University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 1992-93

History 572.

Laird Boswell
5126 Humanities
Office Hours: Th 3-5
263-1805

Democracy and Politics in Modern Europe

This seminar will examine selected themes in the development of democratic regimes in nineteenth and twentieth century Western Europe. We will examine the transition from old regimes to democratic ones, and discuss when and how "modern politics" developed. We will pay particular attention to voter behavior by looking into such issues as authoritarian regimes backed by universal suffrage (Bonapartism); the growth of parliamentary socialism; the question of who voted for Hitler; and the debate concerning women's suffrage.

Requirements: Students are required to do the readings and participate in weekly class discussions. Attendance is mandatory. Two 5 page papers as well as a 15 page essay on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor. Grading will be based on class participation and the papers.

Starred books are available for purchase at the University Book Store. All books and articles are on 3 hour reserve at Helen C. White Library.

Week 1. Introduction

Week 2. The Fall of the Old Regime


Gordon Wright, France in Modern Times, pp. 43-66.

Week 3. The Revolution and New Forms of Political Practice

*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture and Class in the French Revolution, pp. 1-16; 19-51; 87-119; 149-179; 213-236.

Week 3. The Persistence of the Old Regime in the Nineteenth Century: The Nobility and the Bourgeoisie
Week 4. The Persistence of the Old Regime in the Nineteenth Century: Politics.


Week 5. Democracy and the Rise of Bonapartism


*** FIVE PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS THIS WEEK ***

Week 6. The Italian Monarchy

*Denis Mack Smith, *Italy and its Monarchy*, pp. 3-143.

Week 7. Monarchy, Democracy, and Fascism: The Italian Case.


Week 8. Spring Break


*Carl Schorske, *German Social Democracy*, ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Week 10. German Social Democracy II

*Carl Schorske, *German Social Democracy*, ch. 7, 9, 11, 12 (and parts of ch. 10 -- pp. TBA)


Week 11. The Exclusion of Women: Suffrage in France


Week 12. Women's Suffrage in Great Britain

Sandra Stanley Holton, Feminism and Democracy. Women's Suffrage and Reform Politics in Britain 1900-1918, pp. 1-75.

Susan Kent, Sex and Suffrage in Britain 1860-1914, pp. 3-23; 157-219.

Week 13. Giving the Vote to Women, Broadening Male Suffrage, and Thinking about the "Unheard"

Sandra Stanley Holton, Feminism and Democracy. Women's Suffrage and Reform Politics in Britain 1900-1918, pp. 134-153.


Week 14. Who Voted for Hitler? (I)


Week 15. Who Voted for Hitler? (II)


Week 16. Women and National Socialism

*Claudia Koonz, Mothers in the Fatherland, pp. 1-49; 177-219; 387-429.

*** 15 PAGE PAPER DUE MONDAY MAY 10 BY 12 NOON ***