Course Description and Objectives

This class offers a broad overview of politics in Germany, Europe's politically and economically most powerful country. It is structured around several broad themes: political institutions, electoral system and elections, parties and party system, interest representation, political participation, political economy, the legacies of Germany's past, social policy, European and foreign policy, and current and future challenges. Throughout the semester, we will relate the German experience to broader issues, problems, and concepts used in the comparative study of domestic politics.

Requirements

1. Reading and thinking about the assigned materials so you are able to participate in class. I expect you to consider the readings carefully and thoughtfully before we meet.
2. Presence and active participation in class.
3. Three 6-page papers, set up as follows: 10 days before each due date, I will send you a list of 3 essay questions for your consideration. A week after that, I will tell you which of those 3 questions you are to answer in your paper. The paper is due 3 days after that. Note that we will devote part of our class discussions to the two paper questions that I do not end up selecting, so you want to have thought carefully about all three questions by the time I announce the paper topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1</th>
<th>Paper 2</th>
<th>Paper 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 potential questions announced</td>
<td>Covering content through</td>
<td>Paper question announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Presentations: you will pair up with one of your classmates to prepare a short presentation on a current events topic of your own choice. The presentations will take place on May 5 and May 7. They should be about 8-9 minutes, involve PowerPoint slides, and will be followed by about 5-6 minutes where your classmates can ask you questions.

5. Honors credit: you may take this class for honors credit. If you do, you have to write an additional 3 6-page papers, each of which will be based on one of the two paper questions I do not select for the whole class. Those papers will be due on March 6, April 10, and May 17.
Grading

Class attendance and participation: 24%
Short papers (equally weighted): 66%
Presentation: 10%

Readings

The following books are required reading and should be purchased at the university bookstore or elsewhere (elsewhere may be cheaper, but be sure to buy these exact editions):


You will also be reading several chapters of Russell Dalton's online textbook, titled Politics in Germany: The Online Edition, available at: www.socsci.uci.edu/~rdalton/Pgermany.htm

All remaining readings listed in the syllabus are required as well and available on our Learn@UW course website.

You will be reading about 75 pages per week, on average. Some weeks are more reading-intensive than others, however, so you want to schedule your time accordingly.

A few important notes

- You should make it a habit to read at least one daily newspaper or periodical with substantial international coverage, such as *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Washington Post*, or *The Economist*. Some German news sources also have English content, for example *Der Spiegel* (www.spiegel.de/international), *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (international.sueddeutsche.de), or *Deutsche Welle* (dw.de). Another option is *The Local* (www.thelocal.de).
- Email is the best way to contact me. The best time to meet with me is during office hours.
- If you know that you will be absent from class for religious or other reasons that can be known in advance, please let me know before class. Also let me know if you have to miss class due to sickness or family emergencies. I will be keeping track of your attendance, so it is in your interest to inform me if you have a valid reason for missing class. If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get notes from one of your classmates.
- I will not provide my own class notes. Actively taking notes during class time is an important skill and learning tool.
- My policy on re-evaluating grades is the following:
  - You have to wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints.
  - You have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of
your own work, i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.

- Your grade will be fully re-evaluated. This means that I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes – this is not a risk-free process!

- Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding questions about campus policies and services.

---

January 20

*Introduction*

Padgett, Paterson, and Zohlnhöfer (hereafter: *PPZ*), *Introduction*

January 22

*Germany 1800-1949*

Conradt and Langenbacher (hereafter: *CL*), ch. 1

January 27

*Basic Law and Institutional Structure*

*PPZ*, ch. 1

Hahn 1995

January 29

*Executive and Administration*

*CL*, ch. 7 (pp. 233-256 only)

*PPZ*, ch. 5

February 3

*Bundestag and Bundesrat*

*CL*, ch. 7 (pp. 217-233 and 257-262 only)

February 5

*Judiciary*

*CL*, ch. 8 (282-298)

Barnstedt 2007

The Economist: “Germany’s Constitutional Court: Judgment days”

February 10

*Federalism*

*CL*, ch. 9

*PPZ*, ch. 2
February 12
*Interest Groups*
CL, ch. 5 (pp. 166-182 only)
Dalton, ch. 7 (Political Interests)

February 17
*Elections I*
CL, ch. 6
The Economist: “Descent into banality”
Marcus 2013
Khazan 2013
Waldman 2014

February 19
*Elections II*
PPZ, ch. 3
Sieberer 2010

February 24
*Parties and Party System I*
CL, ch. 5 (pp. 135-166 only)

February 26
*Parties and Party system II*
PPZ, ch. 4
Dalton and Jou 2010

March 3
*Political Economy I*
PPZ, chs. 7, 8
CL, ch. 8 (272-82)

