

Comparative European Politics
Prof. Mike Bosia
Saint Michael's College

I. Introduction

With the Euro dominating over the dollar, and an Italian company owning Chrysler and a French one controlling Nissan, it might be time to ask: is Europe a cohesive political entity, a cultural group, an alternative center of global power? Or does the linguistic, cultural, and political diversity undercut any such suggestion, meaning “Europe” as an idea is merely a legacy of racial and colonial myths?

In this course, we will consider Europe as a region of origins through the diversity of national experiences. In Europe, along with China, we find the origins of the modern concept of the state and nation. European ideas of democracy, capitalism, social welfare, and human rights provide origins for these concepts. Even totalitarianism and authoritarianism, military juntas, and coup d'état all have their origins (and legacies) in Europe. We will also consider individual European countries as a source of politics and a place where new ideas are contested today. Globalization and reactions to it are in many ways European ideas – with origins in European colonialism – and *intranational* governance exists nowhere else like it does in the European Union. The battle over moral relevance – between secular and spiritual visions – takes place in Europe with even more vociferousness than it does elsewhere. Europe remains a destination for immigrants from all over the former colonial empires, the British monarch is as well the head of state from Barbados and Canada to New Zealand, and European countries such as France and Russia hold fully integrated territory where their citizens live in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and East Asia. Despite its small size and limited population, Europe (and now the Euro) are important players in international institutions and within the global economy and civil society.

The goal of this course is to provide an understanding of European politics today and of the field of Comparative European Politics through specific case studies and classic theoretical works that contrast and debate different perspectives, theories, and approaches.

II. Texts

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
Calleo, *Rethinking Europe's Future*
Modood et al, *The Politics of Multiculturalism in the New Europe*

Additional texts are available with the schedule on E-College. You will need a computer with adobe acrobat reader, which is available on all campus computers and free at www.adobe.com

Readings should be completed for Tuesday of each week, unless otherwise noted. My goal is to provide readings that total approximately 100 pages per WEEK, so please pay careful attention to what chapters are assigned from the assigned texts and for what weeks.

III. Evaluations

Weekly Assignments (50 pts):

- A. Two 4-page response papers on a week's reading, one produced in the first 7 weeks, and the second produced in the last half of the course. (10 points each, 20 points total).
- B. Choice of either (5 points each, 25 total):
 - i. 2 pages of notes on readings for 5 weeks, as indicated below, or
 - ii. 2 page response paper on readings for 5 weeks
- C. You will be called on to present your work during one of these weeks (5 points).

You will sign up on the first day.

Notes/Response papers: Outline of the author's or authors' argument, with necessary key points. These are a brief synopsis. You need to grasp the central argument or theme and the most important evidence. You will also be evaluated on the completeness of the assignment – does it reflect all the readings for a week? Response papers must also RESPOND to the readings – be critical, argue, disagree, contest, contrast.

Notes take the form of an informational hierarchy. NOT JUST A LIST. Use any format you desire, but stick to the format.

Argument: State clearly and briefly the author's primary argument. Then organize your notes in terms of a hierarchy, such as the one the author might provide through sections or chapters. Contrast with previous readings

- 1. Chapter 1. What is this chapter about?
 - A. Important point
 - i. Evidence
 - ii. Evidence
 - B. Important point
 - i. Evidence

Participation (10):

Your considered and thoughtful participation in classroom discussion is required. Points will be rewarded to students who raise questions or issues from the readings, from current events that relate to the topic for the week, and for insightful comments that advance the discussion in class. Participation means informed comments or questions, but you do not have to be "right" in your comments, only thoughtful and related to the readings, assignments, current events, and discussion. In fact, you are encouraged to ask questions

and point out anything you find confusing or difficult to understand. That is also participation. Bring several questions or key points that you might want to raise. It must be voluntary on your part – being called on does not constitute participation!

Attendance (12):

Attendance will be recorded as you hand in a news story about any European country in any European language from any European source. It must be an analytical story of more than 6 paragraphs. A point per day. Twelve weeks recorded. You could be called on to present your story in class.

Final Paper (28): Either a take home exam, or a paper that synthesizes key arguments around a few facts, exploring an issue common to several European countries (your choice). Length: 7-11 pages double spaced, determined by the professor in consultation with the class and based on overall preparedness and performance during the semester. Due when the final exam is scheduled.

