POLI 120B: THE GERMAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the modern German political process. We will take the creation and failure of the Weimar Republic as our point of departure, examining the consequences of Nazism and the division and subsequent unification of the modern German state. We will pay particular attention to how history and geopolitical realities shape and are shaped by, the political institutions, economic system and political culture of the modern Germany.

Course Assignments/Grading:
   Course Participation: 10%
   Midterm: 45%
   Final Examination: 45%

Participation: Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the assigned reading and able to participate in course discussions. We will also talk about current events within the German system during course discussions. Current events analysis will occur at the beginning of each lecture, so students are strongly encouraged to be on time and ready to participate. The following is a list of new websites that may be of use. You may wish to sign up for e-mail alerts from your favorite websites. Information on setting up e-mail alerts will be discussed in class. The list is not exhaustive:

   Deutsche Welle (http://www.dw-world.de)
   Economist Online (http://www.economist.com)
   Spiegel Online (http://www.spiegel.de/international)
   BBC News (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
   Financial Times (http://www.ft.com)
   Presseurop English (http://www.presseurop.eu/en)

Course Papers: The midterm and final examination will be 5-7 pages in length. Materials relating to format of the midterm and final examinations will be placed on the course website and will also be discussed in class. A handout for writing social sciences papers will be made available. Students are advised to retain ALL graded papers for the course until a course grade has been entered.
Late Assignments: Barring emergencies with valid documentation, no late assignments will be accepted. Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will not be accepted. While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures.

Reading Schedule: Course examinations will draw heavily from course readings and lecture material. Given that we are covering ten weeks of material in a five week period, the reading load for the course is relatively intense. Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at: http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf.

Books (required):
Allen. The Nazi Seizure of Power
Hancock and Krisch. Politics in Germany
Padgett et al. Developments in German Politics 3

Given the rising costs of textbooks, you may wish to shop around online. Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, Textbooks.com all have used and new textbooks at competitive prices.

Week 1:
2 July
Introduction/Course Logistics
Syllabus, How to Write a Social Science Paper, How to Read Texts

Weimar Germany
Hancock and Krisch CH 2
Allen pgs 3-158 (skim)

4 July
NO CLASS

Week 2:
9 July
Finish Unit on Weimar Germany
Nazi Germany
Allen pgs 159-306 (skim)

11 July
Postwar Aftermath: Division and Unification
Hancock and Krisch CH 3

German Political Institutions: Basic Law and Federalism
Hancock and Krisch pgs. 77-82 and Padgett CH 2

MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED
Week 3:
16 July
German Political Institutions: Basic Law and the Central Government
Hancock and Krisch pgs. 82-103 and Padgett CH 1

German Political System: Political Parties
Hancock and Krisch CH 6 and 7

18 July
German Political System: the German Electoral System
Padgett CH 3

German Political System: Policymaking in Germany
Padgett CH 5

MIDTERM DUE

Week 4:
23 July
Critical Issues in German Politics: German Economic Model
Hancock and Krisch CH 9, Padgett CH 6

FINAL DISTRIBUTED

25 July
Critical Issues in German Politics: Social Welfare Programs
Padgett CH 7

Critical Issues in German Politics: Immigration
Padgett CH 11

Week 5:
30 July
Critical Issues in German Politics: German Foreign Policy
Hancock and Krisch CH 10 and Padgett CH 9

Critical Issues in German Politics: Germany and the EU
Padgett CH 10

1 August
Critical Issues in German Politics: The Euro Crisis
This American Life (audio): http://bit.ly/zCnp3E

Economist “Is “Grexit” Good for the Euro?” http://econ.st/LN1CG2

Economist “Don’t Count on a Hamiltonian Moment”:
http://econ.st/N0haWP

Critical Issues in German Politics: Prospects
Hancock and Krisch CH 11

Final Examination due 11:30am-2:29pm on 3 August 2012
Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made be in lecture.