**POLITICAL SCIENCE 352U: INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN POLITICS**

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Fall 2017  
Office: 650-M URBN  
MWF: 9:00-10:05  
Office Hour: Friday 2:00-3:00 (or by appt.)  
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**Objectives and Approach:**

This course is an introduction to the political systems and politics of countries in both western and eastern Europe. Our focus will be on the institutions, policies, and political behavior in European countries, as well as an examination of the roles of culture, ideology, and history in this region. In addition, we will consider the reality of politics in multiple case studies, including France, Germany, the U.K., Hungary, and Ukraine. Finally, we will examine European integration, and consider the costs and benefits of this union.

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

- 20% = quizzes  
- 10% = class participation  
- 30% = paper  
- 40% = final exam (take-home)

Class attendance is required, and you will be responsible for all lecture materials. You are expected to do the reading for each week and be prepared to discuss the reading in lecture.

A note about the quizzes: Six quizzes will be given during this course, none of which will be announced in advance. There will be no make-ups for these quizzes, but only five of your quiz grades will count in compiling your course grade. In other words, one quiz is free- you can miss it or fail it, and there will be no penalty to your grade. The quiz questions will be relatively simple, and will be designed to test whether or not you completed the readings assigned for that day.

The paper is described fully in the paper assignment sheet, but do note that you must turn in a paper copy of your paper on either October 11, October 23, November 6, or November 20. Please- no emailed submissions, only printed-out paper copies. Also, I will not accept a late paper. Our discussion in class on the paper due dates will essentially focus on the paper topic, so writing a paper on the book after you’ve heard our discussion would not be fair to those who completed the paper on time. Again, while you can choose to turn in your paper on any of the four dates above, you cannot submit a paper late- I will not accept it.

**Recommended Reading:**

Being informed about what is going on in the world is always a good idea. We will spend some time in this course discussing contemporary European politics, and though it is not required I highly recommend spending a little time each day checking the international news. Keeping up with European events will enhance the quality of our discussions as we incorporate what we are learning with what we see and read in the news. Listed below are some of the best news sources you can use to stay aware of events in Europe.

- *The Economist*
- *BBC News*

**Required Reading:**

The following books have been ordered by the PSU bookstore- all readings are required.

2. *Why Not Socialism?*, Cohen  
4. *Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty*, Jones  

**In addition to these books, there will be a few required readings available online. You can access these readings via my website (hereafter referred to as “ONLINE”)**

**Academic Honesty:** Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation is a very serious matter. PSU rules concerning academic dishonesty are spelled out in the General Catalog. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are individual, and no collaboration with any other person is permitted. In-class tests are closed-book, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced. Any academic dishonesty will without exception be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

**Class Schedule:**
Mon, Sept 25: Introduction and logistics  
(\begin{center} begin reading *Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty* now \end{center})

Wed, Sept 27: Europe Overview  
1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.1

Fri, Sept 29: Democratic Ideals and Electoral Systems  
1. ONLINE: Chapter 1 of *The Character of Democracy*  
2. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.3

Mon, Oct 2: Electoral Systems (continued)  
1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.3  

Wed, Oct 4: Cabinet Formation and Heads of State  
1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.4

Fri, Oct 6: Germany and the Rise of the Nazi Party  
(no readings, no official class. Dr. Valdini is out of town, and will be showing a video instead of lecture. You can attend class to watch the video or watch it at home- either way is fine, as long as you have completed watching both videos before class on Wednesday. The video will be discussed in lecture on Wednesday, Oct 11 and the content of the video will be fair game for the final exam)  
Video for today: “The Nazis: A Warning From History”  

Mon, Oct 9: Hitler’s Methods for Cultivating Legitimacy  
(no readings, no official class. Dr. Valdini is out of town, and will be showing a video instead of lecture. You can attend class to watch the video or watch it at home- either way is fine, as long as you have completed watching both videos before class on Wednesday. The video will be discussed in lecture on Wednesday, Oct 11 and the content of the video will be fair game for the final exam)  
Video for today: “The Nazis: A Warning From History”

Wed, Oct 11: Transition from Monarchy to Democracy (Paper 1 Due)
  (discuss videos)
  1. Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty (entirety)

Fri, Oct 13: Transition from Monarchy to Democracy (continued)
  1. Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty (entirety)
  2. ONLINE: “The Void Within; The Fate of Catholic Europe” in The Economist, 8/7/10
     (begin reading Why Not Socialism? now)

Mon, Oct 16: European Parties
  1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.2
  2. ONLINE: “What the Stunning Success of AfD means for Germany and Europe” in The Guardian, 9/24/17

Wed, Oct 18: Courts
  1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 5

Fri, Oct 20: Interest Groups
  1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch. 9
     PLEASE NOTE: You are only required to read pages 129-137; no need to read the entire article.

Mon, Oct 23: Ideology of Socialism (Paper 2 Due)
  1. Why Not Socialism? (entirety)

Wed, Oct 25: Ideology of Socialism (continued)
  1. Why Not Socialism? (entirety)
  2. ONLINE: “Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party” in Britannica Online Encyclopedia
     (begin reading Iron Curtain now)

Fri, Oct 27: Social Movements
  1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.8

Mon, Oct 30 Social Movements
  1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.8
  2. ONLINE: “Ukraine’s Long-Smoldering War for Independence” in The Atlantic, 8/24/16

Wed, Nov 1: Referenda & Federalism
  1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.6 & 7
Fri, Nov 3: Policy Outcomes
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.10
   2. ONLINE: “The Nordic Countries: The Next Supermodel” in The Economist, 2/2/13

Mon, Nov 6: Reality of Socialism (Paper 3 Due)
   1. Iron Curtain (entirety)

Wed, Nov 8: Reality of Socialism (continued)
   1. Iron Curtain (entirety)
   (begin reading The Impossible Country now)

Fri, Nov 10: Veterans Day- NO CLASS

Mon, Nov 13: Legacy of Socialism
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.11
   2. ONLINE: “A Democracy Road Trip Through Hungary” in the New York Times, 7/1/17

Wed, Nov 15: European Union
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.14
   2. ONLINE: “Can Europe Go On Like This?” in The Atlantic, 2/16/17

Fri, Nov 17: European Union (continued)
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.14

Mon, Nov 20: Nationalism and Ethnicity (Paper 4 Due)
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.12
   2. The Impossible Country (entirety)

Wed, Nov 22: Nationalism and Ethnicity (continued)
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.12
   2. The Impossible Country (entirety)

Fri, Nov 24: Thanksgiving Holiday- NO CLASS

Mon, Nov 27: Power-Sharing in Divided Societies
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.13

Wed, Nov 29 Globalization & the Future of Europe
   1. Crepaz & Steiner, Ch.15
   2. ONLINE: “Poland, Wedded to Coal, Spurns Europe on Clean Energy Targets” in the New York Times, 10/31/13

Fri, Dec 1: Exam review and course conclusions

Tuesday, December 5: Final Exam Due
   A paper copy of your final exam must be submitted to my mailbox by 4pm on this day.
   Instructions for content will be distributed in week 10.