Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe
Political Science 138 06
Tufts University
Spring Semester 2013

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30

What this class is about

What are the origins of the modern European state? Why did some European states develop democratic institutions by the beginning of the twentieth century, while others did not? What explains the rise of social democracy and fascism? How did fascist and communist regimes operate? Why did democracy succeed in Western Europe after the end of the Second World War? What are the origins of the major political parties in Europe? These are some of the big questions we will explore in this course. While we obviously cannot cover all these topics in depth, students will gain an appreciation both for the key developments in European politics over the last several centuries as well as contemporary issues. We will also use Europe as a laboratory to explore theories of political institutions, regime type, nationalism and ethnic identity, and statebuilding. The course also considers the strengths and weaknesses of the social science methodology of comparative historical analysis.

What you will need

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore (or, of course, through the usual internet sources—the numbers are ISBNs to help you order the right editions).

This course is reading intensive, and I realize that I am forcing you to buy many books for it. Aside from looking for used copies, you may want to share copies among yourselves to cut down on costs. All of the books will also be placed on reserve at Tisch.


Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men (Harper, 1992) 978-014100042

Brian Downing, Military Revolution and Political Change (Princeton, 1992) 0-691-02475-8


**How this class will work**

This class is a mix of lecture and discussion of core readings. The readings I expect you to have completed are listed underneath the topic for that day (so on January 30th, for example, you will have read Garrard and Moore). If there are no readings listed, then I will lecture. But even when there are no specific readings assigned for a day I recommend that you look ahead to the next several class meetings as some texts are rather long. In short, read ahead when possible!

**What you will need to do**

Read. Read a lot. The readings average about 150 pages a week with significant variation between weeks. A major portion of your grade (see below) is participation, and you cannot participate if you don’t read. It goes without saying that unexcused absences will detract significantly from your participation grade. Illness and bereavement constitute valid excuses for missing class.

This course also requires a fair amount of writing. To help you think about the process of writing, I have assigned William Zinsser’s classic book *On Writing Well*. Every student will need to pass a quiz on this book (graded pass/fail) in order to pass the course.

Participation: 15%
Two Short Papers (5 pages): 15% each
Final Paper: 35%
Midterm: 20%

**Some Important, Miscellaneous Points**

Email is fine for setting up a time to meet outside of office hours, letting me know about an emergency, etc… But it is not a good medium for discussing ideas, asking questions, or turning in a paper. Please do make use of office hours.

I recognize that not all of us look forward to public speaking, and that some of you may dread speaking in front of your classmates. If you fall into this category, I hope that you can use this course as a means of overcoming your fear of public speaking in a friendly, supportive classroom environment. It is an important skill for many professions, and it can be learned. If you are very shy, please let me know and we can discuss strategies for participation.
**Plagiarism: Don’t even think about it. It is fairly easy to spot, and the penalties are severe!**

If I suspect that any material has been plagiarized I will be forced to initiate a case of academic dishonesty with the office of student affairs.

**Class Schedule**

January 16: Feudalism

(We will also discuss the course’s themes, mechanics, and expectations)

January 23: Statebuilding in Europe

(I suggest you begin reading *Military Revolution and Political Change*)

January 28: Discussion of *Military Revolution and Political Change* (entire book)

January 30: Political Development in the United Kingdom: Gradual Democratization


Barrington Moore, “England and the Contribution of Violence to Gradualism,” in *Social Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*.

February 4: Political Development in France: Absolutism and Revolution

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, selections.

February 6: Political Development in Germany: Authoritarian Persistence


Ralf Dahrendorf, *Society and Democracy in Germany* (Doubleday: 1967), 14-17, 33-64
Sheri Berman, “Modernization in Historical Perspective: The Case of Imperial Germany,” *World Politics* 53, 3 (April 2001): 431-62

February 11: Capitalism and its Effects

February 13: Discussion of *The Great Transformation*, 33-191

February 20: Democratization in Europe

February 21: Discussion of articles in Special Issue of *Comparative Political Studies*

February 25: Liberalism, Fascism, and Social Democracy

February 27: Discussion of *The Primacy of Politics* (entire book)

March 4: **In-class Midterm**

March 6: The Influence of WWI on Domestic Politics in Europe

March 11: The Rise of Fascism

  Recommended reading: Payne 3-79

March 13: Fascism in Italy

March 25: Discussion of Elazar (mailed as PDF) and Payne, 80-127 and 212-244

March 27: Fascism in Germany

  Payne 147-211.

April 1: Fascism outside Germany and Italy

  Payne 245-327.

April 3: Discussion of Gregory Luebbert, “Liberalism, Fascism, or Social Democracy” (selections) and Giovanni Capoccia, *Defending Democracy* (selections)

April 8: The Holocaust

April 10: Discussion of *Ordinary Men* (entire book)

April 17: The Second World War and Political Change in Europe

April 22: Communism
Mary Fulbrook, *The People’s State*, selections

Katherine Verdery, *What Was Socialism, and Why Did It Fall?*

April 24: The Rebirth of European Democracy

April 29: Democracy in Europe today