptions of which can be found at http://www.barnard.edu/dos/honorcode

Subfield and Requirements: This course fulfills Barnard College’s Historical Studies (HIS) and Social Analysis (SOC) requirements. The course can count as a comparative politics course for Columbia students.
**Laptop Policy:** Laptops can be used in class ONLY for note taking. Any student found using his/her laptop (or any other piece of electronic equipment) for browsing, email, etc. will be asked to leave.

**Student Learning Objectives:** By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Identify key individuals, events, and turning points in modern European political history.
2. Identify and use some of the key perspectives on, and theories about, political development developed by social scientists.
3. Analyze a variety of arguments about the causes of the rise (and fall) of dictatorships and democracies in Europe during the modern era.
4. Develop and present their own arguments about the causes and consequences of key political episodes in modern European history.
5. Evaluate the relevance of Europe’s political development experience for countries at different stages of political development today.

**Readings:** All readings, except for those from the Merriman and Mazower volumes, will be available via courseworks. The Merriman and Mazower volumes will also be on reserve at the Barnard library. Reading/study questions to help guide you through the literature will be available with the readings on courseworks.
September 3: Introduction
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/05/world/middleeast/in-elections-across-the-world-democracy-is-a-matter-of-definition.html?_r=0

September 8: Theoretical Perspectives on Political Development

September 10: The Ancien Regime
- Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 7, pages 261-283 (NOT in vol. 2; available online via courseworks).
- E.N. Williams, The Ancien Règime in Europe, chapter 1, pages 1-19.

September 15: English Exceptionalism I
- Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 6, pages 222-248 (NOT in vol. 2; available online via courseworks).
- E.N. Williams, The Ancien Règime in Europe, chapter 20 (“Britain: Mixed Monarchy”).

- Documents: “The English Bill of Rights” and the coronation oath (http://www.jacobite.ca/documents/16890409.htm)

September 17: The French Revolution
- Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 12 (“The French Revolution”) and Chapter 13 (“Napoleon and Europe”)

- Documents:
  “Declaration of the Rights of Man” (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp)
  “The Constitution of 1791”
  Maximilian Robespierre, “Terror and Virtue”
September 22: The French Revolution
-Alexis De Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, Part 1, chapters 1-2, and 5; Part 2, chapter 1; and Part 3, chapter 8.
-Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions, pages 47-67 (strongly suggested: 118-128, 174-205).

September 24: The 1848 Revolutions
-Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 16 (“The Revolutions of 1848”)

Documents: Carl Schurz, A Look Back at 1848
(Excerpts: http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1848schurz.asp)
Percy B. St. John: The French Revolution in 1848
(http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1848johnson.asp)

September 29: The 1848 Revolutions
-Jonathon Sperber, The European Revolutions, pp. 245-59.
-Peter Stearns, 1848: The Revolutionary Tide in Europe, chapters 10 and 11.

Documents:
Engels, “The Failure of Revolution in Germany.”
National Song of Hungary:
http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1848hungary-natsong.asp

FIRST EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS!

October 1: The French Third Republic
October 6: The Unification of Italy
-Chapters by Raymond Grew (“How Success Spoiled the Risorgimento”), Denis Mack Smith (“A Prehistory of Fascism”), and Ernst Nolte (“How the European Knot was Tied in Italy”) in William Salomone, ed., Italy from Risorgimento to Fascism (Anchor Books, 1970).

FIRST EXAM DUE IN CLASS!

October 8: The Unification of Germany
-Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 17, subchapters: “The Unification of Germany” and “Conclusion.”
-Wolfgang Mommsen, Imperial Germany (Arnold 1996), chapter 1.

October 13: The First World War and its Aftermath
-Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 24 (“The Elusive Search for Stability”)
  subchapters: “The End of War,” “National and Ethnic Challenges,”
  “Economic and Social Instability.”
-Mazower, Dark Continent, pp. 3-32.

October 15: The Struggle for Democracy in France
-Merriman, A History of Modern Europe,
  chapter 25 (“The Europe of Economic Depression and Dictatorship”
  subchapter: “The Dynamics of Fascism: The Popular Front in France against the Far Right.”
October 20: English Exceptionalism II
(You should look back at the Birch reading from Jan. 28, esp. pages 34-42.)

October 22: The Collapse of Italian Democracy
-Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 25, subchapter: “The Dynamics of Fascism: Mussolini and Fascism in Italy.”

October 27: The Collapse of the Weimar Republic
-Merriman, A History of Modern Europe, chapter 24, subchapter: Political Instability: Germany’s Fragile Weimar Republic);
-chapter 25, subchapter: The Third Reich.

October 29: The Collapse of Democracy in Spain

SECOND EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS!

November 3: NO CLASS (mid semester break)
November 5: Understanding Fascism and National Socialism
-Seymour Martin Lipset, Political Man, chapter 5, esp. pages 127-37.
Documents:
-Alfredo Rocco, “The Political Doctrine of Fascism”
-Benito Mussolini, “The Doctrine of Fascism.”
-Alfred Rosenberg, “The Myth of the Twentieth Century.”
-Adolf Hitler, selections from his speeches and writings.

HAND IN SECOND EXAM IN CLASS!

November 10: Rebuilding Democracy in Western Europe

November 12: The Postwar Order in Western Europe
-Alan Milward, European Rescue of the Nation State (Routledge 1999), chapter 2.

November 17: The Rise of Communism in Eastern Europe
-Mazower, The Dark Continent, chapter 8.
November 19: The Democratization of Southern Europe

November 24: The Decline of Communism in Eastern Europe
- Mazower, The Dark Continent, chapter 11.

November 26: The Transition to Democracy in Eastern Europe

December 1: The Origins and Development of the European Union
- Desmond Dinan, Ever Closer Union (Lynne Riener, 2005), chapter 1.

Documents: “The Schuman Declaration” (May 9, 1950).

- Simon Hix, The Political System of the European Union (Palgrave Macmillan 2005), chapter 1 (This covers the basic structure and institutions of the EU. If you are already familiar with these things, you can skim this quickly).
December 3: Theoretical Perspectives on Political Development

December 8: Lessons Learned?
- Mazower, The Dark Continent, epilogue.