

PLS 304
Governments of West Europe
Dr. Gobeyn—Bradley Hall 434/2497

This course is designed to provide you with a more comprehensive understanding of the governmental institutions, policymaking practices, electoral systems, and citizen behavioral tendencies in the parliamentary democracies you were initially exposed to in the Introduction to Comparative Politics course (PLS 205). Additionally, we will examine the historical and institutional aspects of the European Union and its ongoing efforts to become more comprehensively integrated.

There will be THREE non-cumulative examinations (essay/short answer) during the semester. These exams are worth 80 percent of your final grade. The remaining 20 percent will be based upon classroom participation.

One text is required for this course:

Peters & Hunold, *European Politics Reconsidered*, 2nd edition

Additional required supplemental journal articles/book chapters will be available for your reading enjoyment/copying in the reserve room of the Library.

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1 (1/21)

Course introduction/Framework for analysis

WEEK 2 (1/26-1/28)

European politics: changes and challenges

Readings: Peters, ch. 1

WEEK 3 (2/2-2/4)

The Executive in parliamentary democracies

Readings: Peters, ch. 3; Lijphart, "Consociational Democracy"

WEEK 4 (2/9-2/11)

Legislatures in parliamentary democracies

Readings: Peters, ch. 4

WEEKS 5 & 6 (2/16-2/18) (2/23-2/25)

Citizen belief systems in Western Europe

Readings: Peters, ch. 5; Dalton, "Values in Change"

WEEK 7 (3/1-3/3)

Postmaterialism and political change

EXAM 1—Wednesday, March 3

WEEKS 8 & 9 (3/8-3/10) (3/22-3/24)

Political parties, elections, and the electorate

Readings: Peters, ch. 6

WEEKS 10 & 11 (3/29-3/31) (4/5-4/7)

Economic interest groups and the state

Readings: Peters, ch. 7; Schiller “Workplace Democracy”

WEEK 12 (4/12-4/14)

The welfare state and public policy

Readings: Peters, chs. 8 & 9

EXAM 2: Wednesday, April 14

WEEK 13 (4/19-4/21)

European integration and the nation state

Readings: Peters, ch. 2; Dedman, “Definition and Theories of Integration”

WEEK 14 (4/26-4/28)

The European Union in historical perspective

European political institutions

Readings: Peters, ch. 2 (cont.)

WEEK 15 (5/3)

Theories of integration

Social policy and the issue of immigration

Readings: Hollifield, “The Migration Challenge”

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 11, 2:30-4:00