The intention of this seminar is to provide a survey of politics and government in Western Europe, and to some extent also Central and Eastern Europe. Given that the latter countries have now joined the European Union the distinction between their politics and West Europe has become even more artificial. Most of the readings in the syllabus will be for Western Europe, but we will attempt to expand the comparison in the class sessions. Also, in some cases Canada will be included as a geographically challenged European country. Further, the emphasis in the course will be on institutions and processes rather than on behavioral aspects of these political systems, those being covered in other places.

In each week’s readings I am attempting to integrate some of the classic analytical literature on West European countries with contemporary literature that is both descriptive and analytical. Further, although the European Union is not a central focus of the course, it can not be ignored, so some of the discussion will assess the impact of the supranational level on domestic politics. Likewise, the role of the international political economy will not be a central focus of the readings and discussion but also can not be ignored. Therefore, the readings and the discussion will focus on real countries, although they will always be in a broader comparative and theoretical context. Therefore, we will attempt to keep the balance between learning about the individual countries and developing the analytic understandings associated with contemporary political science. Also, the literature here is all in English, but surprisingly the French do have something to say about French politics, the Swiss, etc.,, Therefore, as you track your cases (see below) and you have language capabilities you may want to go a bit farther afield.

In the course I will want each member to be responsible for one West European country and one East European country, with the emphasis on the former. In each class (after the first) you should attempt to find the basic information on the topic of the class for “your countries”, and be able to bring that to bear on the class discussions. This will include factual materials as well as any germane analytical literature. Also, if you have been specializing in one country I do not want you to follow that country for the course.

One book for purchase–Hayward and Menon, Governing Europe
In the readings:  **WEP=West European Politics**  
**EJPR= European Journal of Political Research**  
**SPS = Scandinavian Political Studies**

**Requirements:**

1) Oral report on one week’s reading, to open the discussion in the seminar. Should focus on analytic issues, and especially on the changes from the classic model. What are the questions that need to be answered with respect to contemporary European politics in this set of readings?. (10%).

2) A written report based on (1), due one week later. (10%) This paper should be roughly 6-8 pages in length. Again, the paper should not be descriptive but should focus on the issues raised for understanding national level politics in European countries.

3) A final research paper. This paper should be comparative across countries, although you may focus on one country and have one shadow case. (75%) You should have a word with me about the paper as soon as possible in the term.

4) Class participation. (5%). You should be prepared for every session–an obvious point I trust.

**Readings:**

**Week 1: The Background of European Politics**

S. Rokkan, “Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments” in S. M. Lipset and Rokkan, **Party Systems and Voter Alignments**


P. Flora, “Introduction”, in Flora, ed., **State Formation, Nation-Building and Mass Politics in Europe** Chapters 1, 21 and 22 in Hayward and Menon

F. van Waarden, “Persistence of National Policy Styles...”, in Unger and Van Waarden,
Convergence or Diversity: Internationalization and Economic Policy Response


Week 2 National Models of Politics

R. B. Freeman, R. H. Topel and B. Swedenborg, The Welfare State in Transition; Reforming the Swedish Model, passim

S. Hazareesingh, Political Traditions in Modern France, passim

H. Slomp, “The Netherlands in the 1990s”, in S. Berger and H. Compston, eds., Policy Concentration and Social Partnership in Western Europe (“the Polder Model”)

H. Kitschelt and W. Streeck, “From Stability to Stagnation: Germany at the Beginning of the 21st Century, WEP 26, 1-34. (See Wiesenthal article following also)

M. Donovan, “A Second Republic for Italy”, Political Studies Review, 1, 18-33

Johnson, N. (2000) State and Society in Britain: Some Contrasts with the German Tradition, in H. Wollmann and E. Schröter, eds., Comparing Public Sector Reform in Britain and Germany (Aldershot: Ashgate)


Week 3 Managing Social Cleavages

A. Lijphart, The Politics of Accommodation


O. Knutsen, Social Structure and Party Choice in Western Europe, passim


V. Perez-Diaz, *The Return of Civil Society*, *passim*.

Chapters 14 and 15 in Hayward and Menon


**Week 4 Political Culture**

L. Pye,

H. Eckstein. *Division and Cohesion in Democracy*


B. Todosijevic and Z. Enyedi, “Structure Versus Culture Again...”, *EJPR* 42, 629-642


F. Sabetti “Path Dependence and Civic Culture...”, *Politics and Society* 24, 19-44


(I assume that you have read Inglehart’s several books on political culture in industrialized democracies; also, you can look at Geert Hofstede’s work; Some of the old village studies, and to some extent stereotypical studies of political culture are also useful background)

