

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200-090
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
ONLINE COURSE
FALL SEMESTER 2005

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COURSE POLICIES

READ THE FOLLOWING POINTS CAREFULLY. THEY ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

1. Communication with the instructor:

The best way to communicate with me is through the webCT email. If you need to get in touch with me for an urgent matter, *please use the above email to communicate with me personally*. Otherwise, please use the webCT email as I check it regularly.

2. Course preparation:

2.1 If you have never taken an online course, I suggest you explore the ONLINE COURSE STUDENT ORIENTATION found on the WebCT page after logging on. Knowledge of how this software operates is essential. You must become familiar with the WebCT software before beginning this course and you must be sure your computer can function with this software. If you wait for two or three weeks, you will already be behind.

2.2 You must begin your work in this class the first day of the semester. Many students put off beginning their work for a week or two only to discover they have already missed quizzes and assignments.

3. Late assignment and due dates

ABSOLUTELY no late assignments or quizzes will be accepted!! The quizzes and assignments become available on specific dates and are due on specific dates. In order to make the due dates simpler, all mandatory posts due on Tuesdays; and all responsive posts and textbook quiz due on Thursdays. Assignments and quizzes sent via email will not be accepted. You need to take the quiz and participate in assignments via Web CT during specified period. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT YOUR QUIZZES OR ASSIGNMENTS!!! POWER FAILURES AND COMPUTER FAILURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS EXCUSES. ABSOLUTELY NO LATE QUIZZES OR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!! I AM A POLITICAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR NOT A COMPUTER EXPERT!!! COMPUTER PROBLEMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!!**

4. Online participation:

The discussion board function of this course is a very important part of your grade. Due dates for the mandatory and response postings will be strictly adhered to. It is your responsibility to make sure you post your mandatory and response postings under the designated lesson. If you post them on the main board, they might be overlooked.

5. Grading:

Your scores – The quizzes are graded automatically in the WebCT program and your scores are available immediately. If you want to view all of your quiz results later, the numerical scores are available by clicking the “Student Profile” icon on the home page and then clicking “my grades.”

You will also receive scores for your participation on the bulletin board. I will respond privately to each mandatory and responsive post you make. In my reply I will include your score for that particular post. PLEASE be sure to check the “Mail” icon on your home page. That is how I will communicate with you privately.

6. Midterm and Final Examinations:

The midterm and the final exam consist of multiple choices, term identifications, essay questions. You have 120 minutes to finish the exam. The majority of multiple choice exams is taken directly from the quizzes. I strongly suggest you download and save a copy of each the quiz as it becomes available. *IF YOU DO NOT DOWNLOAD AND MAKE COPIES OF THE QUIZZES WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE DUE DATE; THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT HAVE THEM TO STUDY FOR THE FINAL*

6.1 Special arrangement exams: Only under UNUSUAL circumstances can examinations be arranged outside of their scheduled dates. I will need at least **two weeks** in advance to arrange these exams with WebCT staff and the testing center.

7. Suggestions: How to Use the Textbook and Prepare for Quizzes and Examinations

7.1: Textbook: There are key terms at the end of each chapter. I strongly suggest that you make an index card of each term. The textbook provides a bold face letter for each of these terms so that they are easy to find in each chapter. Write down the meaning of each term in your index card. This will come in handy when you are preparing for your examinations.

7.2 To study for the quiz, you have **2 hours** to take the quiz. The purpose is to allow you to take a look at the quiz questions, print them out, and study them before you take them. Make sure that you set aside sufficient amount of time when you take the quiz. Please note that the quiz time cannot be stopped once you start it. That means you have a time limit of two CONSECUTIVE hours to complete the quiz.

7.4 A study-guide will be provided. I will provide possible terms and essay questions that will appear on midterm and final examinations a week prior to the midterm and final exam dates.

