Politics of Europe 2011

Steven Alan Samson

*Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs)

Part of the Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons, Political Science Commons, and the Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons

**Recommended Citation**


This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Helms School of Government at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.
I. Course Description  A survey of the political systems of Britain, France, Germany, and Russia, comparing how various forms of government provide for the requirements of their citizens and the tasks of governing.

II. Rationale  As the cultural hearth of Christendom, Europe may be described as the historic locus of the political, economic, and increasingly secular development of Western civilization. Europe has also been the strategic focus of the modern international system from the Treaty of Westphalia until recently. Although Europe remains even today a major center of economic activity, political and military leadership has weakened since the Second World War. The Politics of Europe, one of several courses in the comparative politics field, examines Europe's transition from Great Power politics of its imperial past to the technocratic regime of a European Union that seeks to create an integrated economic and political system as demographic winter approaches.

III. Prerequisite  GOVT 200, GOVT 210, or GOVT 220

IV. Materials List

Each required book and/or reading will be represented on one or more tests as shown on the Class Schedule. The Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Hancock texts are noted on the Class Schedule by an abbreviation: H. 1 = Hancock, chapter 1.

Required

Blackboard Readings [Blackboard]
GOVT 332: Politics of Europe Reader, which contains Study aids and
- Vladimir Bukovsky and Pavel Stroilov, *EUSSR* [B]
Hancock, M. Donald, ed. *Politics in Europe: An Introduction To the Politics Of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and The European Union*, 4th Edition. ISBN: 978-1933116457 [H. 1-3, 6, 8]
Open Europe: *Beyond the European Social Model* [O]
Weigel, George. *The Cube and the Cathedral* [W]

Reserve Desk


V. Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be exposed to a variety of concepts and historical as well as social science approaches to the comparative study of European political institutions.
2. The student will learn how to analyze and compare the history, geography, economies, governing institutions, and political behavior of contemporary European nations, states, and international entities.
3. The student will thereby become better equipped to understand, participate in, and evaluate international political processes.

VI. Assignments/Requirements

1. **Daily Assignments** Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments prior to class and should keep a loose leaf notebook of class materials. It is suggested that readings and study aids be brought to class.
2. **Class Participation** Participation is an essential part of class. Discussion of current events in Europe is strongly encouraged. Impromptu reports from the news or from ongoing research are most welcome. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings.

VII. Grading Policies

1. **Tests** Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of seven tests. With the exception of university-sponsored events and excused illnesses, tests must be taken at the scheduled date and time. Each test will include approximately 35 objective questions – true/false, multiple choice, and matching – drawn primarily from the reading. A short essay is included on alternating tests. Completion of the final exam permits the lowest test score (of the first six) to be dropped. Scores are regular tests are 140-126=A, 125-112=B, 111-98=C, 97-84=D, and below 84=F.
2. **Map Test** A map test over the countries, capitals, and major features of Europe will be given March 1. The test is worth 100 points. A practice quiz is available at this site: http://www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/europe.html
3. **Research Paper and Presentation** (60 points): Each student will write a 6-8 page brief research paper and give a 12-20 minute oral presentation in class on a European country, a combination of European microstates, or a European institution. A PowerPoint slide presentation is encouraged. An area study template will be posted on Blackboard to help guide research and organization of the paper. Emphasis should be placed on the historical development, political character, and strategic challenges that have shaped the country or institution. Resources to be consulted include at least two recent books that may be secured from the library or through interlibrary loan, several internet sites (some links are provided on the syllabus), and a relevant chapter from Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn’s *The Intelligent American’s Guide to Europe* for historical background. A copy of the latter will be kept on three-hour reserve in the library. Topics will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Countries that are covered in textbook case studies (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia) are not eligible for this assignment except as they bear on the topic historically, politically, and/or strategically. Optional: Up to three students may do a panel discussion of Italy, Sweden, or Poland, which are covered in the textbook. Resources: Yahoo.com has a Countries hyperlink on its web page. CIA, State Department, and defense-related publications or websites are good places to start looking. Presentations are graded on a pass/fail basis. The written report is due the day of presentation.
4. **Grades** The grading scale is 1000-900=A, 899-800=B, 799-700=C, 699-600=D, 599 and below=F.

VIII. Attendance Policies a) Regular and punctual attendance is required and expected. Three (3) unexcused absences may result in the student’s grade being lowered one letter grade. For an excused absence, please e-mail the professor in advance if you must be absent and please explain why. b) Valid excuses include documented medical emergencies and participation in University approved curricular and extracurricular activities (please bring documentation). c)
Students are responsible for all the material covered in all scheduled class meetings. d) Six intermittent unexcused absences or a prolonged absence without notice to the professor may result in an FN without notice. e) Students who wish to withdraw with a W should contact the professor for his signature no later than the end of October.

