

The Politics of the New Germany (120D)

UCSD Summer Session I - 2015



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 Meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays - 08.00-10.50
 Location

Introduction

Germany is a pivotal actor in post-Cold War Europe. It is the largest financial contributor to the European Union (EU) budget, plays a significant role in the political and institutional evolution of the EU and its economic performance is crucial to the future of the wider European economy. It is a key member of NATO and, as such, performs an essential role in maintaining the transatlantic relationship with the US. Germany also performs a vital bridging role in east-west European relations as the closest ally to Russia and, as one of the world's largest export nations, has close links with China, Japan and the other major trading nations of the world. This course will consider the development of the German political system prior to and since unification and upon successful completion, you will have:

- An overview of the historical context of contemporary German politics;
- a general understanding of German federalism, governance and decision-making, political leadership, the party system and voting behaviour;
- an appreciation of current political debates covering political, institutional, economic and social reform as well as Germany's evolving role in European and global affairs.

General Learning Resources

The course text is Simon Green, Daniel Hough and Alister Miskimmon, *The Politics of the New Germany 2nd Edition*, London: Routledge (2011) and copies should be available in the university bookstore. I will set recommended reading ahead of each class and it will be in your interest to complete these reading assignments. If you wish to do additional reading around this course, 'Coming of Age: German Foreign Policy since 1945' by Helga Haftendorn provides an excellent historical background and introduction to contemporary Germany. You should, of course, also make use of the full library resources available to you at UCSD, the journal *German Politics* in particular.

Support

I can be contacted via e-mail and will attempt to get back to you as soon as possible. I will also leave time at the end of each meeting for informal discussion. If at any time you require assistance or would like to speak with me about the course outside of class, please let me know and we will arrange a time for us to meet.

Course Programme

I will distribute copies of my powerpoint slides via e-mail in advance of the lectures. It is, therefore, essential that I have a valid e-mail address for all students taking this course.

Tue 30 June

Session 1 – Who are the Germans?

Discussion – How do we explain the German 'success story'?

Reading

-BBC Video: [Make Me a German](#) (August 2013).

Thu 2 July

Session 2 – The 'New' Germany: A Post-Nationalist Society?

Discussion – Is there still a 'German Question' today?

Reading

-Textbook: Introduction and Chapter 1 (Germany and the Burden of History).

-Document: Der Spiegel [How Germans Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Flag](#) (June 2006).

Tue 7 July

Session 3 – Post-War Germany and the 'Burden of History'.

Discussion – What factors shaped the development of the Federal Republic of Germany after 1945?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapter 2 (Germany's Post-War Development 1945-1989).

-Document: [Philipp Jenninger's speech to the Bundestag on the 40th anniversary of Reichskristallnacht](#), translation from reproduction of speech in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on November 11, 1988.

-Document: [German president quits over remarks on military](#) (New York Times, 31 May 2010).

Thu 9 July

Session 4 – German Unification: How many peoples?

Discussion – How successful has the political project of German unification been?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapter 3 (Towards Germany Unity?).

-Document: Deutsche Welle [Ampelmännchen is Still Going Places](#) (July 2003).

NB. If you have the time and inclination, I strongly recommend that you watch the following film, *Goodbye Lenin*. This is one of the most popular and loved German films of recent times, and deals with many of the issues linked to unification that we will be discussing in class. The following link has English subtitles.

[Goodbye Lenin](#)

Tue 14 July

Session 5 – Political Leadership: Leader or Broker?

Discussion – How powerful is the German chancellor?

Reading

- Textbook: Chapter 4 (A Blockaded System of Government?).
 - Document: The Guardian [Angela Merkel: The World's Most Powerful Woman?](#) (August 2009).
 - Document: The Guardian [Angela Merkel: Germany's Mother](#) (September 2013).
 - BBC Video: [The Making of Angela Merkel](#) (September 2013).
- If you wish to find out more about Angela Merkel, take a look at her authorised biography. It is available at a decent price on Amazon at: [Angela Merkel, by Kornelius Stefan \(2014\)](#)

Thu 16 July**Session 6 – The Party System and Electoral Behaviour: The Path to Stable Instability?**

Discussion – How stable is the German party system?

Reading

- Textbook: Chapter 5 (Parties and Voters: The Path to Fluid Party Politics).
- Document: BBC News [Deal reached on new government under Merkel](#) (November 2013)

Tue 21 July**Session 7 – Germany and the Failure of Multiculturalism?**

Discussion – Has multiculturalism failed in Germany?

Reading

- Textbook: Chapter 6 (Citizenship and Demographics: (Still) A Country of Immigration?).
- Document: BBC News [Merkel Says German Multicultural Society Has Failed](#) (October 2010).
- Video: [The Pegida Anti-Immigration Movement Splits Germany](#) (February 2015).

Thu 23 July**Session 8 – Germany and the European Union: A European Germany or a German Europe?**

Discussion – How successful has Chancellor Merkel been in pursuing Germany's European agenda?

Reading

- Textbook: Chapter 9 (Germany and the European Union: From Musterknabe to a Frustrated Lehrmeister?)
- Document: The Guardian [Angela Merkel's EU policy is good for Germany – and for the rest of Europe](#) (August 2013).

Tue 28 July**Session 9 – Economic Management: The End of the 'German Model'?**

Discussion – How sustainable is the German model of economic governance?