7.5 Streaming video: Because some course materials, including streaming video, have large data volume, it is highly recommended that you have access to high speed Internet. If you use a modem for Internet connection at home, you can use computers at

the University of Utah (OSH Computer Lab, Marriott Library, EMCB Lab, or Union Lab) and public libraries such as Salt Lake Public Library. In order to view some online videos on some websites, such as www.learner.org, students need to register as a user. Please be aware of it.

8. Lecture Notes

A weekly lecture will be posted on the Web CT. Each weekly lecture contains main ideas and summary of required readings for that particular week. Students are to use the weekly lecture concurrently with their textbook and reserved readings to complete their quizzes and other assignments such as mandatory and responsive posts. I suggest you print out the lecture note and use it alongside with a textbook as you study. This will make information contained in each chapter more organized and manageable.

Course Description

For many of you this will be a new and exciting learning experience. Communication between the instructor and individual student and communication between students will be far greater than in a normal classroom setting. Please keep in mind that your success in this course will be directly related to your willingness to participate in the discussions and your self-motivation to “get the job done.”

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 individual 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 basic approaches and concepts which are prevalently 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 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 a 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

1. Main Text:

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

The textbook is available at the Reserve Desk in the Marriott Library.

2. Supplemental readings:

Students will be required to read several journal articles under different topics. These articles can be found and downloaded from the lecture-note section of the class.

Course Requirements

1. Quizzes:

There are 15 quizzes. Each quiz has 20 questions at 0.5 point per question. The overall point of each quiz is 10.

Total points for quizzes = $15 \times 10 = 150$ points (15% of your grade)

Due dates are on the calendar and in the body of this syllabus. A due date will always be on a Thursday. Quizzes may be taken anytime after they are available but will not be accepted after the due date.

Quiz questions are taken from class lectures, textbook, and reserved readings. Please note that this is an open-book quiz, but there are **time limits** on the quizzes. You have to complete each quiz within **2 hours** after you start. This means once you begin a quiz, you have a total two-hour consecutive block of time to finish it. **The time cannot be stopped.** I suggest you download the quiz, print it off, answer the quiz questions while reading the chapter or chapters, then go back into WebCT to take the quiz. Make sure you set aside enough time to finish each quiz in a timely manner.

The **majority** of multiple choice questions of midterm and final exams are taken from the quizzes; therefore, be certain to keep copies of the quizzes with the correct answers because they will NOT be available after the due date.

2. Midterm and Final Exams:

There are midterm and final examinations. Each exam will be scheduled for a two-hour period. Midterm and final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, which will be taken from the quizzes. There will be term identifications taken from key terms at the end of each chapter. There will also be essay questions. Total points for midterm exam. are 225 (22.5%) and final exam. are 300 points. (30% of your grade)

EXAMINATIONS ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE. Midterm examination will cover reading assignments and videos from week 1 to week 7 and final examination will cover all course materials from week 8 to week 15.

Please note the midterm and final exams will be taken at **a designated site in person and on campus**. These sites include the Technology Assisted Curriculum Center (TACC) located in the Marriott Library, Sandy Campus, Bountiful Campus. Those of you who are not in the Salt Lake area must make special arrangements with the TACC center to find a place nearby you to proctor the examinations. **Everyone must register with TACC to take the exam two weeks prior to the exam date.**

Because the majority of multiple choice section in the midterm and final exams are taken from the quizzes, you should download the quizzes and print them as they become available. You will then be able to study for the exams throughout the semester. On your home page you will see an icon to register for the midterm and final exams. Click on it and follow the instructions. **You must register to take the exams!!!**

3. Participation:

As you prepare to take the quizzes and watch streaming videos, each student is required to participate in the online discussions that pertain to the specific section. You are encouraged to participate as much as you like; however, you are required to participate at least twice per section. There are two types of required participations: mandatory posting and responsive posting.

