

University of Utah
Department of Political Science

COURSE SYLLABUS – Political Science 2200-020
Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2006

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Class Overview:

There are five major sub fields in the discipline of political science – American politics, public administration, international relations, political theory, and comparative politics. Each of these sub fields examine different aspects of government and its interaction and relationships with individuals and societal actors. This is an introductory course to comparative politics. It is designed to provide a basic understanding of the field of comparative politics. It offers an overview of the basic approaches and concepts which are currently used in the study of comparative politics, such as political culture, nation building, democratization, and empirical insights into selected cases of individual states. The first half of the class will examine major methods and concepts used in comparative politics. For example, we will discuss different patterns of political culture and their impact on participation and the role of major institutions of government in the policymaking process. The second part of the course will focus on specific country case studies. We will examine characteristics of major political institutions in each country in comparison with other states. We will use concepts and theories discussed in the first part of the course and apply them to different countries.

Course Objectives:

1. Provide students with understanding the core ideas and concepts in comparative politics and applying them to particular cases.
2. Students should be able to apply the comparative analysis framework presented in the text and in class to any country in the world.
3. Be able to learn about any political system in the world in comparison with others in terms of similarities and differences in a systematic manner.
4. Understand the major political systems in the world and the methods and theories political scientists use to understand those systems.

Course Texts and Readings:

Almond, Gabriel A., and G. Bingham Powell, Jr. et. al. (APS&D) *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 8th ed., update New York: Longman, 2004

This book will be supplemented by **other required readings** from journals, books and other sources along with handouts given in class. These readings can be obtained from E-reserve.

Course Grades

Final course grades will be based on:

1. Midterm Exam.	140 points (25%)
2. Final Exam.	150 points (27%)
3. Quizzes	100 points (18%)
4. Comparative Essays	100 points (18%)
Paper Proposal	10 points (2%)
5. Participation and Attendance	<u>50 points (10%)</u>
Total	550 points (100%)

Course Assignments

Participation and Attendance:

It is important for you to attend every class period. Active participation will help this class flow much better. As there are small number of people in class, the class will be run in seminar style to generate more interactions in class. Be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class on a regular basis. Therefore, it is necessary that you come prepared with questions and thoughts based on reading assignments. Your active participation will be observed and counted towards your participation/attendance grade at the end of the semester.

Quizzes:

In order to reward you for doing the reading, there will be 10 quizzes given throughout a semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will cover certain points of the assigned reading, lecture, discussion, video clips due that day. Please note that if you leave early or miss a class, there will **NOT** be a make up quiz.

Midterm and Final Exams:

The midterm will cover the theoretical underpinnings of Comparative politics related to political ideologies, political culture, political institutions, political economy, and political change. There are two parts to the midterm examination. The first part will be a take-home examination which consists of essay questions and will be open-book exam. Students must complete this portion of the exam **individually**. This is not a group project. The second part of the midterm will take place in class on March 20 and consists of multiple choice questions, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank. The final examination will be given on May 1. It will include short answer, multiple choice and essay questions dealing with the countries we have studied after the midterm. The final exam will not be comprehensive.

Comparative Essay:

A 10 page essay is due on **May 5**. Students will select one theme, such as ethnic conflicts, the green movement, social movement, civil society, nationalism, and compare the development of the theme in two countries (You **MUST** pick from any two countries contained in the textbook). Your paper needs to contain a well thought out argument with evidence to support it. A short statement of your theme paper with reference sources is due on **March 6**. Late submission is subject to 20% deduction.

Important Due Dates

Feb 17:	Distribution of midterm exam. part I
Feb 27:	Midterm exam. part I due
March 6:	One-page proposal due
March 20:	Midterm Examination part II
May 1:	Final examination

Course Outline¹

Additional readings are marked with an asterisk.

Date	Topic	Assignments
August 25	- Welcome and class overview	- None
January 9	- Introduction to comparative politics - What is Comparative Politics?	- APS&D B Chapters 1 and 2 - In-class Video: CNN Today: Comparative Politics (2000)
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day No class	
January 23	- Ideology, Regime Type, and Political Culture and Socialization	- APS&D Chapter 3 - * Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan: “Democracy and its Arenas” and “Modern Nondemocratic Regimes”
January 30	Political Economy and Political Institutions I: Citizens, Groups, Parties, and Elections	- APS&D - Chapters 4 and 5
February 6	Political Institutions II: Political Frameworks, Policy Implementation, and Political Performance	- APS&D - Chapter 6 and 7
February 13	The Politics of Change: Reform, Nationalism, Democratization, Social Movement and Revolutions	* Linz and Stepan – “Implications for Prior Regime Types” * James DeFronzo - “Social Movements and Revolutions” * Michael Hechter “Nationalist Puzzles” * Sidney Tarrow “Contentious Politics and Social Movements” Distribution of midterm exam. part I
February 20	President’s Day No class	None
February 27	Germany: When East Meets West: The Invisible Wall in Mind	- APS&D - Chapter 10 Midterm exam. part I due
March 6	Japan: A multiparty-or-one-party Democracy?	- APS&D -- Chapter 11 - Distribution of midterm study-guide - One-page proposal due
March 13	Spring Break No class	
March 20	Russia: The Former Communist Empire	- APS&D -- Chapter 12

¹ This schedule is approximate and may subject to adjustment during semester.

