

Political Science 355N
Democratic Political Systems
Fall 2008

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Office MWF 10:00-11:00
Graham 213 A
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Course Meeting Time: MWF 1:00-1:50, Graham 204

Syllabus and Course Outline

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce students to the development, structure, and functioning of the European Union and governments in Europe. It will examine some of the political, economic and social challenges that have emerged in the context of increasing integration and interdependence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students in this course will become familiar the development and current institutions of the European Union, and with the political with the historic and economic characteristics of selected European democracies. Students will learn to apply theories and research methods that are important to the study of comparative politics to examination of current political topics relating to European politics.

TEACHING STRATEGY: This course is designed as a speaking intensive seminar. Students who take it will be expected to keep up with the assigned readings and participate in class discussions of the readings on a regular basis. All class sessions are based on group discussion. Student research projects will discussed periodically in class during the course of the semester. Each student will also provide a formal oral presentation to the class summarizing the results of their research projects.

Grades: Grades will be determined according to the following distribution:

(1)	Midterms (15% each)	30%	
(2)	Final Exam	25%	
(3)	Research Papers (15% each)		25%
(4)	Class participation	10%	
(5)	Research presentation	10%	

Reading Material

The following books will be available in the bookstore:

John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction 4th ed.* (London: Palgrave MacMillan Press Ltd., 2005).

Ronald Tiersky, ed., *Europe Today: National Politics, European Integration, and European Security, 3rd ed.* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2004).

Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Topic and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction: Democratic Theory

Phillippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lyn Karl, "What Democracy isand is Not," from *Journal of Democracy*, (Summer 1991).

Gabriel Almond, "Capitalism and Democracy," from *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September, 1991), pp. 467-474,

Robert Michels, "Oligarchy," Reprinted from *Political Parties* (New York: Free Press Paperback, 1966).

II. Political Landscape of Western Europe

Philippe Schmitter, "The Future of Democracy: Could It Be A Matter of Scale?" *Social Research*, Fall, 1999.

Robert Dahl, "A Democratic Paradox?" *Political Science Quarterly*, Volume 115, Number one (2000).

Ronald Inglehart, *Changing values, economic development and political change*, UNESCO, 1995.

Exam 1: approximately Wednesday, September 17th.

III. The European Union: Introduction

Tiersky, Introduction: *The European Scene*, Ronald Tiersky
McCormick, Chapter One: *What is The European Union?*
McCormick, Chapter Two: *The Idea of Europe*

IV. Development of the EU

McCormick, Chapter Three, *The Evolution of the EU*
Tiersky, Chapter Seven: *The European Union: From Community to Constitution*, John Van Oudenaren

IV. EU Institutions

McCormick, Chapter Four, *The Institutions of the EU*, and Five, *The Policy Process*

IV. Changing Patterns of Representation and Sovereignty in Europe

McCormick, Chapter Six *The EU and its Citizens*
Tiersky, Chapter Nine: *EU Law*, Imelda Maher

V. Monetary Integration

McCormick, Chapter Seven: *Economic Policy* and Eight, *Improving the Quality of Life*

Tiersky, Chapter Eight: *The European Economy and Economic Governance*, Erik Jones

VI. European Union Foreign and Security Relations

McCormick, Chapter Nine: *The EU and the World*

Tiersky Chapter Twelve: *Beyond European Security: Europe, the United States, and NATO*, Jeffrey Simon and Sean Kay

Tiersky, Chapter Thirteen, *European and US Approaches to Counterterrorism*, Wyn Rees and Richard J Alderich

Exam 2: Approximately Friday, October 28th

VII. Country Studies

The United Kingdom

Tiersky, Chapter Two, *United Kingdom: New Labour, New Britain?*, Jonathan Hopkin.

France

Tiersky, Chapter One, *France: Hopes and Fears of a New Generation*, Ronald Tiersky and Nicolas de Boisgrollier.

Italy

Tiersky, Chapter Four, *Italy: A Troubled Democracy*, Mark Gilbert

Germany

Tiersky, Chapter Three, *Germany: The Berlin Republic Still in Transition*, Helga Welsh.

Scandinavia

Tiersky, Chapter Five, *Scandinavia: Still the Middle Way*

Final Paper due, Monday, December 1st.

Final Exam Wednesday, December 10th, 3:30-6:30