**Week 5 Interest Groups and Networks**

H. Wiarda, *Corporatism and Comparative Politics*, *passim*


Chapter 12 in Hayward and Menon


L. Kostas, “Interest Groups in Disjointed Corporatism...*, *WEP* 28, 297-316

M. Vail, “Rethinking Corporatism and Consensus: The Dilemmas of German Social Reform, *WEP* 26 (3), 41-66


H. Kriesi, New Social Movements in Western Europe

(If there is time it would be useful to read some of the classics, e.g. Schmitter’s 1974 corporatism article, Rokkan’s corporate pluralism piece, Grant Jordan’s critiques, etc. (and Meynaud if you read French).

Week 6 Political Parties

G. Sartori, "Party Systems" in J. LaPalombara and M. Weiner, Political Parties and Political Development

Chapter 11 in Hayward and Menon

Panebianco


(Again, if possible, you should look at some of the classics, such as Duverger, Ostrogorski, R. Mackenzie, etc.)

Week 7 Parliaments

Doring

A. Benz, “Path Dependent Institutions and Strategic Veto Players.....”, WEP 27, 875-900.


L. D. Longley and R. H. Davidson, *The New Role of Parliamentary Committees*, passim

B. Chubb, “Going Around Persecuting Bureaucrats...”,

*Week 7 Executives I–Presidents, Prime Ministers and Cabinets*

R. Rose, *The Problem of Party Government*

J. Blondel and W. Mueller-Rommel, *Governing Together*, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 9

Chapters 3 and 5 in Hayward and Menon.


P. Pennings, “Beyond Dichotomous Explanations: Explaining Constitutional Control of the Executive...,* *EJPR* 42, 541-67

A. Siaroff, “Comparative Presidencies: The Inadequacy of the Presidential, Semi-Presidential and Parliamentary Distinction, *EJPR* 42, 287-312

(Again, at look at some classics such as DeSwann, some of Blondel’s earlier work on cabinets, and even Bageot, would be useful)

*Week 8 Executives II--The Bureaucracy*

J. J. Armstrong

V. Wright and E. C. Page

Chapters 7-10 in Hayward and Menon

G. Bouckaert and C. Pollitt, *Public Sector Reform*, 2nd, Chapters (See also the national descriptions of recent reforms)
D. Sotiropoulos, “Southern European Public Bureaucracies....” *WEP* 27, 405-22


(Good background on Weberian bureaucracy in European countries is E. C. Page, *Political Authority and Bureaucratic Power*, 2nd ed.)

**Week 9  Courts and the Legal System**


Chapter 2 in Hayward and Menon

Chapters by A. Stone-Sweet and M. Shapiro, in Stone-Sweet and M. Thatcher, eds., *The Politics of Delegation*

T. Koopmans, *Courts and Political Institutions, passim*

C. Joppke and E. Marzal, “Courts, the New Constitutionalism and Immigrant Rights....” *EJPR*, 43, 823-44.


(Might also look at Bruce Ackerman, The New Separation of Powers”, *Harvard Law Review*, 113, 633-729)

**Week 10  Sub-National Government, Regionalism and Federalism**


E. Martinez-Herrera, “From Nation-Building to Building Identification...,” *EJPR* 421-53


Chapters by A. Bächtiger and J. Steiner, Hooge, and U. Amoretti, in Amoretti and N. Bermeo, eds., *Federalism and Territorial Cleavages*

**Week 11. The Mixed Economy/Welfare State**

G. Esping Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, *passim*

Chapters 18 and 20 in Hayward and Menon

V. Schmidt and C. Radaelli, “Policy Change and Discourse....”, *WEP* 27, 183-210

R. Goodin, *The Real Worlds of Welfare*, *passim*.


W. Arts and J. Gilessen, “Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, or More?...”, *Journal of European Social Policy* 12, 137-58