		- Midterm Examination part II
March 27	China: The end of Communism?	- APS&D -- Chapter 13
April 3	India: Secular government and Religious Influence	- APS&D -- Chapter 17 - Video: The Other Side of Outsourcing
April 10	Nigeria: Another Attempt with Democracy	- APS&D -- Chapter 18
April 17	Egypt: Democratic Façade?	- APS&D -- Chapter 16 - Video: Egypt: A Laboratory for Democracy by CNN News
April 24	Great Britain and the United States: Liberal Democracy	- APS&D -- Chapters 18 and 19
May 1	Final exam.	

Policy on Make-Ups, Extensions, Incompletes and Academic Dishonesty:

In general, DEADLINES CANNOT BE CHANGED. However, allowance will be made for emergencies which prevent students from completing work on time. This will be left to the discretion of the instructor and may require written proof. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about this, please come and see me.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND DISHONESTY -

I sincerely trust and expect that academic dishonesty will not be an issue in this course. Unfortunately, it has become a very serious problem on many campuses, and it is not limited to undergraduate students. My purpose for including the following statement is to prevent any misunderstandings about what constitutes academic dishonesty and what I do if I encounter (or seriously suspect) it.

I expect academic honesty. An act of academic dishonesty will result in a failing course grade of “E” and may result in a recommendation of additional disciplinary action. (The University of Utah Student Code provides these sanctions and provides appeal rights.)

Please understand the following definitions:

- Cheating (as defined in Article XI of the Student Code), generally includes the giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on any academic work.
- Plagiarism, as defined in Article XI of the Student Code, is “the appropriation of any other person’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own work offered for credit.”
- Falsification. Any untrue statement, either oral or written, concerning one’s own academic work or the academic work of another student, or the unauthorized alteration of any academic record.

Original work. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor, all academic work

undertaken in this course must be original, that is it must not have been submitted in a prior course, nor may it be submitted in a course being taken concurrently.

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 this class, please come and see me as soon as possible and contact the Center for Disabled Services, 581-5020 to make arrangements for these accommodations.

I enjoy meeting with you and discussing any questions or problems you may have about the class. Do not hesitate to call me or e-mail me if you have any questions.

WRITING GUIDELINES

Comparative Paper

The purpose of the research paper is to give you an opportunity to expand your knowledge and utilize your comparative skills by comparing two countries of your choice based on one theme. A topical research paper such as this should be structured as follows:

INTRODUCTION -

- Briefly describe the topic
- List key issues
- Briefly describe the purpose and layout of the paper.
- Mention your research question or thesis of the paper. **For example**, in what ways the green movement in Brazil is similar or different from the green movement in Japan?
- This section provides a mental map for the reader to follow your thought.

CONCEPT IDENTIFICATION

- Present and define the concept and its development in the literature. **For example**, if you select a topic on women movement and their impact on politics in Germany and Russia, you need to define what women movement means.
- Provide a general review of the literature related to your topic. **For example**, discuss factors or causes that might give rise to women movement in current theories.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EVENT(S) OR PHENOMENA EXAMINED

- Trace the historical development of the political phenomena in both countries.
- **For example**, if you write on the green movement, you want to provide historical development of the movement in both countries.
- The purpose is to provide background information for the reader.

FINDINGS

- Report what you found in your research on the particular topic.
- This is the part where you describe what you find.

- Report on the current status of the political phenomena being examined. **For example**, discuss the current electoral law in Mexico compared to the US. In what ways the law is different or similar to each other?
- What it is?

IMPLICATIONS

- Discuss the positive and negative consequences of the type of phenomena that you choose to examine in your research. **For example**, Women movement in Germany leads to more equal representation in the workforce.
- Analyze the challenge and opportunities that may be present in the current political system.
- Is the current government doing anything to address such movements or problems?
- Does it lead to the reforming of any laws?
- What are the implications of your findings?

CONCLUSION

- Present your personal understanding and assessment of the political phenomena.
- Discuss improvements or changes that you believe should/could be made to the current understanding.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS

- Papers must be 8-10 pages.
- Papers must be typed and double-spaced with 12pt font and 1 inch margin sizes.
- Papers must include a bibliography that contains at least **five references**. **Only two of them can be internet official sites.**

Ideas for Paper Topic

1. Patron-client system and personal networks
2. Religious fundamentalism (Islamic fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, etc.)
3. The welfare state (European model vs. the US. model)
4. The Green Movement
5. Mass Media and Political Socialization (For example, you can compare a country like China or Egypt that highly regulates mass media and a country with free media such as the US., England, or France).
6. Labor Union and Interest Articulation
7. Nongovernmental Organizations/Nonprofit Organization (Focus ing on one particular group such as advocacy organizations, service organizations, art organizations, etc.)
8. Multiparty system vs. Two-party system
9. Proportional representation vs. plurality election rules
10. Bicameral vs. Unicameral system
11. The role of the professional Civil Service (bureaucracy)
13. Written vs. Non-written Constitutions (England vs. the US)
14. Unitary vs. Federalism

15. Ethnic Conflict/Culture Diversity (For example, compare the US. and Indian experience on diverse population and discuss the comparative effects on political culture).
16. Regulatory state vs. deregulation
17. Devolution in England vs. devolution movement in the US.
18. Leadership qualities (For example, compare Margaret Thatcher's leadership qualities with those of Ronald Regan).
19. Female head of government (Such as Margaret Thatcher and Indira Gandhi of India)
20. The role of business in policymaking (Corporatism vs. Pluralism)
21. Political accountability (presidential regime, parliamentarism, semi-presidentialism)
22. Social institutions (family, class, gender, school, etc). and the role it plays in political culture of selected countries.
23. Electoral college vs. direct participation
24. Immigration policies (such as melting pot vs. patchwork quilt)
25. Nationalism (Irredentist, state-building, Peripheral, etc.)