COURSE DESCRIPTION

The sovereign debt crisis has thrown the institutional framework of contemporary Europe into turmoil. Established modes of integrating the democratic welfare state and national labour relations systems into the European Monetary Union (EMU) have been challenged in the European core, and fatally undermined in the European periphery. This has significant implications for our understanding of how to reconcile the implicit tension between market economies and democracy. This course explores these distributional tensions from a comparative political economy perspective that takes institutions, politics and ideas seriously. It seeks to explain how domestic political institutions affect economic policy choices. It will explain the evolution of distinct public policy regimes in Europe through a comparative analysis of different European welfare states: Anglo-liberal (Ireland and the UK), Nordic social-democratic (Sweden, Finland, Netherlands), Mediterranean (Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece) and Western Bismarckian (Germany). This will illustrate the interactive effect of institutions and politics on policy outcomes, and the divergent economic and employment growth patterns in the core and periphery of the Eurozone. A central question guiding the course is whether transnational Europeanization in general and the Eurozone crisis in particular is leading to a convergence or divergence of economic and social policies in European member-states.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify the institutions and policies that lead to a divergence of economic and employment performance of countries in the European Union.

- Compare and contrast the institutional, political and cultural underpinnings of diverse democratic welfare state traditions in Europe.

- Critically assess the complex processes of labour market, social protection, industrial relations and welfare state reforms that have coincided with the transnational Europeanization of public policy making.

- Critically evaluate the impact of austerity on domestic labour markets and distributional reforms.

- Develop advanced professional writing, presentation, policy-analysis and data-collection skills.
COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

- Active participation in the interactive seminar style lectures which are based around core mandatory readings.
  
  o 10 percent

- 20-minute oral presentation of draft essay outlining proposed comparative project/question, how the student intends to answer it, and the process of data collection. Detailed formative feedback will be provided by the instructor.
  
  o 20 percent

- Submit final draft of paper that is a comparative study of countries, regions or a specific policy area in Europe. Students are encouraged to develop their own question.
  
  o 70 percent

A mandatory OUTLINE of the paper will be due on February 1st. A mandatory preliminary DRAFT of the paper will be due on March 13th. The final paper will be due on April 6th.

The essay questions will be based on knowledge that students obtained during the course, which they must shape into coherent arguments supported by convincing evidence. Particular attention will be given to evaluating the sophistication of their arguments, as well as their ability to address the specific question at hand. This is more important than the length of the contribution, and the ability to rehearse established arguments

TEACHING

- Problem-based learning centred on interactive seminars, debates, oral presentations, audio-visual documentaries, traditional lectures and in-depth case studies.

- Each class is three hours. One hour will be used to discuss the development of a specified public policy area (i.e. industrial relations, taxation, income, social security, labour market) One hour to assess how this policy area has been reformed in the context of Europeanization. One hour for presentations and discussion.

- Students will be encouraged to develop two concept maps for each class. One based on the specified reading for each week (either a journal article or a book chapter). One based on the content of the previous lecture and discussion.

- Students will be encouraged to set up and keep a blog on what they are learning/reading in order to improve and diversify their writing and data analytic skills.
**USEFUL TEXTBOOKS**


**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The JMU Honor Code must be observed at all times. You may not offer or accept assistance during exams, nor may you consult any sources during closed-book exams. In papers, you may not use anyone else’s work without properly citing that work. You may not attempt, in any way, to pass off someone else’s work as your own. All written work that you submit for this course must be original; you may not submit for this course any work that you have prepared for another course. All instances of suspected Honor Code violations will be investigated thoroughly, and suspected violations will be submitted to the Honor Council coordinator. If you have questions about the Honor Code, the Honor Council, or the implications of cheating, see the Honor Council web site at [www.jmu.edu/honor/code.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/honor/code.shtml).
**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 (January 8th): National Fiscal Politics, Monetary Union and the Eurozone Crisis**

This seminar is a brief history on divergent macro-economic trends in Europe. It will analyse how the sovereign debt crisis has impacted on national economic policy and transnational European decision making.

*Required readings:*


*Recommended readings:*


Glyn, Andrew (2006), *Capitalism Unleashed.* Oxford University Press. (Chapter 1, LIB 330.9045/GLY)

Eichengreen, Barry (2007). *The European Economy since 1945; Coordinated Capitalism and Beyond,* Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 and 2

**Week 2 (January 15th): National Welfare Politics, Institutions and the European Union**

This seminar provides students with the analytic tools to examine the institutional tension between diverse welfare state traditions in member-states and the process of European market integration.

*Required readings:*


*Recommended readings:*


**Week 3 (January 22nd): Social Policy and the Welfare State in Europe and the USA**

This seminar will compare the national social protection and labour market regimes in Europe and the USA. We are specifically interested in the question whether there is a necessary trade-off between efficiency and equality in the pursuit of economic and employment performance.

