

## West European Politics

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This course is an introduction to the politics of four West European countries: Britain, France, Sweden and Spain. It provides an overview of these countries and a sense of the contemporary debates inside them.

### Course requirements:

class attendance via zoom and participation

a midterm and final essay exam

as we move through the course I may find particular assignments from our class discussions. I will ask for volunteers. That work will be for extra credit. I'll explain this further in the first class.

### Required readings

1. (article 61 pages) E.P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," *Past and Present*, # 5, February, 1971, pp 76-136 on canvas or at this link: [https://www.jstor.org/stable/650244?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/650244?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

2) Hugh Heclo, *Modern Social Politics in Britain and Sweden: From Relief to Income Maintenance*, Yale, 1974

3) Daniel Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*, Cambridge, 2017. Read chapters 1-5, 10 and 11.

4) Richard B. Freeman, Bergitta Swedenborg, and Robert H. Topel, eds., *Reforming the Welfare State: Recovery and Beyond in Sweden*, Chicago, 2010

5) David Garrioch, *The Making of Revolutionary Paris*, University of California Press, 2002, selected chapters

6) Alistair Cole, *Developments in French Politics*, 2013, selected chapters

4) Omar Encarnacion, *Democracy without Justice in Spain: The Politics of Forgetting*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014

### Britain (approximately September 1-October 1)

So I'll work the whole day and on Sundays I'll seek  
At Church how to bear all the wants of the week.  
The gentlefolks, too, will afford us supplies  
They'll subscribe...and give up their puddings and pies  
Derry-down

Derry down, indeed. And tra la boom deaay! However, the nature of gentlefolks being what it is, a thundering good riot in the next parish was more likely to oil the wheels of charity than the site of Jack Anvil on his knees in church.

From "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd" *Past and Present*, 1971

The question of want. What to do about it. Whose fault is it? Whose responsibility is it? The collective underlying values provide the answers to those questions. These are the key issues of Europe and the rest of the world as well.

Required readings for Britain: E.P. Thompson article, Heclo, entire book and Ziblatt, chapters listed above.

Dates	Readings
September 1	first day of class: discuss syllabus and readings
September 3	E.P. Thompson "The Moral Economy..."
September 8	continue with E.P. Thompson
September 10-17	Heclo
September 22-October 1	Ziblatt, chapters as indicated above

### **Sweden**

Heclo is also relevant for Sweden. Also read Freeman

Dates	Readings
October 6-8	Heclo again on Sweden
October 13-20	Freeman
October 22	Midterm exam

### **France**

Read Garrioch and Cole selected chapters

Dates	Readings
October 27-November 3	Garioch
November 5-12	Cole

### **Spain**

Spain's is the newest democracy on the syllabus and the newest democracy among the major European powers. Spain has been deeply troubled and is still, in many ways, democratizing and not yet fully consolidated in its democracy. Many of the issues Spain confronts are also those confronted by new democracies in Latin America.

Read Encarnacion, the entire book

Dates	Readings
November 17-24	Encarnacion, first half
November 26	Thanksgiving, no class
December 1-3	Finish Encarnacion, prepare for final

