PS401 (002) — German Politics

Fall 2016
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45
Education L155

Professor Nils Ringe
201B North Hall, ringe@wisc.edu
Office Hours: Tue 11-12 and Thu 2:45-3:45

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: seven days before each due date, I will send you a list of three essay questions for your consideration. During the next five days, you will prepare three two-page, double-spaced paper outlines, one each addressing those questions. 48 hours before the due date, I will announce which of those 3 questions you are to answer in your paper. By the due date, you will hand in the paper itself and the outlines you produced for the two essays I did not end up assigning. Additional information about the papers and mandatory guidelines are available in the Appendix below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>3 questions announced</th>
<th>Covering content through</th>
<th>Paper question announced (by noon)</th>
<th>Due date (by noon)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>October 14</td>
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<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>November 16</td>
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<td>Paper 3</td>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>December 17</td>
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4. Presentations: you will pair up with one of your classmates to prepare two short presentations on a current events topic (more details on this soon). The presentations will take place during class time. They should be about 5 minutes long and will be followed by about 5 minutes where your classmates can ask you questions.
Grading

Class attendance and participation: 24%
Short papers: 22% each, 66% total
Current events presentations: 5% each, 10% total

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 also required 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 cannot make it to my office hours, please email me for an appointment.
- 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.
  o 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.

September 6
Introduction
Padgett, Paterson, and Zohlnhöfer (hereafter: PPZ), Introduction

September 8
Germany 1800-1949
Conradt and Langenbacher (hereafter: CL), ch. 1

September 13
Basic Law and Institutional Structure
PPZ, ch. 1
Hahn 1995
Excerpt of the Basic Law (recommended)

September 15
Executive and Administration
CL, ch. 7 (pp. 233-256 only)
PPZ, ch. 5
Packer 2014

September 20
Bundestag and Bundesrat
CL, ch. 7 (pp. 217-233 and 257-262 only)

September 22
Judiciary
CL, ch. 8 (282-298)
Barnstedt 2007
The Economist: "Germany's Constitutional Court: Judgment days"

September 27
Federalism
CL, ch. 9
PPZ, ch. 2
**September 29**

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

**October 4**

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

**October 6**

*Elections II*
PPZ, ch. 3
Sieberer 2010

**October 11**

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

**October 13**

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

**October 18 & October 20**

*Classes cancelled; instead:*
- Watch "The Lives of Others," in preparation for our class on Nov. 10. The movie is available on Learn@UW under “The Shadow of the Past II.”
- Watch a video lecture by Prof. Mark Copelovitch on the Euro crisis, in preparation for our class on Dec. 8. The video is linked on Learn@UW under “Germany in Europe II” and available directly at: wpt.org/University-Place/euro-crisis-greece-ireland-and-future. While the lecture is several years old, the basic lessons about the problems of the common currency still apply today, even if some of the “current events” discussion is outdated.

**October 25**

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

**October 27**

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

**November 1**

*Nazi Germany*
Schulze 2001
November 3
*The Shadow of the Past I: Nazi Germany*
Art 2006
Feldkirchen 2015
Smale 2016

November 8
*The German Democratic Republic (East Germany)*
CL, ch. 2 (25-54)
*Watch “The Wall Comes Down” (CNN Cold War Series), available on Learn@UW.*

November 10
*The Shadow of the Past II: The German Democratic Republic*
Dalton, ch. 4 (Changing Political Cultures)
Welsh 1995
Mauk 2014

November 15
*Political Culture, Participation, and Civil Liberties*
CL, ch. 4
PPZ, ch. 6

November 17
*The Social and Economic Setting*
CL, ch. 3
Silver 2010

November 22
*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”

November 29
*Minorities*
PPZ, ch. 14
Mushaben 2010

December 1
*Refugees*
Additional readings: TBA
December 6
*Germany in Europe I*
CL, ch. 10 (pp. 344-362 only)
PPZ, chs. 9

December 8
*Germany in Europe II*
Review Prof. Copelovitch’s Euro crisis lecture
PPZ, chs. 10
Hall 2013
Young and Semmler 2011
Posen 2013
Wolf 2015

December 13
*Foreign Policy*
CL, ch. 10 (331-344)
PPZ, ch. 11
Alessi 2013
Stelzenmüller 2016

December 15
*Current and Future Challenges*
CL, ch. 11
Dalton, ch. 10 (Policy Outcomes)
Langenbacher 2010
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 and paper outlines 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 and outlines 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. For each assignment, please append the two paper outlines you produced to the paper you wrote (i.e., place them after the bibliography), so that you are submitting everything in one single document.

- 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 exactly by 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.

The “I did not know” excuse does not count, in any way. Ignorance of what constitutes academic dishonesty does not entitle you to any leniency. It is much like the real world: not knowing a rule or law does not mean you are not subject to it or protect you from sanction. It is your responsibility to know what academic dishonesty is or to educate yourself. I am providing some explanation in what follows, but I urge you to ask any follow-up questions you might have.

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, check out http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html. If anything remains unclear, come talk to me.

Also note that changing a couple of words here or there does not mean you are not plagiarizing. Here is an example: a few years ago, the journalist Fareed Zakaria was suspended from his jobs at Time Magazine and CNN for plagiarism. Below is what he wrote and then the source from which he plagiarized. Notice that he did not take from the other source word for word; he did change some words, but it still counts as plagiarism. This is not just because he did not cite the other author; it is because he passed off phrases and ideas as his own that were not.

What Zakaria wrote: "Adam Winkler, a professor of constitutional law at UCLA, documents the actual history in Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America. Guns were regulated in the U.S. from the earliest years of the Republic. Laws that banned the carrying of concealed weapons were passed in Kentucky and Louisiana in 1813. Other states soon followed: Indiana in 1820, Tennessee and Virginia in 1838, Alabama in 1839 and Ohio in 1859. Similar laws were passed in Texas, Florida and Oklahoma. As the governor of Texas (Texas!) explained in 1893, the "mission of the concealed deadly weapon is murder. To check it is the duty of every self-respecting, law-abiding man."

What the author of the original piece wrote (Jill Lepore in the New Yorker): "As Adam Winkler, a constitutional-law scholar at U.C.L.A., demonstrates in a remarkably nuanced new book, "Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America," firearms have been regulated in the United States from the start. Laws banning the carrying of concealed weapons were passed in Kentucky and Louisiana in 1813, and other states soon followed: Indiana (1820), Tennessee and Virginia (1838), Alabama (1839), and Ohio (1859). Similar laws were passed in Texas, Florida, and Oklahoma. As the governor of Texas explained in 1893, the "mission of the concealed deadly weapon is murder. To check it is the duty of every self-respecting, law-abiding man."

So if you paraphrase, make sure you are truly writing in your own words. And make sure to cite all your sources.

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. Do not put yourself (and me) into what will be a very uncomfortable situation with very serious consequences.