

**Political Science 350**  
**Democratic Political Systems**  
**Spring 2007**

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220 Graham

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Course Meeting Time: MWF 9:00-9:50, Graham 203

***Course Description***

This course will introduce the student to the development, structure, and functioning of governments in Europe. We will combine coverage of approaches and theories that are important to the study of comparative politics with examination of current political topics. You will become familiar with the historical, political, and economic characteristics of selected advanced industrial democracies.. We will also examine the European Union and examine some of the political, economic and social challenges that have emerged in the context of increasing integration and interdependence.

***Reading Material***

The following books will be available in the bookstore:

Jonh McCormick, *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* (London: Palgrave MacMillan Press Ltd., 2005).

Ronald Tiersky, ed., *Europe Today: National Politics, European Integration, and European Security, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2004)

***Course Requirements***

Students are expected to actively participate in class. This requires that you will have read the assignments by the time they are due. Class attendance is expected and essential for the successful completion of the course. Please note that active class involvement is an important factor in the final grade. There will be two in class midterms and a final exam for this course.

This is a writing intensive course. In addition to taking essay exams, you will be working on a semester long research project that will result in an 18-20 page term paper, written in multiple drafts. The paper that you write will require you to research some aspect of European politics and its specific impact in a particular country.

Office hours will be held from 9:00 to 10:00 MWF, or by appointment in Graham 220.

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

Midterm exam 1	20 percent
Midterm exam 2	20 percent
Final exam	25 percent
Term paper	25 percent
Class participation	10 percent

## **Topic and Reading Assignments**

### **I. Introduction: Democratic Theory**

Phillippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lyn Karl, "What Democracy is ....and 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.

Susan Pharr, Robert Putnam, and Russell Dalton, "A Quarter of a Century of Declining Confidence," *Journal of Democracy*, April 2000 v11 i2 p5.

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

*Exam 1: approximately Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.*

### **III. The European Union: Introduction**

McCormick, Chapter One: *What is The European Union?*

McCormick, Chapter Two: *The Idea of Europe*

Tiersky, Chapter One: *Europe, International Crisis and the Future of Integration*, Ronald Tiersky

### **IV. Development of the EU**

McCormick, Chapter Three, *The Evolution of the EU*

Tiersky, Chapter Two: *The European Union: From Community to Constituion*, John Van Oudenaren

### **IV. EU Institutions**

McCormick, Chapter Four

### **IV. Changing Patterns of Representation and Sovereignty in Europe**

McCormick, Chapters Five and Six

Tiersky, Chapter Seven: *The Making of Supranational Rule of Law: The Battle for Supremacy*, Karen Alter

## **V. Monetary Integration**

McCormick, Chapter Seven: *Economic Policy*

Tiersky, Chapter Three: *European Monetary Union and the Problem of Macroeconomic Governance*, Erik Jones

## **VI. European Union Foreign and Security Relations**

McCormick, Chapter Nine: The EU and The World

Tiersky Chapter Four: *NATO: European Security and Beyond* Jeffery Simon and Sean Kay

Tiersky, Chapter Six: *Keep Out! Protectionism, Migration Control, and Globalization*, Jochen Lorentzen

***Exam 2: Approximately Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.***

## **VII. Country Studies**

### ***The United Kingdom***

Tiersky, Chapter Ten, *Britain: In and Out of Europe?*, Michael Mannin.

### ***France***

Tiersky, Chapter Nine, *France: Ending the Gaullist Era?*, Robert Graham.

### ***Italy***

Tiersky, Chapter Eleven, *Italy: A Society in Search of a State*, Patrick McCarthy with Mark Gilbert and Emanuela Poli.

### ***Germany***

Tiersky, Chapter Eight, *Unified Germany: The Desire for Stability and the Need for Change*, Helga Welsh.

### ***Spain***

Tiersky, Chapter Twelve, *Spain: A Middle Power or A Major Player?* Paul Heywood

### ***Poland***

Tiersky, Chapter Fourteen: *Breaking Multiple Barriers*, Ray Taras

***Final draft of research Paper due, Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.***

***Final Exam Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-11:00***