

DESCRIPTION: A study of Germany's domestic politics. The course focuses especially on economic, social, and environmental structures and politics, with comparisons to other European countries. Looking at current political issues of the Red-Green coalition government the course also sheds light on the history and traditions of German post-reunification politics as well as describes future perspectives like innovative concepts and alternatives for "red-green" politics. The final part of the course is dedicated to the complex field of the European Union and its growing influence on national domestic politics. The course aims encouraging discussions and offers space for special topic requests.

INSTRUCTOR: Anne Köhne

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lecture and discussion

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: German

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: Oral participation (20%), term paper (30%), mid-term exam (20%) and final exam (30%)

CONTENT:

- A. The "Red-Green" Coalition Government, Political Parties, the Political System
- A brief survey of 6 years of "red-green" government (economic and social politics, environmental politics, migration politics)
 - Current domestic "hot issues".
 - Survey of the main political parties: origin, program, profile
 - Survey of central political institutions (Bundestag, government, Bundesrat, Elections, competencies, cooperation)
- B. Main Areas of Domestic Politics
- Economic policy
 - a. Comparing SPD economic policy of the 70's with economic policy of the 80's and 90's
 - b. Current problems, concepts and practices
 - c. Comparisons to other European countries
 - Social policy
 - a. How does the social safety net work in the Federal Republic?
 - b. Current problems and concepts for the future
 - c. Comparisons to other European countries
 - Environmental policy
 - a. Policy positions of the Green Party and of independent institutes
 - b. Current political policy
 - c. Freiburg, the "environmental capital" ?
- C. The European Union (EU) and German Domestic Politics
- Short history of the EU
 - The Common Market
 - The Monetary Union
 - Influence of the EU on German Economic and Social Policies

REQUIRED READINGS: (assigned from)

- Benz, Wolfgang, ed. Die Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Band 2: Wirtschaft. Frankfurt am Main, 1989.
- Christ, Peter, and Ralf Neubauer. Kolonie im eigenen Land: Die Treuhand, Bonn und die Wirtschaftskatastrophe der fünf neuen Länder. Berlin, 1991.
- Geißler, Rainer. Die Sozialstruktur Deutschlands. Zur gesellschaftlichen Entwicklung mit einer Zwischenbilanz zur Vereinigung. 2nd rev. and enl. Ed. Opladen, 1996.
- Hickel, Rudolf, and Jan Prieue. Nach dem Fehlstart. Ökonomische Perspektiven der deutschen Einigung. Frankfurt am Main, 1994.
- Jesse, Eckhard, and Armin Mitter, eds. Die Gestaltung der deutschen Einheit: Geschichte,

- Politik, Gesellschaft. Bonn, 1992.
- Olzog, Günther, and Hans-J. Liese. Die politischen Parteien in Deutschland: Geschichte, Programmatik, Organisation, Personen, Finanzierung. 20th rev. ed. München, 1992.
- Priewe, Jan, and Rudolf Hickel. Der Preis der Einheit. Bilanz und Perspektiven der deutschen Vereinigung. Frankfurt am Main, 1991.
- Sontheimer, Kurt, and Eilhelm Bleek. Grundzüge des politischen Systems der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Rev. ed. München and Zürich, 1997.
- Unger, Frank, Andreas Wehr, and Karen Schönwälder. New Democrats, New Labour, Neue Sozialdemokraten. Berlin, 1998.
- Von Weizacker, Ernst Ulrich. Erdpolitik. Ökologische Realpolitik an der Schwelle zum Jahrhundert der Umwelt. 4th rev. ed. Darmstadt, 1994.
- Von Weizacker, Ernst Ulrich, Amory B. Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovons. Faktor vier. Doppelter Wohlstand—halbierter Naturverbrauch. Der neue Bericht an den Club of Rome. München, 1995.
- Weidenfeld, Werner, ed. Central and Eastern Europe on the Way into the European Union. Problems and Prospects of Integration, Strategies for Europe. Gütersloh, 1996.

Daily newspapers and various additional articles and essays from newspapers and journals, e.g. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte and Der Spiegel

January 2005