NOTE: Although you may not currently be concerned about it, in the near future you will need faculty members to give letters of reference, recommendations for employment, or letters of recommendation for graduate school. Your attendance, punctuality, appearance, and attitude will be areas of interest to those requesting these letters. In addition, some of you will need a security check for your future job. Be aware that cheating and plagiarism are causes for a permanent record being placed in your student folder, which will be consulted during a background security check.

IX. Other Policies

Dress Code
Students are expected to come to class dressed in a manner consistent with The Liberty Way.

Honor Code
We, the students, faculty, and staff of Liberty University, have a responsibility to uphold the moral and ethical standards of this institution and personally confront those who do not.

Academic Misconduct
Academic misconduct includes: academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and falsification. See The Liberty Way for specific definitions, penalties, and processes for reporting.

Disability Statement
Students with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in DH 2016 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. For all disability testing accommodation requests (i.e. quieter environment, extended time, oral testing, etc.) the Tutoring/Testing Center is the officially designated place for all tests administered outside of the regular classroom.

DROP/ADD POLICY
A Fall/Spring course may be dropped without a grade, tuition, and fee charges within the first five days of the semester. From the sixth day until the end of the tenth week, a Fall/Spring course may be withdrawn with a grade of W or WF

Classroom Policies
The inappropriate use of technology, such as cell phones, iPods, laptops, calculators, etc. in the classroom is not tolerated. Other disruptive behavior in the classroom is not tolerated. Students who engage in such misconduct will be subject the penalties and processes as written in the Liberty Way.

Food is not permitted. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will not be admitted to class. Caps may not be worn in class

School Policies
Plagiarism and Multiple Submissions of Papers:
Plagiarism is a serious offense and utilizing the work of others without proper citation is a clear violation of University policy. However, no clear directive has been established within the Helms School of Government as to the permissibility of a student submitting substantially the same paper to satisfy writing requirements in different courses. Effective spring 2007, any writing assignment required for a Helms School of Government course
must be an original composition drafted specifically for the individual course. When a course requirement in an upper division course builds upon a previously researched topic, and the student desires to utilize his/her prior submission as a foundational document for the new course assignment, he/she may bring a copy of the previous paper to the current professor. The professor will review with the student the additional research and writing elements needed to complete the current assignment without violating this policy.

Christian Service:
For those students not already involved in Christian Service, see the professor for details and other information if interested.

X. Calendar for the Semester

CLASS SCHEDULE
(Subject to Revision)

Key to Readings: Red = Readings for objective questions are in Bold type
Green = Readings posted on Blackboard
Blue = Links to Readings on Internet
Light Blue = Handouts
[S. 1-13]=Readings and/or Study Aids in workbook (sometimes multiple)

Preliminary Reading:

Scripture Reading: “And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.” – 2 K. 6:17.

Edward Lucas: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB100014240527487034666704575489774021664514.html
Sandro Magister: http://chiesa.espresso.repubblica.it/articolo/1338480?eng=y
Marvin Olasky interviews Daniel Pipes: http://www.danielpipes.org/9252/remaking-a-religion
Christopher Hitchens on Robert Conquest: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117046575187596976-search.html?KEYWORDS=Hitchens&COLLECTION=wsjie/6month#printMode

Collateral:
Andrew Klavan, “History of Western Civilization in 2½ Minutes”  
http://frontpagemag.com/2011/01/17/the-history-of-western-culture-in-2-12-minutes/
Hans Rosling’s 200 Countries, 200 Years, 4 Minutes  
Speech by Czech President Vaclav Klaus to the European Parliament, February 19, 2009  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljAANHPkraE
Response by Nigel Farage  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drs55hY45Q&feature=related

PART ONE: EUROPE IN THE ROUND (January 18-February 1)

Required:  K. 1-10; Slides
Michael Heffernan, The Meaning of Europe, pp. 23-45 (handout)
Benedict XVI: http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id_article=70
Ambrose Evans-Pritchard:
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/5245757/Europes-age-crisis-begins-to-bite.html
Spengler on Russia: http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Central_Asia/JH19Ag04.html
Alyssa A. Lappen, “Though Europe Rots, We Must Defend the West”
http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/though-europe-rots-we-must-defend-the-west/?singlepage=true
Jeff Myers (Blackboard)
Victor Davis Hanson (Blackboard)
Map Exercises
Selection of Countries for Area Studies

Collateral: Hans Rosling’s 200 Countries, 200 Years, 4 Minutes
Paul Belien, “How Flanders Helped Shape Freedom in America”
http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/58
Philip Stephens:
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/463bc8aa-6a17-11dd-83e8-0000779fd18c.html?nclick_check=1
Herbert E. Meyer: http://www.siegeofwesternciv.com/Europeletter.htm
For a Bit of Comic Relief: http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/3459/print

