Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department
Course Prefix and Number: POSC 331
Course Title: European Politics

Catalog Description: Analysis of the government and politics of the major European powers, including Britain, France and Germany, as well as the European Union. Offered spring even years.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: None.


Any appropriate text for a course in European Politics.

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to acquaint students with politics of the industrialized countries of Europe, particularly the politics of the United Kingdom, France and Germany. These countries have developed a diverse set of political institutions and traditions. Students will analyze the historical and cultural reasons for these differences, as well as investigate some of the common contemporary problems these countries face. Upon completion of the course students should have an understanding of the evolution of European integration and the current role of the European Union in European politics.
A significant, intensive writing component is required for this course. This requirement may be satisfied by a single typewritten paper of twelve pages in length or more, properly cited, or by multiple assignments of equivalent length.

Topical Outline: It is expected that instructors will cover the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the European Union. Individual instructors may choose to add additional countries for study.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Prepared by: Brian Kessel

Name Signature

Date: August 25, 2003

NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time it provides guidance on what the course should cover.