

POSC 333
West European Politics
Intersession 1999

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Office Hours: M-R 11:15-12:00
and by appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine: the historical development of Europe; the process of democratization; the politics of representation; the features of public policy; and interdependence in Europe. The course will be run in a seminar style such that students are responsible for the readings and discussion in class.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will offer a means to evaluate the current problems and issues in European politics. An understanding of European history is essential in making sense of some of the dilemmas, and the range of possible solutions, that face Europe at this time. At the end of the course, students should be able to critically analyze events in this region and be well versed on the major issues affecting politics in Europe.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

All students should have at their disposal the following:

Mark Kesselman, et al., *European Politics in Transition*, 3rd Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997.

IV. EVALUATION

There will be no in-class examinations in this course. Evaluation will be conducted by way of in class writing assignments and Internet assignments. There will be four of each type of assignment with Internet assignments due throughout

each week and the writing assignments due every Friday.

In order to facilitate the completion of these assignments, class time will be used by visits to the computer lab and portions of class devoted to the actual writing assignments. In this way the student will become an active participant in the learning process and not merely a note-taker.

Since an understanding of geography is necessary to fully appreciate politics, there will be one map quiz in this class. The map quiz will be a 2-3 page account of your dream vacation in Europe assuming you had unlimited time and funds. You must address where you would go, why, and what you would see once there. Be as specific as you can. Also include a map of your planned route and how you would get there.

Your final course score will be calculated as follows:

4 Weekly Writing Assignments :	25 points each
4 Internet Assignments:	15 points each
Map Assignment:	40 points

The total number of possible points in the class is 200 with the following range for letter grades:

A:	180-200 points
B:	160-179
C:	140-159
D:	120-139
A:	below 119

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Late assignments will be heavily penalized given the brevity of the Intersession. Work not turned in on time will result in a letter grade per day penalty. If you are experiencing problems either inside or outside the class which will interfere with your academic performance you need to notify me as soon as possible so that we may consider alternatives given your particular situation. Failure to notify me in advance or in a timely fashion releases me from the professional courtesy of granting you an extension.

3. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

There is no strict attendance policy for lectures in this class. Students should, however, be advised that it would be very difficult to do well in this class without attending. I assume you are, by this stage in your academic careers, adults and will come to class to learn. I will be very mindful of students who attend class, and those

who do not, and grades may reflect that observation.

CLASS STRUCTURE

This class will incorporate Internet and writing exercises so that students can not only improve those particular skills but also increase their knowledge about European politics and four countries in Europe. To that end, two days out of four devoted to a particular country will be augmented by sessions at the computer lab and the other two to the completion of writing assignments. Every class will start with a lecture for 75 minutes; from 9:00-10:15. The remainder of the class, from 10:15 to 11:15, will be spent alternatively either writing in class or at the computer lab completing Internet assignments. For example, in the first section on Great Britain, 5 and 7 January will lectures followed by Internet sessions at Compton. January 6th and 8th will start off as lectures and then finish with writing assignments. These are the assignments on which you will be graded and each will be specific.

COURSE OUTLINE

4 January:	Opening remarks, review of the syllabus
5-8 January:	Great Britain Kesselman, Part II, p.39
11-14 January:	France Kesselman, Part III, p.133
15, 19-21 January:	Germany Kesselman, Part IV, p.239
22 January:	MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE
22, 25-27 January:	Italy Kesselman, Part V, p.335