Political Science 4428: Topics in European Political Development
Spring 2019

This is an upper-level course in postwar European political development with a focus on
Western Europe. It is designed for undergraduates who already have some exposure to
European history or politics and/or comparative politics, and graduate students. The
course will analyze important theoretical works, and debates about critical issues and
events in postwar European political development and place the European experience in
comparative perspective.

Requirements: Readings are heavy and must be done before each class meeting. There is
more reading for this class than for a standard undergraduate class, but in line with what
is expected in graduate courses. In addition to completing the readings each week,
students will write two essay “exams” during the semester and a series of essays at the
end. Students will get ample time to digest the material they have read and we have
discussed; a week will be given to complete each set of essays. Each of the essay
“exams” during the semester will count for 25% of the grade and the final set of essays
will count for 35%. Class participation will constitute 15% of the grade. Because you
will have ample time to complete these essays, NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE
ACCEPTED.

All work is expected to be done in accordance with the Barnard Honor code (info about
which can be found here: https://barnard.edu/dos/honorcode). Plagiarism in any form
will result in a failing grade.

Course Readings: All readings will be available via courseworks except those in Brent
Nelson and Alexander Stubbs, The European Union which should be purchased.

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

1. Demonstrate substantive knowledge of many of the most critical issues and
   junctures in postwar European political development.
2. Identify and evaluate key scholarly literatures and debates on postwar European
   political development
3. Evaluate European political development in comparative perspective.
4. Understand the nature and causes of Europe’s current political and economic
   problems.
5. Construct, both orally and in writing, their own arguments about the key factors,
   events and dynamics driving postwar European political development.
Disability accommodation: If you have a documented disability and require academic accommodation, you must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and obtain a notification letter from ODS before meeting with your instructor to discuss accommodations. (You must register with ODS each semester.) Because of the nature of this class’ exams, extra exam time for these is not necessary. If you require any other sort of accommodation, let me know.
Week 1 (January 23): Introduction

Week 2 (January 30): The Domestic Postwar Order
- Andrew Shonfield, Modern Capitalism, chapter 1 pages 3-10, chapters 4 and then skim 5-12 (pick chapters on either Britain, France or Germany to read).
- Gosta Esping-Andersen, Politics Against Markets, chapters 5 (pp. 145-65) and chapter 7, pages 191-193 and 204-5. For the rest of chapter 7 note the key characteristics of Scandinavian social democratic model(s) -- politically and economically-- paying particular attention to the paradigmatic "Swedish model" (pp. 227ff).

Week 3 (February 6): The Postwar Welfare State
- Gosta Esping-Andersen, The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, Introduction and chapters 1, 2, 3 (pages 1-78).

Week 4 (February 13): The International Postwar Order
- Alan Milward, The European Rescue of the Nation State, chapter 2.

Week 5 (February 20): The Origins of European Integration
-T. R. Reid, *The United States of Europe*, chapter 2
-Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 17, 23 and 32 in Nelson and Stubbs, eds., *The European Union.*

Optional background on the development of European Integration:

Optional overview of European Integration theories:
-Antje Wiener and Thomaz Diez, eds., *European Integration Theory*, chapters 3,4,7,8.

First exam handed out at the end of class (due 5pm March 1 to coursework and me via email)

Week 6: (February 27) First Exam

Week 7 (March 6): Conceptualizing the European Union
-Chapter 31 in Nelson and Stubbs, eds., *The European Union.*
Week 8 (March 13): The Decline of the Postwar Order
- Gosta Esping-Andersen, Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 (5 is a review and is optional).
- Martin Sandbu, “Greater risk is as much a scourge as stagnant incomes,” https://www.ft.com/content/a657cb04-63da-11e8-90c2-9563a0613e56

Optional:

[March 20: Spring Break]

Week 9 (March 27): The Decline of the Postwar Order
- Clas Offe, “Participatory Inequality in the Austerity State.” in Armin Schäfer and Wolfgang Streeck, eds., Politics in the Age of Austerity.
- Christopher Bickerton, European Integration, chaps. 2 and 3.
Week 10 (April 3): Populism Definitions and Nature


- Yascha Mounk, The People vs. Democracy, chapter 1.


Optional:


Second Exam handed out in class (due 5pm April 12 to courseworks and me via email)

Week 11 (April 10): Second Exam
Week 12 (April 17): Populism’s Causes

Data:


-Martin Sandbu, “The economic problem tearing countries apart,”
https://www.ft.com/content/ab2f8a30-f47c-11e8-ae55-df4bf40f9d0d
-Martin Wolf, “Inequality is a threat to our democracies”
https://www.ft.com/content/47e3e014-e3ea-11e7-97e2-916d4fbac0da
-Peter Beinart, “The new authoritarians are waging war on women”

-Martin Eiermann, “Confronting Populist Anxieties” [Good summary of various views of populist voters]
https://institute.global/insight/renewing-centre/populist-anxieties

Optional

Week 13 (April 24): The European Union and the Crisis of Democracy


- Ashoka Mody, “The IMF abetted the European Union’s subversion of Greek democracy.”
  [https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/ashoka-mody/imf-abetted-european-union-s-subversion-of-greek-democracy](https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/ashoka-mody/imf-abetted-european-union-s-subversion-of-greek-democracy)

Optional:
Week 14 (May 1): Democratic Decline in Eastern Europe

- Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, How Democracies Die, Intro., chaps. 4 and 5.

- Ivan Krastev, “Central Europe is a lesson to Liberals: Don’t be anti-nationalist.”