Course Description and Objectives:

The goals of this course are two-fold: (i) to familiarize students with the political institutions and processes of Western Europe (ii) to provide students the theoretical and historical background that will allow them to understand the rapid transformations in Western European politics following the end of the Second World War. As the ‘Politics and Government’ of Western Europe is such a wide topic, this course will focus on select themes that have been integral to the political development of the region (e.g. the changing relationship between state, society and economy). Historical and sociological sources will therefore be used to explore the political development, economic reforms and social cleavages of Western Europe. Drawing on a more traditional comparative approach, the course also examines the institutions, political economies and electoral politics of three large and influential states; the United Kingdom, France and Germany. By utilizing two approaches throughout the course - comparative political science and historical/political sociology - students will be equipped with multiple tools for interpreting the rapid transformations of European politics over the past century.

The course is divided into three sections. The first section examines the historical background of the modern state in Western Europe. Under what conditions did the centralized – yet predominately liberal – European state come into being? How has the underlying relationship between the state and its citizenry changed since the time of initial industrialisation, and again after WWII? The second section of the course explores the government and politics of three large and influential states (mentioned above). This section of the course is heavily empirical and stresses the importance of institutional, processual and electoral difference in Western Europe. The third section explores recent transformations in European politics that have (or may) upset the political order created after WWII. This thematic section is arranged via three cases; the rise of a populist and often ‘extreme’ radical right, forms of resistance to bourgeois liberalism, and ‘neoliberal’ political and economic shifts within Western Europe over the previous twenty-five years.

Readings:
There are two **required texts** for the course:

(available for purchase in the Carleton Bookstore)


Note: Readings from non-course texts will be made available on WebCT. The newspaper and journal articles can be accessed via the subscription databases of MacOdrum Library.

Note: * readings are supplementary

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Mid-term Exam  
**40%** (in class on March 8)

Final Exam  
**35%** (April 8-24: TBA)

Reflection paper  
**15%** (due April 5)

Attendance  
**10%** (recorded every class)

**Mid-Term Examination:**

A mid-term exam will be given in class on March 8. The exam will consist of a combination of short answers and one essay question. It will cover topics from readings and lectures from the first half of the course. If attendance on this day poses a problem, you should contact the instructor immediately.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will be held during the scheduled examination period (April 8-24). The **final exam will be cumulative** and will consist of a single essay. Your answer should draw from both course readings and lectures. During preparation for the final it is recommended that students pay particular attention to three themes covered in the last section of the course (‘Current Themes in Western European Politics’). The essay question will require students to apply detailed knowledge on how these three problems/trajectories pose challenges to the postwar settlement in Western Europe.

Because this course covers historical developments and current themes/problems, it is highly recommended students follow political developments through print or web media. The following is a list of (English) daily newspapers weekly periodicals and websites that offer extensive coverage of Western European politics:

*The New York Times*  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)  
(registration free, paper edition also available around Ottawa)

*Washington Post*  
[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)  
(registration free)

*Christian Science Monitor*  
[www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)

*Economist*  
(find at libraries or newsstands)

*BBC*  
[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

*EUobserver*  
[www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)  
(great site for current news on EU)

*The Guardian*  
[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

*Financial Times*  
[www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)
**Critical Reflection Essay:**
This essay is not intended as a research paper. Rather, it is an opportunity for students to engage critically with one of the readings from the course. The premise is quite simple; choose one reading, describe the main points of the reading, and present evidence that either supports or contests the central claims of the reading. For example: Does the essay/chapter represent the problem accurately? Are the arguments logical and consistent? Could the central argument of the piece be contested by drawing on specific cases from Western Europe? Would a different theoretical approach provide a more convincing analysis of the phenomena under investigation? While outside sources should be used, they should be selectively deployed. The stress here is on using a few outside sources to engage one course reading in a substantive/analytical manner. The essay must go beyond mere description, though around 30-40% of the essay may be used to provide a summary of the reading. The paper should be between 6-8 pages in length. Papers are due on April 5th. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

**Attendance:**
It is expected that students attend lectures. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to receive satisfactory marks on exams without attending class. The final mark for this course is mostly determined by mastery of course material, not independent student research. Please note: Exams will cover material from both the readings and lectures. Lectures will be (partially) used to discuss and expand on the readings, but will not just summarize readings. Therefore, some information will be presented in lecture that may not be found in the readings (and vice versa). Attendance will be recorded at the end of each course.

**Returning Assignments:**
All assignments (including attendance) will be given a numerical mark and a corresponding letter grade. Students will have both their mid-term exams and critical essays returned to them in class (the critical reflection paper on exam day). Papers should be handed in on the due date, or before, in class. Late papers may be put in the drop box outside the Political Science office. Note: Anything that arrives in the drop box later than 4 p.m is stamped with the next day’s date.

**Schedule:** (Both the reading list and the dates are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. I have a long list of ‘supplementary’ readings for most weeks of the course. Please ask if you are interested!)

**Section I – The Making of the Modern Western European State**

**January 4: Introduction to Course**
- No required readings
- Distribution and discussion of course outline

**January 11: Creation of the Modern State and ‘Citizens’ in Western Europe**

January 18: Interwar Period and Postwar (WWII) Recovery

January 25: The Rise of ‘Social’ Liberalism

Section II – The Comparative Approach

February 1: Varieties of State Intervention
- Kesselman pp. (UK) 52-68, (France) 120-130, (Germany) 194-207

February 8: Comparing States I: Institutions
- Kesselman pp. (UK) 36-49, 72-81 (France) 104-118, 132-145 (Germany) 176-192, 210-222.

February 15: Winter Break

February 22 & March 1: Comparing States II: Parties and Elections
- Kesselman pp. (UK) 84-94 (France) 148-163 (Germany) 224-237.
- *lectures will include additional information on party formation and party/system evolution not covered in readings

March 8: Mid-Term Examination (in class)
- No assigned readings. Please review course readings and lecture notes.
Section III – Current Themes in Western European Politics

March 15: Political and Economic Neoliberalism in Western Europe


March 22: The Populist Radical Right in Western Europe


March 29: ‘Resistance’ and ‘Toleration’ in Postwar Western Europe


 Academic Accommodations
For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 16, 2009 for December examinations and March 12, 2010 for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.
**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.