Department of Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Political Economy of Germany and the EU
POL 372H 1 F
Fall 2009

Instructor: Harald Bathelt
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Lecture Hours: Tuesday, 12:00-2:00 PM
Lecture Room: UC 161 (University College)

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to explore the structure of the German political economy in the context of EU integration and economic globalisation. This includes providing an understanding of the economic and political system, and its regional manifestations. Drawing upon the varieties-of-capitalism approach, the main themes in the course will analyse the institutional conditions for growth. In a comparative perspective, the course explores topics, such as the role of collective agents, corporate governance and finance, collective bargaining, social security systems, and population structure and immigration. In order to understand the heterogeneous challenges to the “German model”, the conditions will be explored under which regional economies and regional networks develop. This includes an analysis of the reunification process and the economic and political situation in the new Länder. Further, the question will be raised as to how the “German model” can adapt to the challenges of globalisation.

Course Structure:

Although the course will be based on a lecture format, it will provide opportunities for students to participate in class discussions. Course evaluation will be based on a final exam and a research component, consisting of an annotated research proposal (2 pages plus annotated bibliography) and a research paper (10-15 pages double-spaced).

For the research assignment, students are expected to choose a topic from the context of the course, comparing the political economy of Germany with that of another European country or Canada. The paper proposal should provide an introduction to the topic, put forward the main question or problem to be addressed and provide a structure of the argument advanced. An
annotated bibliography should also be attached that gives an overview of the sources to be used. It is expected that the research paper will later be developed from this proposal and the comments received on it. To conserve paper, please print all assignments double-sided.

Assignments are expected to be handed in on the due date in class. The due dates for the assignments are noted below. For lateness, a penalty of 3% per day will be deducted from the mark for the first 7 days. After this 7-day period, papers will no longer be accepted. Students are strongly advised to keep all rough and draft work as well as hard copies of their research papers and assignments until the marked assignments have been returned.

**Blackboard:**

The course uses the management system Blackboard which helps to establish efficient communication between instructor, teaching assistant and student. One of its advantages is that students can access their marks at any time on an individual basis. Questions should be directed to the teaching assistant first. An answer will normally be provided within two days, except for the weekend. In urgent cases, students should discuss issues with the teaching assistant or instructor in person or by telephone.

To access the Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at [http://portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca) and log in using your UTORid and password. If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to [http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The Help Desk at the Information Commons and telephone assistance under 416-978-HELP can also answer other related questions.

Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the “My Courses” module, where you will find the link to this course website along with links to all your other Blackboard-based courses. At times, the instructor or teaching assistant may decide to send out important course information by e-mail. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT e-mail address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT e-mail address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system.

**Turnitin.com:**

The course also uses Turnitin.com, a web-based program to deter plagiarism. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website. If, as a student, you object to using Turnitin.com, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments prior to the submission deadline.
Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the Blackboard-based course website and the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at [http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html).

Students are expected register with the course on the Turnitin.com website as soon as they have decided to take on the course. The information required for registration includes Class Section ID: TBA and Class Section Enrollment Password: pol372. The Class Name is “political economy of germany 2009”.

Further details of the course and suggestions from students will be discussed in class.

**Required Reading:**

POL 372H Course Kit (information to be provided by the instructor in the first week of classes)

**Course Evaluation:**

The course evaluation will be based on the following aspects:

- 20% paper proposal (2 pages plus annotated bibliography) (due week 5: October 13)
- 40% research paper (10-15 pages) (due week 11: November 24)
- 40% final exam

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TOPICS: Fall Term 2009

A. Background and conceptual basis of understanding the German political economy

1. Introduction: Regional economic structure of Germany
2. Backwardness and the rise of the semi-sovereign state
3. The West German model of welfare capitalism
4. Fordism, Post-Fordism and varieties of capitalism

B. Collective agents and basic institutional structure of the German political economy

5. German corporatism: Collective bargaining and co-determination
6. Financial system and corporate governance
7. Social security systems: Unemployment insurance, health care, and pension funds

C. Regional expressions of and challenges to the German political economy

8. Networking and lock-in: Company networks and structural change in the German Ruhr
9. “Späth capitalism” and economic revival in Baden-Württemberg
10. Germany reunited: Transformation of the East German economy

D. Boundaries of and adjustments to the German political economy

11. Shifts in population structure and immigration
12. Challenges of globalization and Europeanization
Readings by Topic: Fall Term 2009

Readings marked by an asterix (*) are core readings on each topic which all students are required to read.

1. Introduction: Regional economic structure of Germany


2. Backwardness and the rise of the semi-sovereign state


3. The West German model of welfare capitalism


4. Fordism, Post-Fordism and varieties of capitalism


5. German corporatism: Collective bargaining and co-determination


*Streeck, W. (2005): Industrial relations: From state weakness as strength to state weakness as


5. Financial system and corporate governance


Wojcik, D. (2002): The Länder are the building blocks of the German capital market. Regional
Studies 36: 877-895.

7. Social security systems: Unemployment insurance, health care, and pension funds


8. Networking and lock-in: Company networks and structural change in the German Ruhr


9. “Späth capitalism” and economic revival in Baden-Württemberg


10. Germany reunited: Transformation of the East German economy


11. Shifts in population structure and immigration


12. Challenges of globalization and Europeanization


Mahnkopf, B. (1999): Between the devil and the deep blue sea: The ‘German model’ under the pressure of globalisation. The Socialist Register 35: 142-177.