POLS V3401: Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe
Mondays and Wednesdays 10:35-11:50am, MIL 328

Course Description: This course will examine the development of democracies and dictatorships in Europe from the French Revolution 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:
* 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: 40%. There will be two take home exams. Students will have one week to complete each exam (each exam will be worth 20% of the grade).
* Final exam: 45%. 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 (doctor’s notes will be required for the former).

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

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.

The following books will be available for purchase at Book Culture (536 West 112th street):

- Mark Mazower, Dark Continent. Europe’s Twentieth Century (Knopf 2000).
September 7: Introduction

September 12: Theoretical Perspectives on Political Development

September 14: 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 Régime in Europe, chapter 1, pages 1-19.

September 19: 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 Régime in Europe, chapter 20 (“Britain: Mixed Monarchy”).
- Anthony Birch, The British System of Government, pp. 31-42
- Document: “The English Bill of Rights”

September 21: The French Revolution

September 26: 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 28: The 1848 Revolutions

October 3: The 1848 Revolutions
  - Jonathan Sperber, The European Revolutions, pp. 245-59.
  - Peter Stearns, 1848: The Revolutionary Tide in Europe, chapters 10 and 11.
  - Document: Engels, “The Failure of Revolution in Germany.”

FIRST EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS!

October 5: The French Third Republic

October 10: 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).

HAND IN FIRST EXAM IN CLASS!

October 12: The Unification of Germany
  - Wolfgang Mommsen, Imperial Germany (Arnold 1996), chapter 1.

October 17: The First World War and its Aftermath
  - Mazower, Dark Continent, pp. 3-32.
October 19: The Struggle for Democracy in France

October 24: English Exceptionalism II
(You should look back at the Birch reading from Jan. 28, esp. pages 34-42.)

October 26: The Collapse of Italian Democracy

October 31: The Collapse of the Weimar Republic
November 2: The Collapse of Democracy in Spain

[November 7: mid semester break, no class]

November 9: 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.

SECOND EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS!

November 14: Rebuilding Democracy in Western Europe

November 16: The Postwar Order in Western Europe
-Alan Milward, European Rescue of the Nation State (Routledge 1999), chapter 2.

HAND IN SECOND EXAM IN CLASS!
November 21: The Rise of State Socialism in Eastern Europe
- Mazower, The Dark Continent, chapter 8.

November 23: The Democratization of Southern Europe

November 28: The Decline of State Socialism in Eastern Europe
- Mazower, The Dark Continent, chapter 11.

November 30: The Transition to Democracy in Eastern Europe

December 5: The Origins and Development of the European Union
- Desmond Dinan, Ever Closer Union (Lynne Rienner, 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 7: Theoretical Perspectives on Political Development

December 12: Lessons Learned?
- Mazower, The Dark Continent, epilogue.