3.1 **The first mandatory posting.** This posting will be in response to my posting of a participation topic. Each week, I will post questions based on the readings and videos that pertain to the specific section. Make sure that you post your responses in a board under the designated lesson. It would be labeled as Participation Topic 1,2,3, etc. **The response should be no less than two paragraphs. One to two sentences are not considered a paragraph and would not constitute a meaningful response.**

A high quality mandatory posting will include a coherent argument, logical reasoning, supporting evidence (table, number, quotes), cover every aspect of the question, contain obvious reference to material in both texts, and will have spelling and grammar checked. In sum, your response, though not formal, should be meaningful and add to the discussion. The purpose behind this assignment is to help you formulate ideas and integrate reading materials to assess current political issues around the world.

Please do not copy other people's postings. Your response must be original. I suggest you should read the participation topic and compose your own response without reading other students' posts first. In this way, your response is not influenced by other students' responses.

3.2 **Your response posting.** This is a required post for you to respond to the posting(s) of another student(s). In other words, you need to react to what other students have said in regards to the topic of that week. Response posting boards will be labeled as **Response Posting in accordance with the designated lesson.**

A high quality response posting should also be no less than **one paragraph in a conventional sense**, make reference to reading materials, provide supporting evidence, and identify the person to whom you make a response.

Please note that if you do not participate in a mandatory posting, your response posting will not be read.

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to enter into a dialogue with

your fellow students similar to class discussion. This is an academic discussion designed to encourage critical thinking. You must be respectful in responding to other students' comments. This does not mean that you have to agree with them. You can disagree with their opinions and be courteous at the same time. All responses and discussion must be in public and posted on the web board. **Private responses are acceptable as long as they are respectful. There will be no tolerant of personal attack.** I should be notified immediately if such an incident occurs. A person responsible for a personal attack or offensive remarks to other students will be barred from participating in the next participation topic.

3.3 Due Dates:

PLEASE NOTE MANDATORY POSTS ARE DUE ON TUESDAYS AND RESPONSIVE POSTS ARE DUE ON THURSDAYS. NO LATE POSTINGS WILL BE READ. Your success in this course will most definitely be determined by your participation in the online discussions. One or two sentences or a brief paragraph is not a meaningful response.

3.4 Participation Points:

There are 15 participation opportunities for you. A new topic will be posted for each week for you to respond. Each week's response has 15 points. 10 points from a mandatory posting and 5 points for a responsive post.

Total points for participation = 15*15 =225 points (22.5% of your grade)

5. Course grades:

Class quizzes	150	points
Midterm exam	300	points
Final exam	325	points
Participation	225	points
Total points possible for entire course	<u>1,000</u>	points

Course Outline

Preliminary Week (August 24 - August 28): Welcome

Reading: Syllabus
Familiarize yourself with class syllabus

Important dates:

Thu. August 25 Quiz 1 available and Participation Topic 1 available

Week ONE (August 29-September 4): Introduction to Comparative Politics

Readings: APS&D -- Chapters 1 and 2

Important dates:

Tue. August 29 Mandatory post 1 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. September 1 Quiz 1 and Response Post 1 due (11:00 p.m.)
Quiz 2 and 2nd participation topic available

Week TWO (September 5-September 11): Ideology, Regime Type, and Political Culture and Socialization

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 3

Reserved Readings – Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan: “A Democracy and its Arenas”

Video: China – Silenced.

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/china401/>

Important dates:

Tue. September 6 Mandatory post 2 due (11:55 pm.)

Thu. September 8 Quiz 2 and Response Post 2 due (11: 55 p.m.)

Quiz 3 and 3rd participation topic available

Week THREE (September 12-September 18): Interest Articulation and Aggregation

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 4 and 5

Important dates:

Tue. September 13 Mandatory post 3 due (11: 55 p.m.)

Thu. September 15 Quiz 3 due and Response Post 3 due (11: 55 p.m.),

Quiz 4 and 4th participation topic available

Week FOUR (September 19-September 25): Public Policy and Policy Making

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 6 and 7

Important Dates:

Tue. September 20 Mandatory post 4 due (11: 55 p.m.)

Thu. September 22 Quiz 4 and Response Post 4 due (11: 55 p.m.),

Quiz 5 and 5th Participation Topic available

Week FIVE (September 26-October 2): Models for Democracies: Parliamentary

Reading: APS&D – Chapter 8: Politics in England

Important Dates

Tue. September 27 Mandatory post 5 due (11: 55 p.m.)

