

Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification, particularly when the modification is done to rectify an error that would disadvantage the student.

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2007 ? POLS 2200-003 ? Dept: Political Science
3 Credits ? Thu 6-9pm ? OSH 232

Instructors: Mahmoud Hamad
Office: Orson Spencer Hall (OSH), RM. 156A
Phone: 585-2364
Office Hours: H 12:00-2:00 PM or by appointment (send an e-mail to schedule)
E-mail: mahmoud.hamad@poli-sci.utah.edu OR Web-CT e-mail



MATERIALS

Required text:

- Hauss, Charles. (2005). Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges (5th Edition). Wadsworth Publishing.

Supplementary materials:

- You will be directed to documentaries, articles, texts, weblinks, etc., as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

COURSE CONTENT

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. This course is designed to help you develop the basic knowledge and skills necessary to understand politics in the twenty-first century. The class will be highly interactive and you will often find yourself playing the role of both teacher and student.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course is to provide students, especially the non-politics majors, with the basic concepts, analytical frameworks, and vocabulary so that they may better understand the political culture, institutions, and process which frame public debate over policies and issues, and shape the political economy of many countries. The idea is to increase students' political literacy, so that they can make sense of the headlines in the newspapers they read, and understand the political events that unfold daily in other parts of the world that have important impact on our lives as well as others. But most importantly, the objective is develop critical and analytical thinking by helping students ask intelligent questions about the world around them, and identifying the logical relations in politics.

FACULTY and STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The class will follow accepted University of Utah policies and procedures. Please refer to the University of Utah Faculty Handbook (<http://www.admin.utah.edu/fhb/>) and Student Code (<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>). Specifically: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty's responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

These rights and responsibilities apply to online class forums, as well.

Due dates: In order to incorporate fair grading, late work will only be accepted up to one week after the due date at an automatic 50% loss of credit. After one week, no late work will be accepted. Unless otherwise indicated, assignments should be posted on Web-CT in the assignment drop box.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. See <http://www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/> for more details.

Online Guidelines: There are unique responsibilities that come with taking a course having an online component:

Electronic or equipment failure: It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and other equipment needed to participate in online forums in a manner that enhances your experience. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments.

Classroom equivalency: Online communications, including e-mail, discussion threads, and chat rooms are equivalent to the classroom and are subject to the Student Code. Specifically:

- Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in a discussion thread.
- Off-color language is never appropriate.
- Using angry or abusive language is called "flaming", and is not acceptable.
- Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points !!!! and question marks ?????.
- Online communications, including e-mail in Web-CT, are University property and subject to GRAMA regulations. Privacy regarding Web-CT communications must not be assumed unless mutually agreed upon in advance.
- As with assignments, instructors are required to respond to e-mails in a "reasonable" amount of time. Use the e-mail address posted in this syllabus as the preferred means of communication. Note that content may be shared with the class when there are valid teaching/learning reasons for doing so and mutual privacy agreements for the communications have not been previously made.

Accommodation: Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with us at your earliest convenience. If you feel that you will need special accommodations based on the course content, please review the Accommodations Policy at www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf.

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 September 9.
- News Item # 2: due September 30.
- News Item # 3: due October 21.
- News Item # 4: due November 4.
- News Item # 5: due November 25

GRADING PERCENTAGES

94-100 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-93 A-	77-79 C+	63-66 D
87-89 B+	73-76 C	60-62 D-
83-86 B	70-72 C-	59-below E

SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS, TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

23 August 2007

Reading	Chapter 1 Concepts & Methods
Topics	-Introductions - The Field of Comparative Politics

30 August 2007 NO CLASS, APSA CONFERENCE,

6 September 2007

Reading	Chapter 4
Topics	Politics in Great Britain

13 September 2007

Reading	Chapter 5
Topics	Politics in France

20 September 2007

Reading	Web CT (Japan)
Topics	Politics in Japan

27 September 2007

<i>Reading</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Topics	Countries of Choice(Developed Nations)
<i>Assignment due</i>	<i>Presentations by the groups A & B (ONE hour each).</i>

4 October 2007

Reading	All of the above
Topics	Mid-Term Exam

11 October: NO CLASS, FALL BREAK

18 October 2007

Reading	Chapter 9
Topics	Politics in Russia

25 October 2007

Reading	Chapter 10
Topic	Politics in China

1 November 2007

Reading	Chapter 12
Topics	Politics in India

8 November 2007

Reading	Web CT <i>Comparative Politics Today</i> (Ch. 16)
Topics	Politics in Egypt

15 November 2007

Reading	<i>TBA</i>
Topics	Countries of Choice (Developing Nations)
Assignment due	<i>Presentations by the groups C & D for ONE hour each.</i>

22 November 2007: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

29 November 2007

Reading	
Topics	Revisiting the Basics

7 December 2007

Reading	All of the above since Mid-Term
Topics	Final Exam

