INTL 407/507
Europe Today: Crisis, Challenge and Change

Course Instructor: Dr. Geoff Kennedy
Office: PLC 371
Office Hours: TBA
Email: gkennedy@uoregon.edu
Phone: (541) 346-8976

Course Description

Is Europe in crisis? The financial crisis of 2008 initiated an economic downturn that Europe has not experienced since the 1930s. The refugee crisis of the past two years has seen the largest influx of people into Europe since WWII. These crises have put incredible strains on the European Social Model—that distinctively European way of organizing the relationship between states and markets. This course examines the various paths of post-war European development—organized capitalism in the West, dictatorship and dependent development in the South, and communism in the East—that have defined contemporary Europe. It also examines the problems posed to the European Social Model by the ongoing neoliberal experiment of European integration and the austerity measures designed to resolve the current crisis.
The course is divided into four sections. The first section reassesses the history of European development, democratization, and social change between the French Revolution and World War II. The second section examines the diversity of developmental processes underway in the various regions of Europe over the course of the post-war period: liberal capitalism in the West, dictatorship and underdevelopment in the South, and socialism in the East. The third section looks at the processes of neoliberal convergence and their impact on the European Social Model. The final section looks at the current crisis in Europe, emphasizing the political and economic fallout of the Euro currency crisis on European integration, as well as the social and political cleavages opening up in the context of the current refugee crisis.

Please note: This syllabus may be subject to change

**Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course, students will have acquired the following:

i) A comprehensive understanding of relevant theories and concepts related to development and social change in Europe

ii) Comprehensive knowledge of comparative case studies of European development and social change over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

iii) An understanding of the broader historical context in which contemporary social struggles regarding economic development in Europe are being waged

iv) Effective oral communication skills; independent research skills and practice in research design

**Course Requirements**

Weekly Reviews: 20%
Seminar Participation: 10%
Research Proposal: 20%
Proposal Presentation: 15%
Research Essay: 35%

**Readings:**
There are no textbooks for this course. All course readings are available either on the blackboard or at the reserve desk in the library.

**Seminars**
This course will be conducted in a seminar format most appropriate to developing the advanced level of knowledge and understanding appropriate for senior level undergraduates and graduate students. Individual readings will be distributed to students on a voluntary basis in order to facilitate discussion. While the format of the seminar may change, the success of the seminars hinge on student engagement and participation. Seminars are not small-scale lectures. They are designed to foster critical thinking skills and presentation skills in students. **It is therefore imperative that students attend having done their share of the readings in order to participate!**
Seminar Schedule

I. Myths of Modernization: Disaggregating European Development

1. Introduction to the Course
   TBA

2. Theories of Development and Social Change in Europe
   Sandra Halperin, *In the Mirror of the Third World: Capitalist Development in Modern Europe*, ch. 1; and *War and Social Change in Modern Europe*, pp. 19-29.

3. Rethinking Industrialization and Democratization in Nineteenth Century Europe
   Essential Readings:

II. The Many Faces of Post-War European Development

4. Social Change and Post-War Reconstruction: Building Organized Capitalism in Western Europe
   Essential Readings:
   Barry Eichengreen, *The European Economy since 1945: Coordinated Capitalism and Beyond*, chapter 2.

5. Building the European Social Model in Western Europe
   Donald Sassoon, ‘Building Social Capitalism,’ in *One Hundred Years of Socialism*.

   Essential Readings:

7. Communism in Eastern Europe
   Essential Readings:

8. From Communism to Post-Communism – The Transition

9. Proposal Presentations

### III. Neoliberalism, Development and Social Change in the European Union

**10: Neoliberalism, European Integration and the Dismantling of the European Social Model: The EU as Neoliberal Structure**

**Essential Readings:**
Bastiaan van Apeldoorn, ‘Transnational class agency, the rise of ‘embedded neoliberalism’ and the evolving European order,’ in *Transnational Capitalism and the Struggle over European Integration* (2002).

**11: Neoliberalism, European Integration and the Dismantling of the European Social Model: Whither Varieties of Capitalism?**


**12: Neoliberalism, European Integration and the Dismantling of the European Social Model: The End of the Welfare State?**

**Essential Readings:**

Carl-Ulrik Schierup, Peo Hansen and Stephen Castles, “‘Paradise Lost’? Migration and the Changing Swedish Welfare State,’ *Migration, Citizenship, and the European Welfare State: A European Dilemma*

**13: Neoliberalism, European Integration and the Dismantling of the European Social Model: The Birth of Unsocial Europe?**

Andrew Martin and George Ross, ‘‘Through a Glass Darkly,’ in Andrew Martin and George Ross (eds.), *The Brave New World of European Labor: European Trade Unions at the Millennium.*

### IV. Europe in Crisis

**14: Crisis in the Eurozone, I: Structural Adjustment Comes to Greece**

*Essential Readings:*
Costas Lapavitsas, *Crisis in the Eurozone*, part II.

**15: Documentary: Greece for Sale**

**16: Crisis in the Eurozone, II: Structural Adjustment Comes to Europe**

Christophe Hermann, ‘Crisis, structural reform, and the dismantling of the European Social Model(s),’ *Economic and Industrial Democracy* (2014)
Gareth Dale and Jane Hardy, ‘The Crash in Central and Eastern Europe,’ in Dale, ed.

**17: Crisis in the Eurozone, III: Resilient Neoliberalism and Social Unrest**

*Essential Readings:*

**18: Documentary: #Thisisacoup**

**19: The Refugee Crisis**

*Essential Readings:*
TBA

**20: Democracy in Europe**

*Essential Readings:*
TBA

*Deadline: Research Paper – First day of finals week*