Fall 2008
PSC 135
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN EUROPE
M W 2.50-4.05 pm
SOC-PSY 126

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DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the emergence of democratic politics and institutions in Western Europe. What explains the emergence of the modern state in Western Europe? What explains the uneven spread of liberalism across European nations? How did European political structures respond to the structural transformations associated with the process of industrialization? Why did democracy collapse in many European nations in the interwar period? In addressing these questions, the course reviews modern European history from an analytical perspective.

After a conceptual and methodological introduction, the first part of the course is devoted to analyze the formation of European nation-states. Then we will spend the second part of the course studying the transitions from the Ancien (old) regime into modern democratic politics. In the context of this general comparison, we will pay particular attention to the experiences of France, England, Germany and Italy/Spain as cases with distinctive responses to the common challenges posed by the crisis of the old regime and industrialization. Of particular interest in the context of this process is the question of why the arrival of mass politics resulted in different political regimes in interwar Europe. Why did democracy collapse in Germany, Italy or Spain, but managed to survive in Britain or Scandinavia? Thereafter, we will study the extent to which different party systems and cleavage structures reflect the specific nature of the transition from the old regime. Finally, we will devote the third part of the class to put the European experience in a broader theoretical and comparative perspective. How distinctive is the European experience of democratization? How does the European experience fit with general theories of regime choice and democratization?
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The final grade in the course will be a function of three items:

1. A mid-term in class exam (October 15th) covering the materials of the first 5 weeks of the semester. This exam constitutes 30% of the final grade.

2. A second midterm in class exam (December 3rd). This exam constitutes 40% of the final grade.

3. Two short response papers (to be circulated on September 22nd and October 20th). These papers will pose analytical questions on one or more of the required readings for the class, and will demand from you to relate these readings to the class materials. Papers are due the following class and should be about 5 to 7 pages max in length. Specific details as to how to approach these papers will be provided during class prior to their circulation. Each of these papers accounts for 15% of the final grade. Late papers will NOT be accepted and will automatically imply failing the assignment.

4. While we do not assign a formal share of the grade to participation, I expect students to participate actively during class discussions. Students who do not participate and/or show no improvement during the semester will be graded exclusively on the basis of items (1) to (3). In contrast, those students regularly contributing to class discussions and/or those showing an upward trajectory in their performance may see their grades increase by one level at the end of the semester.

Each of the requirements of the course is graded on a 0-100 scale. Final grades will reflect the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86-94.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-85.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-74.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69.9</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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POLICY

I will follow Duke University’s procedures to establish whether absences from any event related to this class are justified (e.g. illness, sport events) and merit ad hoc arrangements. Other than in the very restrictive cases contemplated by the university, make up exams are not an option.
I will also follow the University’s policy in any event of plagiarism and academic honesty.

Grade complaints: You have the right to dispute a grade if you disagree with it. You must do so in writing, no more than 3 working days after we have returned the exam to you. Upon receiving your appeal, I will re-grade the entire exam. Note that as I re-evaluate the exam, I may realize that while we were too strict with some answers, we were too generous with others. Your overall grade may go up, but it may also go down.

COURSE MATERIALS

The following books are available for purchase at the university bookstore:

- Karl Marx 1852. *The 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (several editions available)

There are a number of readings required every week. You can study these materials either before or at the same time as I am lecturing on the topics. In any case, read the materials carefully as I expect from you a good grasp on them in the exams. I encourage you as well to take a careful look at the recommended readings. While not required, being able to relate to them in the written exams will obviously benefit your final grade.
PART I: FOUNDATIONS

August 25th  Introduction. From the Old Regime to Democracy: common background, divergent paths. Comparative Historical Analysis: promises and risks


August 27th: No class. American Political Science Association Meetings

Sept 1st - Sept 3rd: The formation of European Nation States: patterns and explanations


PART II: LIBERALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN WESTERN EUROPE

September 8th-10th: The English Revolution


September 15th-17th-22nd: The French Revolution(s)


* Skocpol: States and Social Revolutions (pp.: 3-67;112-128;174-205 )

* Alexis de Tocqueville. The Old Regime and the Revolution (several versions are available in the library).


!!!FIRST RESPONSE PAPER CIRCULATED. DUE SEPTEMBER 24!!!-

September 24th - September 29th: The Industrial Revolution: origins, spread, consequences


October 1st: Review Session

-October 6: IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM-

October 8th - October 15th: Political and institutional responses to changing socio-economic conditions I: democratization in Britain.


* Eric Hobsbawn [1968/1999] Industry and Empire (review previous contents and relate structural transformation to political implications), Penguin.


October 20th - October 22nd: Political and institutional responses to changing socio-economic conditions II: XIXth century France.


* Karl Marx: The 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Please READ IN ADVANCE

**SECOND RESPONSE PAPER CIRCULATED. DUE ON OCTOBER 27-**

**October 27th-October 29th: Political and institutional responses to changing socio-economic conditions III: Unification and the Second Reich**


**Nov 3rd-Nov 5th: Political and institutional responses to changing socio-economic conditions III: the struggle for Liberalism and Democracy in Southern Europe**


* Gabriel Tortella 2000: *The Development of Modern Spain*

**November 10th-12th: Historical Legacies and Varieties of Political Regimes in Interwar Europe**

* Gregory M. Luebbert 1991. *Liberalism, Fascism, or Socialdemocracy*
November 17th: Historical Legacies and Political Conflicts in XXth Century: changing cleavage structures and party systems


PART III: WESTERN EUROPE IN THEORETICAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

November 19th: Democracy and Economic Growth

* Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi 1997: “Modernization: theories and facts” *World Politics* 49 2: 155-83


* Carles Boix and Susan Stokes “Endogenous Democratization”, *World Politics* 55, 517-549

November 24th: Democracy and Inequality

Review: *European Experiences and the theory of democratization. What have we learnt? What is yet to be learnt?*

* Daniel Ziblatt 2006 “ How did Europe democratize?” *World Politics* 58: 311-338. (useful to put these week’s readings in the context of the class)

* Carles Boix 2003: *Democracy and Redistribution*, Cambridge University Press. (chapters 1 and 3)

* Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson 2006: *Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship* (chapters 1-3; rest of the book recommended).

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1 Some of the readings in this last part of the course are technically demanding. FOCUS ON THE GENERAL POINT OF THE ARTICLES AND CONCENTRATE ON THE MAIN INTUITIONS. DO NOT GET LOST TRYING TO GRASP EVERY TECHNICAL ASPECT.

November 26th: **Thanksgiving break!**

December 1st: REVIEW

**December 3rd:** SECOND MIDTERM IN CLASS EXAM