General Rules and Regulations:

No late assignments will be accepted, except in cases of emergency as determined by college policy. Quizzes cannot be taken late, though in some circumstances other arrangements can be made. Papers with evidence of plagiarism or significant grammatical errors will not be accepted, and no resubmissions are allowed in such cases. Please see the college policy on plagiarism, and if you have any questions about grammar, contact the college writing center. Word Processing programs include spell and grammar checkers – pay attention to the red and green lines!!! Email submissions are allowed only with prior approval.

Note on sources for written work: Online encyclopedias and dictionaries are helpful for retrieving facts (statistics, institutions, leaders), but are not legitimate sources for research projects. You typically do not need to cite these sources for facts that are generally known (the president of a country, for example); only cite them for more obscure information (the percentage of citizens of foreign birth, for example). Legitimate research sources are academic books and articles, editorials and opinion articles, websites with statistical data such as the CIA and IMF, and political speeches or proclamations that express an argument or perspective. Ask a librarian about online searches through JSTOR and other databases.

Using or quoting other works or another's ideas without citation is plagiarism and subjects the perpetrator to college disciplinary proceedings.

What is Europe?

Week 1 What is Europe?

Week 2 Comparative Politics

The Origins of the European State

Tilly, “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime”
 Tarrow, “Making Social Science Work Across Space and Time: A
 Critical Reflection on Robert Putnam’s *Making Democracy Work*”

European and the Origins of Capitalism

Week 3 What is a commodity? A market? The “market economy”?

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
 Part Two, Section I., “Satanic Mill”
 Chaps 3-10

Film: *The Queen* (UK)

Week 4 What is liberalism? Protection? The double movement?

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
 Part Two, Section II., “Self-Protection Society”
 Chaps 11-18

The Nation in the Nation-State

Week 5 Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Chaps 1-6

Film: *Amélie* (FR)

Week 6 Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Chaps 7-10

Week 7 Columbus Day NO CLASS

Case Studies in Divergent Political Economies

Week 8 Economic Development and Welfare State Origins

Gerschenkron, “Economic Backwardness in Historical
 Perspective”

Katzenstein, *Small States in the World Economy*, Introduction and
 Chap 4

Leubbert, “Origins of Modern Capitalist Polities and Labor
 Markets in Western Europe”

The Context of European Engagements at Home and Abroad

Week 9 Calleo, *Rethinking Europe’s Future*

Chaps 2-5, 7

Film: *Mostly Martha* (Ger)

Week 10 Calleo, *Rethinking Europe's Future*
Chaps 8, 9, 11, 12

Themes and Case Studies in a Globalized World

Week 11 Economic and Political Change

Ost, "Illusory Corporatism in Eastern Europe, Neoliberal Tripartism and Post Communist Class Identities"
Loriaux, "France: A New Capitalism of Voice"
Hay and Coates, "The Internal and External Face of New Labour's Political Economy"
Vassallo, "Government Under Berlusconi: The Functioning of the Core Institutions in Italy"
Woodworth, "Spain's Second Transition"

Germany

Week 12 Culture Wars

Modood et al, *The Politics of Multiculturalism in the New Europe*
Chap 1, Introduction
Hirsi Ali, "Islam and the EU's Identity Deficit"
Burgess, "European Identity and the Challenge from South and East"
Gilbert, "Europe Looks for a New Narrative"
Pijpers, "Help, the Poles are coming! Narrating a Contemporary Moral Panic"
Weigel, "Europe's Two Culture Wars"

Recommended:

Kamdar, "April in Paris"

Week 13 Sexuality and Citizenship

Rayside, "Homophobia, Class, and Party in England"
Stychon, "We Want to Join Europe, Not Sodom,"
Graff, "We Are (Not All) Homophobes: A Report from Poland"
Kollman, "Same Sex Unions: The Globalization of an Idea"
Michallat, "Marions-nous! Gay Rites: The Campaign for Gay Marriage in France"

Week 14 Gender and Participation

State Feminism and Political Representation
Chaps 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 available on E-College

Thursday is Thanksgiving

Week 15 Race and Immigration

Modood et al, *The Politics of Multiculturalism in the New Europe*
Chaps 2, 3, 4
Sell, "Immigration and the Lega Nord: Racism Italian Style"

Take Home Final Exam/Project