*Required readings:*


*Recommended readings:*


**Week 4 (January 29th): Europeanisation - Social Protection and Labour Market Case Studies**

This seminar will discuss specific legislative developments at a transnational European level in social and labour market policy. We will then analyse how these have impacted on member-states, using a selection of case studies.

*Required reading:*


*National Case Studies*


**Week 5 (February 5th): Strasbourg Academic Trip**
Week 6 (February 12th): Europeanisation -Employment and Industrial Relations Case Studies

This seminar will discuss specific legislative developments at a transnational European level in employment, industrial relations and wage setting policy. It will then compare and contrast these with the national employment systems in member states, using national case studies.

Required reading:


National Case Studies


Week 7 (February 19th): Mid Term Break

Week 8 (February 26th): Europeanisation – Who Gets What, When and How?

This seminar will discuss the distributional politics of who gets what, when and how in the European budgetary process, with a particular focus on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Structural Cohesion Funds.

Required reading:


Week 9 (March 5th): The Politics of Adjustment in the Core of the Eurozone – Case Studies

This seminar will move on to assess the impact of the Eurozone crisis on social and economic policy at transnational European level, paying close attention to the new role for the ECB and Germany.

Required reading:


Recommended readings:

Schelke, Waltraud (2012). Germany has prescribed austerity and restraint for the rest of Europe, while at the same time undertaking extensive fiscal stimulus packages at home. LSE European Politics and Policy Blog: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europppblog/2012/11/26/germany-policy-making-hard-times/


Week 10 (March 12th): The Politics of Adjustment in the Periphery of the Eurozone – Case Studies

This seminar will assess the impact of the Eurozone crisis on social and economic policy in the peripheral regions of the European Economic and Monetary Union (Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Ireland).

Required reading:


Recommended readings:


Muniz, Manuel & Perez, Alexandre (2012). Spain is navigating through story economic waters, but the time for further structural reforms has come. http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europppblog/2012/08/22/spain-economy-reaction-agility/

Week 11 (March 19th): The Emergent Architecture and Multi-level Euro-Governance Regime

This seminar will assess the transformative impact of the Eurozone crisis on the fiscal and political architecture of the European Union. It will discuss changes in EU decision making since the onset of the sovereign debt crisis, paying particular attention to the new process of inter-governmental bargaining.

Required reading: To be confirmed

Recommended readings:


March 22nd: Full Day Max Weber Symposium (MWS) – Presentation of Your Paper

Week 12 (March 26th) Is the European Social Model in Crisis?

The course will conclude by asking whether the so called ‘European social model’ is in crisis. We will organise an In-class debate with a high profile guest speaker (to be confirmed)

Week 13(April 2nd): Examinations

Week 14 (April 8th): Brussels Academic Trip

Week 15 (April 15th): Internship Research Work

Week 16 (April 22nd): Internship Research Work

INFORMATION RESOURCES:

Eurostat provides detailed information on European countries in the follow areas: economy and finance; population and social conditions; industry, trade and services; agriculture and fisheries; external trade; transport; environment and energy; science and technology.


The European Central Bank (ECB) Statistical portal provides data relevant to Eurozone monetary policy, financial stability and other central bank activities. Aggregate series are based on observations from national central banks, credit institutions and other international sources:

http://sdw.ecb.int/

The Euro Barometer Survey consist of approximately 1,000 face-to-face interviews per EU member state, covering social conditions, health, culture, the economy, citizenship, security, information technology, the environment, the Euro and European Union enlargement.

http://www.gesis.org/eurobarometer/data-access/

The EUDO Data Centre (EUI) provides data on European public opinion, political elites and the media; political parties and representation; institutional change and reform, and citizenship

http://www.eui.eu/Projects/EUDO/EUDODataCentre.aspx

The European Social Survey covers social and public trust; political interest and participation; socio-political orientations; governance; media use; moral, political and social values; social exclusion; national, ethnic and religious allegiances; well-being, health and security, and; demographics and socio-economic topic

http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/

The European Labour Force Statistics is a household sample survey conducted across the EU and three EFTA countries,
providing quarterly results on labour participation. Data ranges from 1983, depending on member state accession and other availability factors. Surveys are conducted by European national statistical agencies and collated by Eurostat.


**EU-SILC** is a cross-sectional and longitudinal multi-dimensional micro data set on income, poverty, social exclusion and living conditions in the European Union. Surveys are conducted by European national statistical agencies and collated by Eurostat.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/eu_silc

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

http://www.euractiv.com/en/
http://euobserver.com/
http://www.ft.com/world/europe/brussels
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/
http://www.bruegel.org/
http://www.notre-europe.eu/
http://www.lisboncouncil.net/index.php
http://www.ceps.eu