Fall 2013
Poli 630 & Hist.659: European Politics
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Topic for Fall 2013 :
The Co-evolution of States and Markets in Western Europe

This seminar is devoted to a critical examination of selected themes in the co-evolution of states and markets in Western Europe and, more generally, comparative politics. Focus on this co-evolution can reveal a great deal about established models of European states and markets and the types of explanations that prevail. The aim of the course is to provide a deeper understanding.

The problem of cognition is a persistent problem in comparative analysis. There is a great deal of confusion concerning the extent to which political regimes can be understood as ways to facilitate economic cooperation for mutual advantage. Equally, there is a great deal of confusion about how to understand, and recognize, the world of the artifactual, the importance of mechanisms of exchange, the characteristics of life goods and the nature of public administration as implementation. We need to recognize that successive generations of West Europeans have created complex patterns of institutional arrangements to deal with collective action and public affairs. In fact, patterns of diversity and interdependence are such that relying on idealizations and models of pure competition (“market”) and pure hierarchies (“state”) do not take us very far. For these reasons, the readings are designed to remove confusion, to offer clarifications, and to furnish ways that can be used to meet the challenge of understanding how human beings create the world in which they live and what links exist between knowledge and public affairs – i.e., “the noosphere” in Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s conceptualization. The net result will, I hope, be a deeper appreciation of the world of the artifactual, the relationship between knowledge, human creativity and institutions and what methods in social science provide us with ways to get at institutional diversity and multiple levels of analysis. By the time you complete the course, you should be well-oriented in the study of European politics and history, and be equipped to recognize the nature and scope of contemporary debates about how to understand human affairs.

We will cover a great deal of material in a relatively short period of time. The good news is that it is an exciting set of readings that will put you in the forefront of the debate about comparative politics and political economy. Please remember that this is a seminar and it will depend on your contributions. Each seminar participant will be expected to lead discussion in at least one seminar meeting; everyone is expected to be prepared to participate at every meeting. You will be expected to be responsible for reading material ranging from 100 to 300 pages each week.
You will be expected to write three analytical papers covering themes from the reading list below. Each paper should be about ten pages, double-spaced. The first paper is to be handed in October 1; the second, on November 4; and the last on December 9. Alternatively, you can choose to write a 25-page paper on a topic chosen from a range of topics I will suggest later, and the paper is to be handed in no later than December 9. I would like to have the opportunity to chat with you as you embark on each project.

I will provide more details about these papers in our first meeting. I will also set out my expectations for your seminar presentations.

Breakdown of Grade:
Seminar participation, 20%
Discussion leader, 20%
Three papers, (or one paper) 60%

**Integrity:** McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

I have ordered several books that are available for you at the McGill University Bookstore:


Other assigned readings are in the course pack; many of them are also available online. I also strongly encourage you to make Leoni, Bruno.1991. *Freedom and the Law* (3rd edition. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund) part of your working library.

**Why Western Europe**
The making of the modern state
Political Economy and Development
Governance and Policymaking
Representation and Participation

**Seminar Meetings #1**
France and England
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Reading:

**Seminar Meeting # 2**
Germany and Italy
Readings:
Course Pack:

**Selected Themes**

**Seminar Meeting # 3**
Cultural Evolution, the Noosphere and Problems of Cognition
Readings:
Course Pack:

**Seminar Meeting # 4**
Origins: Law, Politics and Economy
Readings:
Course Pack:

Seminar Meeting # 5
Economic Growth, and Industrial and Commercial Transformations
Readings:
Hayek, The Fatal Conceit, pp.29-47, and Appendices.
Course Pack:

Seminar Meeting # 6
Types of Revolution: do violence and positive changes go together?
Readings:
Alexis de Tocqueville. [1856] 1956. The Old Regime and the French Revolution. Read also with care the appendix on Languedoc.
Course Pack:

Seminar Meeting # 7
Democratic Revolution: looking to the United States to understand Democracy in Europe
Readings:
A week of intensive reading may be not do justice to Tocqueville’s method of inquiry and empirical analysis. Still for the time available, I suggest a careful reading of author’s introduction, and chapters 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9 in Vol. I, and the chapters in Part IV of vol. II, on the influence that democratic ideas and sentiments exercise on political society. Recall also the article by Vincent Ostrom on the problem of cognition.

Seminar Meeting # 8
Democracy as a Lost Cause? Representative Government, Parties and Power in Movement
Readings:
Course Pack:


Seminar Meeting # 9
Rethinking The Bureaucratic Phenomenon

Readings:


Course Pack:


Seminar Meeting #10
Capital, Welfare & Subsidiarity

Readings:


Course Pack:


Seminar Meeting #11
Time, and the World of the Artifactual

Readings:


Course Pack:


Seminar Meeting # 12
Polycentric Governance beyond the Holy Roman Empire
Readings:
Course Pack:

Seminar Meeting # 13
Looking to the Past to improve the future