

UNLV
PSC 407A-001
Fall 2006
CBC C128, MW 8:30- 9:45am

Instructor: Dr. Penny Pardoe
Office: WRI A210
E-mail: penny.pardoe@unlv.edu
Tel: (702) 895-3354
Office Hours: Monday 10:15am – 12:15pm and
Wednesday 2:30pm-3:30pm

Political Systems of Western Europe

COURSE PURPOSE AND DISCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to examine the major political systems of Western Europe since the end of the Second World War. It begins by broadly tracing the evolution of recent European history, placing current politics into their larger historical context, and reviewing some basic theoretical approaches toward studying different governmental systems. Following this foundation, the bulk of the course will examine various aspects (such as the party systems, electoral processes, and local government structures) of several Western European nations, paying particular attention to a core of five: the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Finland, and the Netherlands. The course will also include a detailed analysis of the European Union.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

The required text for this course is:

Gallagher, Laver, & Mair, *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, McGraw-Hill, 4th Edition (ISBN: 0-07-297706-X).

**Further readings will be required but these materials will be available to you through library services.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

This class will be conducted via a series of lectures and class discussions. A schedule of lecture and discussion topics, as well as reading assignments, is provided below. However, be aware that additional reading may be added to the schedule, and that the schedule itself may change due to time constraints. Any changes will be announced at least a week in advance.

ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You will be required to complete the following:

- 3 tests
- one article report (7 pages typed)
- one oral report
- and one final exam

The due dates for the above mentioned are indicated in the schedule provided below.

All tests will include a combination of multiple choice, identification, true and false, and essay questions.

More details on the procedures and requirements of the reports will be provided early in the semester.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Your final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance: 5%
Participation: 5%
First Test: 10%

2nd Test: 15%
Third Test: 15%
Article Report: 15%
Oral Report: 10%
Final Exam: 25%

GRADING:

All final numerical grades will be transcribed into letter grades as follows:

100-93= A	75- 73= C
92- 89 = A-	72- 69= C-
88- 86= B+	68- 66= D+
85- 83= B	65- 63= D
82- 79= B-	62- 59= D-
78-76= C+	58- 0 = F

CLASS POLICIES:

1. Attendance: Attendance is taken and counts toward part of your final grade. Anyone coming to class more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes early will be counted as absent.

2. Class participation: Class participation also counts toward your final grade. Discussion periods are specifically designed to evaluate your performance. Keeping up with your reading and preparing in advance for discussion will help you achieve a high grade in this area.

3. Exam and Missed Test Policy:

If a student has an extraordinary, legitimate, and proven reason for missing a test (such as religious holidays or extracurricular activities), and the instructor is notified at least 2 weeks prior to the test date, arrangements for a make-up can be made during the semester. Otherwise, all students can make-up any missed tests on the last day of class. Note: that the format of the make-up tests will **not necessarily** be the same as that of the regularly scheduled test.

The final exam **must** be taken at the scheduled date during finals week. No make ups or early final exams will be given.

5. Late Papers. For the purposes of fairness, students who do not turn in their written assignments on time will be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day (including weekends and holidays).

7. Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism, Cheating). Such instances may (and will most likely) result in a **FAILURE** for the *entire course*. See the “*Student Academic Misconduct Policy*.”

LECTURE, DISCUSSION, AND READING SCHEDULE:

Week 1

August 28th and 30th

Lecture: Introduction and Western European History

Assigned Reading- Gallagher- Chapter 1, and El Hamel and Chouki, “Muslim Diaspora in Western Europe: the Islamic Headscarf (Hijab), the Media, and Muslims’ Integration in France,” *Citizenship Studies*, Sep2002, Vol. 6 Issue 3, p293-308.

Discussion Question: Are religious conflicts inevitable in Europe? What are some of the reasons for its rise in recent years, particularly in relation to France?

Week 2

September 6th (September 4th is Labor Day-have a nice holiday)

Lecture: The Executive- Presidents and Monarchs

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 2 (pages 24-34), and Willerton, John P.; Carrier, Martin, "Jospin, Political Cohabitation, and Left Politics," *French Politics, Culture & Society*, Summer2005, Vol. 23 Issue 2, p43-70.

Discussion Question: How does Semi-Presidentialism differ from Presidentialism? What is cohabitation? What effect has it had during the 1997-2002 period in French politics?

Week 3

September 11th and 13th

Lecture: The Executive- Prime Ministers and Cabinets

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 2 (pages 35-55) and Chapter 3 (pages 57-66) and Heffernan, Richard, "Prime Minister Predominance," *British Journal of Politics & International Relations*, Aug2003, Vol. 5 Issue 3, p347-372.

Discussion Question: Describe the relationship between PM and cabinet in the UK. Is this relationship best described as "first among equals"?

Week 4

September 18th and 20th

Lecture: Parliaments

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 3 (pages 66-82)

******Test on Wednesday September 20th**

Week 5

September 25th and 27th

Lecture: Constitutions and Judicial Review

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 4

Week 6

October 2nd and 4th

Lecture: Regional, and Local Governments

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 6 (165-185)

Week 7

October 9th and 11th

Lecture: Party Systems

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 7

***Oral Presentations begin on Wednesday**

Week 8

October 16th and 18th

Lecture: Civil Servants

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 6 (154-165)

*** Test on Wednesday October 18th**

Week 9

October 23rd and 25th

Lecture: Party Families

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 8

Week 10

October 30th and November 1st

Lecture: Cleavages and Electoral Trends

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 9

Week 11

November 6th and 8th

Lecture: Elections and Electoral Systems

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 11

***Test on Wednesday November 8th**

Week 12

November 13th and 15th

Lecture: Forming and Keeping Governments

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- Chapter 12

*** Report Due on Monday at the beginning of class**

Week 13

November 20th and 22nd (Happy Thanksgiving- break starts on the 23rd)

Lecture: Interest Groups

Assigned Reading: Gallagher-Chapter 14

Week 14

November 27th and 29th

Lecture: EU Institutions

Assigned Reading: Gallagher-Chapter 5 (pages 115-136)

Week 15

December 5th and 7th

Lecture: EU Politics and Problems

Assigned Reading: Gallagher- the rest of Chapter 5

Final Exam

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Copyright Law:

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website:

<<http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>>

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – *The Executive Vice President and Provost and Faculty Senate have endorsed the following statement to be included in all course syllabi.* NOTE: Over two-thirds of the students in the DRC reported that the syllabus statement, often read aloud by the faculty during class, directed them to the DRC office.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. **If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact**

numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.

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