FIRST TEST (February 8): K. 1-10, Heffernan

PART TWO: UNITED KINGDOM (February 1-17)

Required: H. 1; K. 11-12 Britain, Ireland; Slides
Charles Colson, “The Great Proposal” (Blackboard)
Peter Hitchens
http://search.barnesandnoble.com/The-Abolition-of-Britain/Peter-Hitchens/e/9781893554399#CHP (Click on "read a sample chapter")
Dan Hannan: http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/dan-hannan-leading-europes-dramatic-shift-to-the-right/
Christopher Hitchens, “Almost Noble” (on Tony Blair)
William Anthony Hay: “The Geopolitics of Europe” (Blackboard)
Roger Scruton, “The Common Law Between England and America”
http://www.firstprinciplesjournal.com/articles.aspx?article=1435&theme=home&loc=b
Adrian Michaels, “What Is This Place Called Europe?”
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/6180958/What-is-this-place-called-Europe.html

Collateral: Mats Persson, “Remember This?” (opting out of EU controls)
http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/6632468/remember-this.html
Peter Hitchens: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/columnists/article-1211409/PETER-HITCHENS-Windfarms-We-use-hamsters-treadmills.html
Melanie Phillips on Londonistan and “Walking into Islamisation”
http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=M2I4ZTIzNGY1ZjkzYjU4ZjU5NjA3NTQ4MjBINTk3NWQ=
Roger Scruton Interview: http://www.philosophypress.co.uk/?p=15
Dinner in the Presence of Lady Thatcher, October 27, 2008
http://www.brugesgroup.com/mediacentre/speeches.live?article=14035

SECOND TEST (February 24): H. 1, K. 11-12, Slides, Colson; Short Essay: Heffernan, Raico, Benedict XVI, Evans-Pritchard, Spengler, Rubin, Lappen, Storhaug, Myers, Hanson, Colson, P. Hitchens, Hannan, C. Hitchens, Hay, Scruton, Michaels
PART THREE: FRANCE  (February 22-March 3)

Required:  H. 2; K. 33 France; Slides
Pierre Manent  http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Current+problems+of+European+democracy-a099699586
Chantal Delsol, Unjust Justice (excerpts)
Terrorism in Italy:  http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/127247
Mario Monti:  http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/6183857/EU-faces-existential-danger-from-economic-crisis.html
Mats Persson, “The EU Should Impose Sanctions on Gaddafi’s Libya”
http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/6725458/time-for-eu-sanction-on-gaddafis-libya.html
Collateral:
Violence en France? Article and video:  http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/4083

MAP TEST:  March 3
THIRD TEST:  March 8

PART FOUR: GERMANY  (March 8-24)

Required:  H. 3; K. 16 The Germanys, 27 The Late Habsburg Monarchy; Slides
Michael Binyon (2 pieces)
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6829735.ece
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article6829716.ece
Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn on the German Resistance (Blackboard)
Jerry Salyer on Beate Ruhm von Oppen and Helmuth James von Moltke
http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/4075
http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-white-rose-an-anniversary-of-three-executions/?singlepage=true
Stephen Brown, “Germany’s Intifada”
http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=7E34D79C-D2A7-4709-B7BE-1CDD528A9B1F
Claire Berlinski, “Weimar Istanbul”

Collateral: Robert Conquest, “German Economic Policy and the Euro, 1999-2010” (Executive Summary)
http://www.brugesgroup.com/germaneconomicpolicyandtheeuro.pdf
Soviet documents on Germany, The German Resistance Memorial Center, Freya von Moltke, “All European Life Died in Auschwitz” (anonymous)
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6829416.ece
http://www.gdw-berlin.de/bio/ausgabe_mit-e.php?id=314

SPRING BREAK:  March 15, 17
FOURTH TEST:  March 29

PART FIVE: RUSSIA  (March 24-April 7)

Required:  H. 6; K. 26 The Russians and the Soviet Union; Slides
Valeria Novodvorskaya, “The Death of Illusions”
http://frontpagemag.com/2011/01/03/the-death-of-illusions/print/
André Glucksmann, “Guilty of Being Right”
Arthur Chrenkoff, “Still Dis-Putin’ History After All These Years” http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/still-dis-putin%e2%80%99-history-after-all-these-years/?print=1
Spengler (David P. Goldman): “Russia’s Hudna with the Muslim World” http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Central_Asia/IB21Ag01.html
A Tribute to Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn: http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/3446/print
Michael Roskin, Rebirth of East Europe, ch. 10

FIFTH TEST (April 12): H. 6, K. 26, Eberstadt

PART SIX: PAST AND PRESENT EUROPEAN UNIONS (April 7-14)

Why and how has a union that was created to serve interlocking German and French purposes come to have a life of its own, and come to command the allegiance of all the politicians—except a few mavericks of no account—of the whole of Europe?