March 5
*No class.*

March 10
*Political Economy II*
PPZ, chs. 12
Hassel 2010

March 12
*Nazi Germany*
Schulze 2001

March 17
*The Shadow of the Past I: Nazi Germany*
Art 2006
March 19
*The German Democratic Republic (East Germany)*
CL, ch. 2 (25-54)
*Watch “The Wall Comes Down” (CNN Cold War Series), available on Learn@UW.*

March 24
*The Shadow of the Past II: The German Democratic Republic*
Dalton, ch. 4 (Changing Political Cultures)
Welsh 1995
Mauk 2014

March 26
*Political Culture, Participation, and Civil Liberties*
CL, ch. 4
PPZ, ch. 6

Week of March 30-April 3
*Spring recess, no class*

April 7
*The Social and Economic Setting*
CL, ch. 3
Silver 2010

April 9
*Minorities*
PPZ, ch. 14
Mushabben 2010

April 14
*Environment, Climate, Energy*
PPZ, ch. 13
“Energy Transition: The German Energiewende,” available at: energytransition.de
The Financial Times: “The costly muddle of German energy policy”
The Financial Times: “German plea to Sweden over threat to coal mines”

April 16
*Germany in Europe I*
CL, ch. 10 (pp. 344-362 only)
PPZ, chs. 9

April 21
*Germany in Europe II*
PPZ, chs. 10
Hall 2012
Young and Semmler 2011
April 23
*Foreign Policy*
CL, ch. 10 (331-344)
PPZ, ch. 11

April 28
*Current and Future Challenges I*
CL, ch. 11
Dalton, ch. 10 (Policy Outcomes)

April 30
*Current and Future Challenges II*
Langenbacher 2010

May 5
Presentations I

May 7
Presentations II
APPENDIX: PS401 Paper Guidelines

I expect your papers to be:
- Structured around a clearly articulated argument/thesis statement.
- Well-written.
- Carefully edited, which includes being grammatically correct and free of spelling errors.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins (which you may need to set manually), and in 12 point “Times New Roman” font.


All papers must be submitted as MS Word documents by the deadline, both into a Learn@UW dropbox and emailed to prof.ringe.paper.submissions@gmail.com.

- Log in to our Learn@UW website.
- Click on "Dropbox" in the top menu.
- Click on the assignment in question and "Add a File."
- Upload your assignment.
- Click "Submit."
- Then email the file to prof.ringe.paper.submissions@gmail.com (also by the deadline).

Please name your documents as follows: yourlastname_401_nameofassignment.doc (e.g. "ringe_401_Paper1.doc").

Papers that do not meet these standards will be penalized when graded.

I consider an assignment to be late if it is not turned in at exactly the time it is due. I deduct half a letter grade for each 24-hour period an assignment is late (that is, whether you turn in your assignment one minute late or 23 hours and 59 minutes late, I deduct half a letter grade; if it is 24 hours and one minute late, I deduct a one letter grade, etc.)

While I do not require you to rely on additional sources and resources beyond the class materials, you may choose to seek them out. Using scholarly sources would be particularly helpful. Note, however, that while the internet can be a very valuable resource, it can be difficult to sort useful information from junk (and there is a lot, of junk). This process can often be more time consuming and risky than it is helpful. Luckily, the resources available through the campus libraries (in-house or online) will make your use of the junk that is out there unnecessary. And please note that Wikipedia (and similar online resources) are not acceptable as sources for academic assignments.

A few words on plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of improperly using someone else’s words or ideas as if they were your own. As such, plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property, and this is no less serious than the theft of material property. There are no “degrees” of plagiarism; one little offense, no matter how small it may appear, constitutes academic dishonesty. Whatever form it takes (downloading and reformatting an article, “buying” an essay, taking a “free” paper off the internet, turning in another
student's work, "sharing" assignments with others, failing to cite a source, neglecting necessary quotation marks, etc.) there is no excuse for plagiarism, and it will get you in a lot of trouble.

Note that the most common form of plagiarism is failure to cite properly. You must provide a citation, for example (Brown 1999, 57), after writing a sentence or a series of sentences that contain words or ideas taken from another person or publication. If you are quoting directly, you must use quotation marks. If you are unsure about how to cite properly, come talk to me.

If you are caught cheating, you will receive a failing grade for the class, I will report you to the Dean's office, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript. This will make it extremely difficult for you to gain entrance to graduate or professional schools and will jeopardize your opportunities with a large number of employers in the future. If you are repeat offender, you will most likely be expelled from the university. Don't put yourself (and me) into what will be a very uncomfortable situation with very serious consequences.