Thu. September 29 Quiz 5 and Response Post 5 due (11: 55 p.m.),

Quiz 6 and 6th Participation Topic available

Week SIX (October 3-October 9): Model for Democracies: Presidential Regime

Reading: APS&D – Chapter 12: Politics in the United States

Important Dates

Tue. October 4 Mandatory post 6 due (11: 55 p.m.)

Thu. October 6 Quiz 6 and Response Post 6 due (11: 55 p.m.),

Quiz 7 and 7th Participation Topic available

Don't forget to register for midterm exam.

Week SEVEN (October 10-October 16): Models for Democracies: Semi-Presidential Regime

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 9: Politics in France

Important Dates

Tue. October 11 Mandatory Post 7 due (11:55 PM)
Thu. October 13 Quiz 7 and Response post 7 due (11:55 PM)
Quiz 8 and 8th Participation Topic available
Don't forget to register for midterm exam.

Week EIGHT (October 17-October 23): Post-War Democracies

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 10: Politics in Germany

Video: “East Looks West: Berlin United We Stand” (28.39 minutes)

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series180.html#>

Important Dates

Tue. October 18 Mandatory post 8 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. October 20 Quiz 8 and Response Post 8 due (11: 55 p.m.),
Quiz 9 and 9th Participation Topic available

October 20 and 22 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
Bring a blue book!

Week NINE (October 24-October 30): Communism and Post-Communism

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 12: Politics in Russia

Video: Moscow: Rich in Russia (15 mins)

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/moscow/index.html>

Important Dates

Tue. October 25 Mandatory post 9 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. October 27 Quiz 9 and Response Post 9 due (11: 55 p.m.),
Quiz 10 and 10th Participation Topic available

Week TEN (October 31-November 6): A Country in Transition

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 13: Politics in China

Video: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/red/view/>
Section 1 and 3

Important Dates

Tue. November 1 Mandatory post 10 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. November 3 Quiz 10 and Response Post 10 due (11: 55 p.m.),
Quiz 11 and 11th Participation Topic available

Week ELEVEN (November 7-November 13): One-Party Democracy?

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 11: Politics in Japan

Important Dates

Tue. November 8 Mandatory post 11 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. November 10 Quiz 11 and Response Post 11 due (11: 55 p.m.),
Quiz 12 and 12th Participation Topic available

Week TWELVE (November 14-November 20): Third World Democracy

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 18: Politics in Nigeria

Video: Nigeria: The Road North

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/watch/>

Scroll down and select Nigeria to watch

Important Dates

Tue. November 15 Mandatory post due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. November 17 Quiz 12 and Response Post due (11: 55 p.m.),
Quiz 13 and 13th Participation Topic available

Week THIRTEEN (November 21-November 27): Third World Democracy Continued

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 14: Politics in Mexico

Important Dates

Tue. November 22 Mandatory post 13 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thu. November 24 Quiz 13 and Response Post 13 due (11: 55 p.m.),
Quiz 14 and 14th Participation Topic available
Study guide available
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR FINAL EXAM!

Week FOURTEEN (November 28-December 4): Nondemocratic Regimes

Reading: APS&D – Chapter 16: Politics in Egypt

-- Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan AModern Nondemocratic Regimes

Important Dates

Tue. November 29 Mandatory post 14 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Thur. December 1 Quiz 14 and Response Post 14 due (11: 55 p.m.)
Quiz 15 and 15th Participation Topic available
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR FINAL EXAM!

Week FIFTEEN (December 5-December 8): Third World Democracy

Readings: APS&D – Chapter 17: Politics in India

Important Dates

Tue. December 6 Mandatory Post 15 due (11:55 p.m.)

Thur. December 8 Quiz 15 and Response Post due (11:55 p.m.)

December 14 Final Examination

IMPORTANT CLASS POLICIES

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 before it is too late.