The answer, I think, is obvious: the European Union is like a giant pension fund for defunct politicians, who either cannot get elected in their own countries or are tired of the struggle to do so. It is a way for politicians to remain important and powerful, at the center of a web of patronage, after their defeat or loss of willingness to expose themselves to the rigors of the electoral process. One of the characteristics of modern political life is its professionalization, such that it attracts mainly the kind of people with so great an avidity for power and self-importance that they do not mind very much the humiliations of the public exposure to which they are inevitably subjected. They are increasingly like Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, of whom John Maynard Keynes was once asked what he thought about when he was alone in a room. “When Lloyd George is alone in a room,” replied Keynes, “there’s nobody there.”—Theodore Dalrymple (Anthony Daniels), The New Vichy Syndrome (2010), pp. 94-95.

Required: H. 8.1, 8.5; Bukovsky [B] EUSSR; Jack Rakove: Slides
Go to Academic OneFile: Author (au) Rakove; Keyword (ke) Floundering; Keyword (ke) Fathers
Daniel Hannan: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703559604576176620582972608.html
Gary North: http://www.lewrockwell.com/north/north381.html
Interview with Pavel Stroilov on the Gorbachev Foundation archives

Oleg Atbashian, "Want a Financial Crisis? Impose ‘Fairness’?"
http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/want-a-financial-crisis-impose-fairness/?print=1

Collateral: Bukovsky, “The Peace Movement and the Soviet Union” (Blackboard)

Timothy Garton Ash: http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/article_details.php?id=8214


PART SEVEN: CURRENT TRENDS (April 14-21)

Required: Weigel [W]; Slides
Geert Wilders, “The Failure of Multiculturalism and How to Turn the Tide”
Spengler on Depopulation (Blackboard)


Roger Scruton, “The Flame That Was Snuffed Out by Freedom”
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article6906694.ece

Mats Persson, “The Price of the Euro in Finland”
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704004004576270492462364356.html

Collateral:
Mary Eberstadt: http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/7827212.html
Geert Wilders: http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/022867.php#more

Samson: The Grapes of Parnassos: Is Europe Withering on the Vine?
http://works.bepress.com/steven_samson/51/

SIXTH TEST (April 28): H. 8, EUSSR, Rakove, Weigel

PART EIGHT: THE LAST DAYS OF EUROPE? (April 21-May 3)

Required: Laqueur [L]; Slides
Hefferman, The Meaning of Europe, pp. 239-42 (handout)


Collateral:
Dwight Murphey’s review of The Last Days of Europe


Mary Eberstadt: http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/7827212.html

Geert Wilders: http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/022867.php#more


Samson: The Grapes of Parnassos: Is Europe Withering on the Vine?
http://works.bepress.com/steven_samson/51/

Presentations: April 21-May 3

FINAL EXAM (Monday, May 9, 3-5): Laqueur, Short Essay; Heffernan, Kertesz, Heinsohn, and others

XI. Bibliography

See separate file on Blackboard.

QUOTATIONS

“The ideal of service does not extend further than the ideal of social utility; it knows nothing concerning what is unique. A high standard of living, and not the salvation of the soul, is its highest aim. Thus mere production becomes an end in itself, an absurdity which on the practical side is already becoming patent from the fact that more and more Americans are living on their future income, so that the present is being sold into deeper and deeper debt-slavery to the future—which from the viewpoint of the soul signifies the same bondage as that of the Jews in Egypt. . . . To Europe, and to Europe alone, has the task been entrusted to guard the sacred fire of the spirit from extinction during the long night of the spirit which now lies before mankind. For if the majority of mankind, in its search for rejuvenation, sinks back into the group soul, it means a dark age for spirit, mind, and soul.” – Keyserling, Europe (1928), pp. 389-90.

Faced with a choice between democracy and supra-nationalism, the European Union almost always opts for supra-nationalism and nowhere is this clearer than in its policy in the Western Balkans. We are maintaining to all intents and purposes protectorates in Bosnia, in Kosovo and arguably even in Macedonia for the sole purpose of preventing ethnographic boundaries along the lines of what local people there would choose.

It is very difficult to have a functioning democracy unless people feel enough in common one with another to accept government from each other’s hands. If you want government for and by the people, you have to have a people that everyone recognises some identity with, some allegiance to.

To put it in another way, democracy needs a ‘demos’, a unit with which we identify when we use the word ‘we’. I am not saying it is simple. People can sustain multiple loyalties, populations can be interspersed, but our prejudice, other things being equal, should be towards national self-determination. If you take the ‘demos’ out of democracy, you are left only with the ‘kratos’, with the power of a system that must compel by law what it dare not ask in the name of civic patriotism. – Daniel Hannan, speech to the European Parliament, January 19, 2011.