

17.905-17.911 EUROPEAN POLITICS, Spring 09 :M-W 11-12:30, 12 units course, E51-390
Professor Kathleen Thelen (Kthelen@mit.edu)

This course deals with the organization of political power and the dynamics of political change in five major European countries: Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. We will focus especially on the structure of political power within the state and on important institutions that form the link between state and society (especially political parties and interest organizations).

The organization of political power within the state and society vary across our five countries in ways that reflect divergent outcomes of previous political conflicts. We will review critical aspects of the pre-WWII development of each country that sent them along different "paths," to understand how political power becomes entrenched in particular institutions. In Britain this means understanding the emergence of what historically has been considered Europe's most stable parliamentary democracy; in France, the all-important role of the state; in Germany, the turbulent antecedents of the current government; in Italy, the politics of factionalism that have historically characterized one of West Europe's most volatile political systems, and in Spain the legacies of the Franco years and the transition to democracy. A major part of the course will focus on the contemporary institutions of political governance and current political developments in each country.

This course is listed as 17.905-17.911 Special Topics Section . Please register for 17.906 and 12 units. If you have problems finding the course or registering, please contact, Kate Searle (ksearle@MIT.EDU)

17.905 Political Economy of Development in Mexico, SPRING 09, M,W 1:00-2:30, 1-375, 12 units
Professor Ben Ross Schneider (brs@mit.edu)

This class offers a historical overview of the political economy of development in Mexico. Political economy in this context means analyzing both how politics affects development and how economics affects politics, with a special focus on the process of making development policies. Among other themes and topics, the course will examine colonial legacies, inequality, technocracy, energy policy, technology policy, big business, the resource curse, and drug trafficking, as well as other issues in overall democratization and development. Some of the key, and abiding, questions include: Why is socio-economic inequality so high? Why was democracy so late in coming (only in 2000)? And, why has Mexican development been so slow? The course is primarily social science but with occasional 'lab sessions' on other topics, including some movies and life skills sessions with veterans of Mexican streets and workplaces. The focus is primarily on Mexico, but often what is distinctive about Mexico is best illuminated by comparisons with other countries.

21F.076 Globalization: The Good, the Bad and the In-Between, FALL Course HASS-D
Category 4, CI-H, 9 units, T., R., 3:30-5 pm.
Professor Margery Resnick (resnick@mit.edu) and Jane Dunphy (dunphy@mit.edu)

Explore globalization in an innovative new humanities class that combines a global forum with the study of one new or familiar foreign language of your choice.