Reading

- Textbook: Chapters 7 (Economic Management: The End of the German Model?) and 8 (Welfare Policy in Germany: Beyond Sustainability?).
- Document: [The bailout crisis: why Greece is content to put the blame on Germany](#) (March 2015).
- BBC Video: [The Great Euro Crisis](#) (August 2013).

Thu 30 July

Session 10 – Foreign and Security Policy: A New Role for the Twenty-First Century?

Discussion – How effectively has Germany dealt with the challenges of its post-unification foreign and security agenda?

Reading

-Textbook: Chapter 10 (Germany and the Wider World: Finding a New Role for the Twenty-First Century?).

-Document: [Speech by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel on the occasion of the 51st Munich Security Conference](#) (February 2015).

Video: [Death in Afghanistan - The Bundeswehr under fire](#) (September 2008).

-Document: [Fears of Western split over Ukraine as Germany rebuffs American threat to send weapons](#) (Daily Telegraph, February 2015).

Websites

- **The Chancellor's Office**
- <http://www.bundestkanzlerin.de/Webs/BK/En/Homepage/home.html>.
- This is the obvious starting point for speeches made by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, on Germany and international affairs.

- **The German Foreign Office**
- http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Startseite_node.html.
- The German Foreign Ministry website providing speeches and policy documents.

- **The German Institute for International Politics and Security**
- <http://www.swp-berlin.org>.
- This is the German government's official research institute for international policy and politics. Do not be put off by the German language. Most of the reports are also available in English.

- **Der Spiegel**
- <http://www.spiegel.de/international>
- The German equivalent of the Economist, and an excellent source of information on German current affairs.

- **EUobserver**
- <http://euobserver.com>
- This is an excellent source of information on current affairs within the EU. Although not specifically focussed on Germany, it is an invaluable source of information on current policy debates which will frequently relate to the German perspective.

Key Publications

- Beck, Ulrich, German Europe, London: Polity Press, 2014.
- Bulmer, Simon, et al, Germany's European Diplomacy: Shaping the Regional Milieu, Manchester: University Press, 2000.
- Bulmer, Simon, Charlie Jeffrey and Stephen Padgett (eds.), Rethinking Germany and Europe: Democracy and Diplomacy in a Semi-Sovereign State, London: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010.
- Conradt, David P and Eric Langenbacher., The German Polity 10th Edition, New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2013.
- Crawford, Beverly, Power and German Foreign Policy: Embedded Hegemony in Europe, London: Palgrave, 2007.

- Garton Ash, Timothy, *In Europe's Name: Germany and the Divided Continent*, London: Vintage, 1994.
- Green, Simon, and William E. Paterson (eds.), *Governance in Contemporary Germany: The Semisovereign State Revisited*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Haftendorn, Helga, *Coming of Age: German Foreign Policy since 1945*, Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.
- Harnisch, Sebastian, and Hanns W. Maull (eds.), *Germany as a Civilian Power: The Foreign Policy of the Berlin Republic*, Manchester: University Press, 2001.
- Hyde-Price, Adrian, *Germany and European Order: Enlarging NATO and the EU*, Manchester: University Press, 2000.
- Katzenstein, Peter, *Politics and Policy in West Germany: The Growth of a Semi-sovereign State*. Philadelphia 1987.
- Maull, Hanns W., (ed.), *Germany's Uncertain Power: Foreign Policy of the Berlin Republic*, 2006.
- Miskimmon, Alister, *Germany and the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union: Between Europeanisation and National Adaptation*, London: Palgrave, 2007.
- Padgett, Stephen, et al (eds.), *Developments in German Politics 4th Edition*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.
- Pulzer, Peter, *German Politics 1945-1995*, Oxford: University Press, 1995.
- Rittberger, Volker, *German Foreign Policy since Unification*, Manchester: University Press, 2001.
- Roberts, Geoffrey K., *German Politics Today*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2nd Edition, 2009.
- Stent, Angela, *Russia and Germany Reborn: Unification, the Soviet Collapse, and the New Europe*, Princeton: University Press, 2000.

Course Assessment

Course assessment will comprise five discussion comments, a presentation and a multiple choice test.

Discussion Comments

You will be required to submit by e-mail attachment a 750-1000-word analysis on one of the two discussion topics covered each week i.e. five in total. The deadline for submissions will be the Friday in which the classes take place. No submission extensions will be granted except in exceptional circumstances. Each discussion analysis will contribute 15% of the total grade for the course i.e. 75% in total.

Multiple Choice Test

You will be required to respond to 50 multiple choice questions in approximately 30 minutes. All questions will be drawn from the textbook and powerpoint slides and each question will comprise 0.5% of the total grade for this course i.e. 25% in total.

I will complete the grading process on the weekend of 1/2 August and will issue notification of final grades by e-mail on Monday 3 August.

Course Advice

If you can accept that there are no short cuts to the acquisition of knowledge, you will already be on the way to obtaining a good grade for this course. But, in more specific terms, the following advice may be useful:

- attend all class sessions and listen to what points are being highlighted;
- do the recommend reading and come prepared with questions;

- do additional reading when preparing the class comments and do not leave your work until the last minute;
- when writing your class comments and the seen examination, concentrate on explaining rather than describing events and issues;
- remember, although your opinions may be of interest, I would prefer to find out what you have learned;
- spend time organising your thoughts for the examination – a seen question is not an easy option as I will be expecting a higher level of knowledge and analysis than would be expected from an unseen question:
- if there is anything that you do not understand about this course, ask me and I will do my best to assist.

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