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PSC 321H.01: Politics of Western Europe

Forest L. Grieves

The University Of Montana, forest.grieves@umontana.edu

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

Political Science 321H
Politics of Western Europe
Spring Semester, 1998

F.L. Grieves
Office: LA 350
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. Curtis, ed., Western European Government and Politics
-Annual Editions, Comparative Politics 97/98
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 Feb 27 (Fri.); written part due at beginning of class Mar 23 (Monday); 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 11; Annual Editions, Reading # 1-7, 22-35; Curtis, Ch. 1 & 2; current events; lectures (90 points, 45% of final grade)

Final (1 1/2 hr.) - Wed., May 13 (10:10-12:10) , Annual Editions, Reading # 8-15, 36-39, 54-55, 57-60 Curtis, Chaps. 3, 4 & 8; 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 9: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES/CHANGE GRADING
OPTION