The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
Politics in Western Europe

Course Number:  
PSC 5643-101

Course Description:  
This version of Politics of Western Europe is designed specifically for students in the Master of Arts program with an emphasis in International Relations. The course focuses on contemporary challenges facing governments and societies in Western Europe. These include the British struggle with economic decline and revival; the immense costs and opportunities posed by unification in Germany; the challenges to French state and society presented by globalization and immigration; and the corruption and inefficiency that has long plagued Italian democracy and Italy's current quest for greater political accountability.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: February 6-12, 2012
- Location: U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, San Diego, Wardroom. Directions available from gate guard.
- Hours: Mon-Fri 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Sat 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Sun 8:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 8, 2012

Site Director:
Mikel Siphaxay. Phone: 619-322-1724; Fax: 858-569-0519; E-mail: apsandiego@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
- Course Professor: Mitchell P. Smith, Ph.D.
- Mailing Address: Department of Political Science  
  University of Oklahoma  
  455 West Lindsey St., Rm 205  
  Norman, OK  73019
- Telephone Number: (405) 325-8893
- Fax Number: (405) 325-0718
- E-mail Address: mps@ou.edu
- Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


5. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

The objectives of the course are to provide students with (1) an understanding of critical dimensions of the distinctive capitalist democracies of Britain, Germany, France and Italy; and (2) a framework for analyzing critical political and policy challenges facing each country.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

The course requires three written assignments. These consist of two short essays of 1250-1500 words (5-6 pages) and one longer essay of 3000 words (10-12 pages). All students will write an essay on British politics, due at the first class meeting. For the second essay, students will write a second 5-6 page essay on a country of their choosing (Germany, France, or Italy). This essay is due no later than the last class meeting. Students will write the third, longer essay on one of the two remaining countries (e.g., if the second essay is on Germany, the third essay must be on either France or Italy). The longer essay will constitute the post-course assignment, and should draw on additional sources identified by the student via the OU Library Online Resource Access (LORA) at: [http://libraries.ou.edu/eresources/LORA/](http://libraries.ou.edu/eresources/LORA/). This essay is due no later than Sunday, March 4, 2012.

While there will be a short lecture component in each class, much of our class time will be devoted to discussion. You are expected to read the material assigned for each session prior to the class meeting, and to come to class prepared to discuss the material and ask relevant questions. Active participation in seminar discussions will comprise 20% of the course grade. The remainder of the grade will consist of 25% for the stronger of the 2 short essays, 20% for the other short essay, and 35% for the longer essay.

For all of your essays, please follow these guidelines:

i. Make a clear argument; be specific. Specific writing is always stronger than vague assertion.

ii. Make your position clear from the outset of your essay (i.e., write a direct, concise opening paragraph that addresses the question and explains how you approach it).

iii. Fully cite all sources for ideas, arguments; quotations (keep these to a minimum).

Students may turn work in early; students must obtain advance approval from the instructor for any late submissions.

**Class Schedule and Assignments**

Monday

- A European Sensibility: Understanding European Politics and Society

• British Politics I: From Economic Decline to Renewal?
  o Peter Hall, Governing the Economy, pp. 1-136.
  o First essay assignment, due in class: Peter Hall provides an institutional explanation for the long history of British economic decline. Briefly, what is the essence of his argument? Based on the articles you’ve read in addition to the Hall book, how successful do you believe recent British governments have been in reversing the sources of British decline described by Hall? Develop a clear, direct argument, and be sure to fully document all sources.

Tuesday

• British Politics II: Britain from Thatcher to Blair to Brown
  o Andrew Dilnot, “The Chancellor’s luck has run out,” The Observer, November 6, 2005.

Wednesday

• Germany from Division to Unification

• Germany: The Trials of Unification
  o Katie Hafner, The House at the Bridge, all.

Thursday

• Is Germany a “Normal” Nation?
  o Essay assignment on Germany: Given the massive unanticipated costs, economic consequences, disappointed hopes, and continuing social divisions that have ensued, German unification can be considered a failure. Do you agree that this is the case? Take a clear position and fully explain your position, with reference to the readings.

Friday

• France I: Struggling to Find its Place in the Global Order
  o Charles de Gaulle, Memoirs of Hope: Renewal and Endeavor, pp. 3-35.
  o Peter Hall, Governing the Economy, pp. 139-163 and 192-226.
Saturday

• France II: A Crisis of the French Republican Model?
  o Essay Assignment on France: What do you believe is the source of French rigidity, whether in response to challenges from the global economy or the need to incorporate new groups of citizens into French society? Is France capable of overcoming this rigidity, or is it doomed to struggle unsuccessfully with these challenges?

• Italy: Corruption, Democracy and National Identity

Sunday

• Berlusconi and Italian Democracy
  o Essay Assignment on Italy: Italian democracy is beyond redemption. There was a brief period of reform in the early 1990s which sought to reduce corruption and make the economy function more effectively. However, reform was incomplete, and, as the Berlusconi era demonstrates, there remains an unhealthy connection between economic and political power in Italy. Do you agree, or would you make the case for a more optimistic assessment of Italian democracy?

Sunday, March 4, 2012

Third essay due

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Mitchell P. Smith, Ph.D.

Education

- 1993  Ph.D., Politics, Princeton University
- 1986  MPA., Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University
- 1982  BA, Economics, University of California, Berkeley

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 2000
- Associate Professor, Political Science and Department of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma
- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- PSC 5663 Comparative Political Analysis
- PSC 5563 International Political Economy
- PSC 5643 Politics in Western Europe
- PSC 5213 Politics of the European Union

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Comparative Political Analysis
- Comparative Political Economy
- International Political Economy
- Political Economy of Industrial Democracies
- Political Culture
- West European Politics
- The European Union
- The Politics of Power
- Political Economy of the Welfare State

Representative Publications and Presentations

Books:
- States of Liberalization: Redefining the Public Sector in Integrated Europe, (State University of New York Press, 2005).

Articles in Refereed Journals:
• Germany's Quest for a New EU Industrial Policy: Why it is Failing, "German Politics, Vol. 14, No. 3: 315-331 (September 2005).
• “Europe and the German Model: Growing Tension or Symbiosis?” German Politics, Vol 10, No. 3 (December 2001): 119-140.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

• 2000-01 Jean Monnet Fellowship, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
• 1997 Council for European Studies Research Planning Grant
• 1997 Fulbright Intercountry Lecture Award, University of Salamanca, Spain
• 1996-97 Fulbright Research Award in European Union Affairs, Brussels, Belgium
• 1989-90 Fulbright Fellowship, United Kingdom
• 1989 Friedrich Ebert Foundation Fellowship, Bonn, Germany