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PSC 321H.01: Politics of Western Europe

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

Political Science 321H
Politics of Western Europe
Spring Semester, 2002

F.L. Grieves
Office: LA 352
Hrs:

Course purpose is to undertake a comparative analysis of parliamentary forms of government and politics in the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate 1) factual knowledge of the historical-cultural context and the government institutions/processes of the countries studied; 2) familiarity with European-relevant research sources; and 3) competence in preparing a short research paper and presenting it to a class.

1. Textbooks: -M. Donald Hancock et al., Politics in Western Europe (2nd ed.)
-J. Adolino & C. Blake, Comparing Public Policies
2. Regular reading of a daily newspaper and/or weekly newsmag. for material relating to European politics is expected.
3. Paper (5-10 double-space, typed pages--including endnotes & bibliography; no cover sheet.) /oral discussion: Explained in class; topic picked Mar. 1 (Fri.); written part due at beginning of class Mar 27 (Wed.); late papers will not be graded! Submission of a paper, however, is required to receive a grade for the course. Style manual: Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (6th ed.) Dates of oral discussion announced in class.

Papers are graded on the basis of use of scholarly research sources, organization and clarity of prose (incl. grammar, punctuation & spelling) and formal paper mechanics (Turabian manual). (10 points, 5% of final grade)

4. Exams: Midterm (1 hr.) - Wed, Mar 6; Adolino & Blake, Ch. 1-6; Hancock, Part 1; current events; lectures (90 points, 45% of final grade)

Final (1 1/2 hr.) - Mon., May 13 (10:10-12:10); Adolino & Blake, Ch. 7-12; Hancock, Parts. 2, 3 & 6; current events; lectures; oral discussions. (100 points, 50% of final grade)

Grading Scale: total score \div 2 (90s = A, 80s = B, 70s = C, 60s = D, 59 & below = F)

Course Outline

- A. Introduction to the Study of Comparative Government and to Modern Europe
- B. United Kingdom
 - 1. Background & Political Culture
 - 2. Electoral/Party System
 - 3. Groups, Government Institutions
 - 4. Observations
- C. France
 - 1. Background & Political Culture
 - 2. Electoral/Party System
 - 3. Groups, Government Institutions
 - 4. Observations
- D. Germany
 - 1. Background & Political Culture
 - 2. Electoral/Party System
 - 3. Groups, Government Institutions
 - 4. Observations
- E. European Union

NOTE: Mon, Mar. 11: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES/CHANGE GRADING OPTION

PSc Website: <http://www.umd.edu/polsci/>