

The University of Utah
POL 2200-2: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Instructor: Mahmoud Hamad

Spring 2007 (January 8– April 25)

M & W: 06:00 PM-7:20 PM, OSH 131

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Office hours: M & W: 12:00-1:00 PM or by appointment

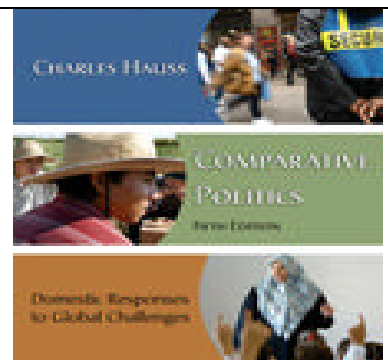


COURSE OVERVIEW

The discipline of political science traditionally has been comprised of four sub-fields: political theory, international relations, public administration, and comparative politics. Of these, comparative politics is the only field with a methodological imperative in its title – comparative political scientists are involved in *comparing politics*. But what does this mean exactly? The most agreed upon definition of comparative politics is the study of states. The topics of investigation run the gamut from the formation of political parties to public policy, military coups to social revolutions, and anything else you could imagine as qualifying as “politics.” Comparative political scientists even consider the impact of international relations on domestic politics and vice versa. There is hardly a topic that in political science that is not studied in comparative politics. In this class we will be focusing on a representative sample of countries from all over the world. These countries were chosen to reflect geographical, political, economic, cultural, and historical diversity. Comparison with the United States will be made whenever possible.

The required textbook for this course is Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges (with InfoTrac and CD-ROM), 5th Edition, by Charles Hauss, published by Wadsworth Publishing, 2006, ISBN: 9780495159759

The textbook will be supplemented by documentaries whenever possible.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Part	Date	Topic	Required Reading
Part I: Introduction and Overview	January 8	Introduction	No Reading
Part II: The Industrialized Democracies Nations	January 10	Comparative Politics, Its Concepts & Methods	Ch. 1
	January 17-22	Politics in Great Britain	Ch. 4
	January 24-29	Politics in France	Ch. 5
	January 31- February 5	Politics in Japan	Web CT
	February 7-12	Politics in Germany	Ch. 6
	February 14	Review	
	February 21-26	Mid Term Exam	All of the above
	February 28- March 5	Exam Recap	
Part III: The Crisis of Communism	March 7-12	Politics in Russia	Ch. 9
	March 14-26	Politics in China	Ch. 10
Part IV: The Third World	March 28-April 2	Politics in India	Ch. 12
	April 4-9	Politics in Egypt	<i>Comparative Politics Today</i> (Ch. 16) Web CT
	April 11-16	A Country of Choice	TBA
	April 18-23	Revisiting the Basics/ Review	TBA
	April 25-27	Final Exam	All of the above since Mid-Term

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades are based upon TWO exams, world news and class participation. Class participation includes discussion, homework, in-class assignments, and pop quizzes. ***There will be no “make up” examinations or quizzes for anyone missing the exam/quiz date without prior approval of the professor except under conditions of extreme hardship.*** “Extreme hardship” constitutes events outside of one’s control; this does not include sleeping late, forgetfulness, missing the bus, etc. Determining cases of “extreme hardship” will be left to the discretion of the instructor and will require proof on the part of the student. If you anticipate a scheduling conflict, you must see the instructor at least one week prior to the exam to make alternative arrangements. In such cases, an alternative exam will be given prior to the scheduled date. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether an early alternative exam will be scheduled or not. There will ***be no grades of “incomplete” given for this course.*** All work must be completed by the end of the academic term.

Assignment	Percentage
Class Participation	20
News Items	10
Mid Term	30
Final Exam	40

Exams and quizzes will be based on the course readings, lectures, news and discussions. You are expected to keep up with the weekly readings and come to section prepared to discuss them. You are also expected to complete homework assignments on time. Class attendance is not required, but is strongly encouraged. Announcements regarding changes to the syllabus or course schedule may be made in class. Study guides and other material will also be handed out in class. This information will not be posted on a web site; making it available only in class provides an incentive for attendance. You are responsible for getting this information.

All students must follow world news during the length of the class. You will be responsible to submit a news item that you think is important about countries we study and others. Those news items will be part of your quizzes, mid term, and final exam. I will select the most relevant news submission each week and the responsible student will receive TWO extra credit points. Each student has to submit his or her news by the deadline below. You cannot submit the same item that another student already submitted. Each submission must be between 35 and 50 words in length. All submission must be written at your class Web CT @ <http://webct.utah.edu> under Course Discussions.

- News Item # 1: due January 14.
- News Item # 2: due February 11.
- News Item # 3: due March 4.
- News Item # 4: due March 25.
- News Item # 5: due April 15.

Grading Distribution: The following distribution will be used in this course.

• A	94% and above	• C	73% - 77%
• A-	90% - 93%	• C-	70% - 72%
• B+	88% - 89%	• D+	68% - 69%
• B	83% - 87%	• D	63% - 67%
• B-	80% - 82%	• D-	60% - 62%
• C+	78% - 79%	• E	59% and below

To promote an environment conducive to learning, please obey the following classroom rules:

- NO food (Coffee or other beverages are allowed.)
- NO incoming or outgoing cell phone calls.
- Observe cell phone etiquette – turn them off or put them on “silent mode.”
- Do NOT talk while someone else is speaking (this includes the professor or other students).
- NO reading newspapers or doing work for other courses.
- If you must come to class late, or leave early, do so in the most unobtrusive manner.

Persons with Disabilities

The University of Utah Political Science Department seeks to provide equal access to programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, <http://disability.utah.edu/>, 162 Olpin Union Bldg, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.

Plagiarism Warning

This course adopts zero-tolerance policy in regard to plagiarism cases. Plagiarism, using others' work without proper citation, is a serious offense. It is also considered academic dishonesty to turn in your own papers for more than one course. Plagiarism cases will be reported to relevant authorities and may result in extremely severe consequences. Since written work is part of the course requirements, you may need to consult to various sources that describe how to cite references. Plagiarism has become an issue particularly at the age of internet; one can just copy and paste entire papers or portions of papers in a matter of seconds. Just changing the wording of the passages you use does not save you from plagiarizing. You need to refer to any source even if it is an internet one. If you have any further questions, please see me for clarification.