

European Politics & Government

SL 363 Winter 2007-08



Professor **TERRENCE CASEY**

Office: Moench A 205 or A209 PHONE: 877-8281

Office Hours: MTRF 6th Hour or walk-in

E-Mail: casey1@rose-hulman.edu

RHIT Mailbox: #93

This course will introduce you to the history, culture, politics, and institutions of the major European democracies -- the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy. In addition, we will examine the politics and institutions of the European Union.

READINGS: The main text for the course will be **Mark Kesselman and Joel Krieger, et al., *European Politics in Transition, Fifth Edition***. Other readings may be assigned as appropriate during the term. You are also expected to keep abreast of European current events. The best English-language sources for European news are the BBC (news.bbc.co.uk), *The Economist* (www.economist.com), *The New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) and Deutsche Welle (www.dw-world.de). All are available on-line and are free. You are expected to read one of these EVERY DAY and come to class prepared to discuss current events.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your grade will be based on the following:

(A) Section Tests (55% total; 5% for the Comparative Politics Test and 10% each for the country and EU test). You will be given a test covering each section of the course. Tests will consist of assorted objective questions (multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, etc.) drawn from both the readings and the lectures. **The tests are scheduled on the dates listed below, but are subject to change.**

(B) Research Paper (20%). Topic and Bibliography due on Friday, December 7; Research paper due on Monday, February 4th. You will be required to write a 10-15-page research paper on an important political topic related to the politics and/or government of a European polity, preferably one or more of the countries studied in the course. More detailed instructions will be handed out separately.

(C) Final Exam (25%). Date/Time TBA. This will be an all essay exam focused on incorporating material from throughout the course in comparative analysis of the major European polities studied in the course.

COURSE POLICIES: The following policies apply unless otherwise stated.

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion is expected. In order to do this effectively, you need to keep up with the reading and stay informed

about current events. You are also responsible for all material presented in class and much of the exams will be based on material that will only be presented in lecture. *If you desire a good grade in the course, come to class, pay attention, and take notes!*

Cheating: You are expected to abide by the terms of the Institute's Honor Code, which states that: "Plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another and presenting them as your own. Cheating is making use of any assistance on an examination, assignment, or other class project (including written reference materials, help from other students, etc.) beyond that authorized by the professor." Penalties for academic misconduct are at the discretion of the professor and can range from the loss of all credit on an assignment to a formal hearing before the Institute's Rules and Discipline Committee. It is incumbent upon you to know what constitutes academic misconduct and make sure to avoid it. If you are in any way unsure about what constitutes a violation, please ask me. ***Claiming ignorance after the fact is not a valid excuse. Think rationally; the risks outweigh the gains.***

Late Assignments: Extensions for exams or assignments will only be given if you have a ***legitimate excuse and you contact me in advance. All late assignments will receive a letter grade reduction for each day (including weekend days) that they are late.*** You can reach me via e-mail, voicemail, or by dropping a note in either my campus or HSS mailbox. Short of being in a coma, you should be able to reach me if there is a problem. I am very accommodating to those who alert me to a problem in advance; I will be far less friendly if you approach me after the fact.

Ideological Perspectives: I have no intention of trying to indoctrinate you with my beliefs. The issues we will be exploring are often contentious and there are not right or wrong answers per se. That being said, *there are good and bad arguments.* You may hold any opinion you wish, but ***your arguments must be logically sound and supported by the available evidence.***

Overall, I can only facilitate the learning process; I cannot force knowledge into your heads. All of you are adults and fully capable of being responsible students and active learners. That means that if you do not understand something *you* need to take the initiative to find out the answer -- raise your hand, talk to me after class, come to my office. I cannot read minds, so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

Topics and Readings

NOTE: The following is only a *tentative* schedule of topics, readings, lectures and tests. This may be changed during the course of the semester depending on how quickly we cover the material. So please keep in mind that **THE DATES FOR TESTS MAY CHANGE!!!!**

I: Comparative Political Analysis (Week 1)

1. Core Concepts for Understanding European Democracies
Kesselman and Krieger, Introduction



Comparative Political Analysis Test, Friday, November 30
Paper Topic and Bibliography Due, Friday, December 7

II: The United Kingdom (Weeks 2-4)

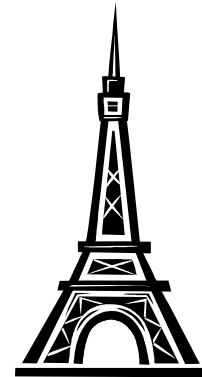
1. The Making of the Modern British State
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 6
2. Governance and Policymaking Institutions
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 8
3. Representation and Participation
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 9
4. British Political Economy
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 7
5. British Politics in Transition
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 10



United Kingdom Test on Friday, December 21

III. France (Weeks 5-6)

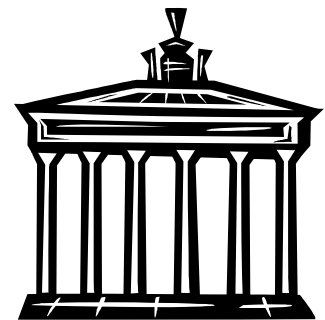
1. The Making of the Modern French State
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 11
2. Governance and Policymaking Institutions
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 13
3. Representation and Participation
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 14
4. French Political Economy
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 12
5. French Politics in Transition
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 15



France Test on Friday, January 18

IV. Germany (Weeks 7-8)

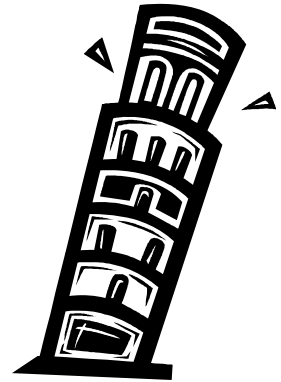
1. The Making of the Modern German State
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 16
2. Governance and Policymaking Institutions
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 18
3. Representation and Participation
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 19
4. German Political Economy
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 17
5. German Politics in Transition
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 20



Germany Test on Friday, February 1 Research Paper Due Monday, February 4

V. Italy (Week 9)

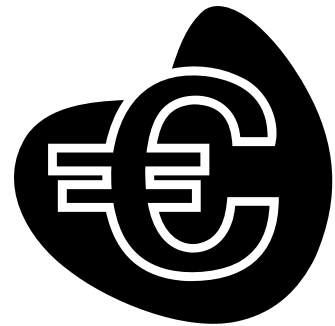
1. The Making of the Modern Italian State
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 21
2. Governance and Policymaking Institutions
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 23
3. Representation and Participation
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 24
4. Italian Political Economy
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 22
5. Italian Politics in Transition
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 25



Italy Test on Friday, February 8

VI. The European Union (Week 10)

1. The Making of the European Union
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapter 1
2. European Institutions and Policies
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapters 3-4
3. A Union of States or a United States of Europe?
Kesselman and Krieger, Chapters 2 and 5



European Union Test on Friday, February 15

FINAL EXAM Date/Time/Location TBA