

University of Utah
Department of Political Science

COURSE SYLLABUS – Political Science 2200-070
Introduction to Comparative Politics
3 credit hours

Spring 2007
January 9 – May 8 2007
Saturdays 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Sandy 117

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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 examines 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 concepts which are currently used in the study of comparative politics, such as political culture, nation and state, democracy and nondemocratic regimes, social movement, and civil society. The first half of the class will examine basic concepts used to understand and compare different political systems. 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 as well as current socio-economic and political issues in each country in comparison with other states. I strongly encourage you to use concepts and theories discussed in the first part of the course and apply them to different countries.

Course Objectives:

1. Be able to explain, compare, and contrast the major political systems in the world in terms of their similarities and differences.
2. Be able to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas and concepts in comparative politics and applying them to particular cases and current political events.
3. Be able to apply the comparative analysis framework presented in the text and in class to any country in the world.
4. Describe current social, political, and economical issues major countries are facing and efforts used to address or solve them.
5. Be able to compare and contrast past and contemporary political leaders from selected case studies regarding policy initiatives, challenges, and accomplishments.

Course Texts and Readings:

Almond, Gabriel A., Russell, J. Dalton, G. Bingham Powell, Jr., and Strom, Karen (**Referred to as APS&D in the syllabus**) *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 8th ed., update New York: Longman, 2006

This book is available for purchase at the University Bookstore. The text is divided into two parts. The first seven chapters introduce concepts and theories that are later used to explain politics in different country studies. This book will be supplemented by **other required readings** from journals and books. These readings can be obtained from E-reserve. These supplemental readings are marked with an asterisk (*) in the course outline.

Course Grades

Final course grades will be based on:

1. Participation and attendance	10 %
2. Concept essays	15%
3. Leadership paper and proposal	15%
4. Class quizzes	10%
5. Midterm exam	25%
6. Final exam	25%
Total	100%

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Participation and Attendance:

Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and active participation in class (providing thoughtful comments, answering questions posed by instructor, and applying concepts to current events). Although a portion of class period will be dedicated to lecture, you are expected to participate actively in class discussion and debate with your class members. This is to provide you with opportunity to interact with class members in analyzing, critiquing, and questioning materials covered in assignment readings and lectures. Therefore, it is necessary that you come prepared with questions and thoughts based on reading assignments. Excessive absence and tardiness will result in a lower grade. Please keep in mind that this is a three-hour course. Missing one period of class means you miss a whole week of class.

Midterm and Final Exams:

The midterm exam will cover the theoretical underpinnings of comparative politics related to political ideologies, political culture, political institutions, political economy, and political change. The midterm examination will be an in-class exam (25%). The midterm exam will cover topics from January 13 – March 3. The final examination will also be given in class (25%). It will include short answer, multiple choices and essay questions dealing with the countries we have studied after the midterm (March 17-April 21). Please do not ask to take the exams early.

Class quizzes:

There will be 11 quizzes given throughout a semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will cover assigned readings and lecture from the previous class period.

Writing Assignments I: Concept Essays

Submit a two-page paper (doubled space) addressing the problems and issues shown in selected videos in certain class periods. The paper must incorporate relevant concepts and theories from class lectures, discussions, and assigned readings and apply them to a video content.

- A. CNN World Today: North Korea
- B. Frontline World: Bringing Down the Dictator
- C. CNN World Today: Egypt: A Laboratory for Democracy

Writing Assignments II: Leadership Essay

Students are to select two current or past political leaders from selected country studies and write a 5-page essay comparing them on their political career paths (Were they born in influential families or how did they become the leader of the country?), policy emphasis (What kind of policy issues did they accomplish or emphasize during their administrations?), controversies/challenges (What kind of difficulties/challenges did they encounter during their time in power), and their contributions to the country. You can use web sources (not exclusively), information you might have gathered through an academic journal or book, or weekly political magazines. Make sure you provide at least 3 reference sources at the end of your paper using consistent citation style.

One-page proposal is due on **March 17**. Although no grade will be given on the proposal, if you fail to turn in the proposal by the due date, your leadership paper will not be graded. The paper is due on **April 30**.

Please note that:

- * All papers should have a cover page and be double-spaced with 12 size font, and one inch margins.
- * 10% will be deducted from your original grade for each day that a paper is late (without a good excuse).

Course Outline¹

Additional readings are marked with an asterisk.

Date	Subject	Assignments/Readings Due
January 13	- Welcome and class overview - Review course syllabus	- None
January 20	- Introduction to comparative politics - What is comparative politics?	- APS&D Chapters 1 and 2
January 27	- Political Ideologies, Political Economy, and Regime Type	* Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan: "Democracy and its Arenas" and

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

		<p>“Modern Nondemocratic Regimes”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Video: CNN World Today: North Korea</u> - quiz 1
February 3	Political Culture and Socialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D Chapter 3 - Quiz 2 - Concept essay I due
February 10	Political Institutions I: Citizens, Groups, Parties, and Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D - Chapters 4 and 5 - Quiz 3
February 17	Political Institutions II: Political Frameworks, Policy Implementation, and Political Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D - Chapter 6 and 7 - Quiz 4
February 24	Germany: When East Meets West: The Invisible Wall in Mind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D – Chapter 10 - Quiz 5
March 3	Japan: A multiparty-or-one-party Democracy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D – Chapter 11 - Quiz 6
March 10	Midterm examination	- Bring a blue book
March 17	Great Britain and the United States: Liberal Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D – Chapter 8 and 19 - Quiz 7 - Leadership paper proposal due
March 24	Spring Break	No class
March 31	China: The end of Communism?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D – Chapter 13 - Quiz 8
April 7	Egypt: Democratic Façade?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D -- Chapter 16 - <u>Video: Egypt: A Laboratory for Democracy by CNN News</u> - Quiz 9
April 14	Nigeria: Another Attempt with Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D -- Chapter 18 - Quiz 10 - Concept Paper II due
April 21	India: Third World Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APS&D -- Chapter 17 - <u>Video: The Other Side of Outsourcing</u> - Quiz 11
April 28	Final examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring a blue book - Concept paper III due
April 30	Leadership paper due 12:00 PM	

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

In general, DEADLINES CANNOT BE CHANGED. However, allowance can 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. You must notify me 24-hour in advance of the due date with legitimate explanations. Other no-excused late assignments will lose 10% of your original grade every 24-hour period.

Student Academic Conduct: The University of Utah's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be carefully observed and strictly enforced in this class. This policy appears on pages 11-13 of the 2000-2002 General Catalog and in the

electronic Policy and Procedures Manual at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>

Any instance of plagiarism, or other forms of academic misconduct, will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may also result in a failing grade for the course.

The University's definition of plagiarism is as follows:

"Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah, Department of Political Science seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will 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.