

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200-090  
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
ONLINE COURSE  
SPRING SEMESTER 2006

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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 An online course is not easy. You have to work constantly and diligently. On average you will need 3-4 hours to read course materials and complete assignments in every week. You CANNOT pass the course simply taking exams and submitting a writing assignment.

2.2 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.

2.3 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. **Late posting will not be read.** You must participate in the mandatory posting in order to participate in the response posting from the same thread. 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. More than half of multiple choice exams is taken directly from the quizzes. Other questions will come from the textbook, Reserve Readings, and videos. 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 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 **1 hour** 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 ONE CONSECUTIVE hour 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.leaner.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*, 8<sup>th</sup> 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:**

**Class quizzes can be found under an assessment link (the one with a clock icon on the left column of your webCT menu)**

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 (21% 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 **1 hour** after you start. This means once you begin a quiz, you have a total one-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.

### **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. 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 140 (20%) and final exam. are 150 points. (21.5% 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 TAC center for 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 more than half 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.

### **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 response 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 a designated lesson.**

A high quality response posting should also be no less than **one paragraph in a conventional sense (2-3 sentences would not be considered to be a paragraph)**, 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 10 participation opportunities for you. A new topic will be posted

for a selected 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 =  $10 \times 15 = 150$  points (21.5% of your grade)

#### **4. Comparative Paper**

The course requires the students to write a 8-10-page comparative paper. Students will select one theme, such as ethnic conflicts, the green movement, social movement, civil society, nationalism, ethnic conflicts and compare it 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 26**. Late papers are subject to 20% deduction. A more details guideline and paper ideas can be found on page 10-12 of this syllabus.

Total points for comparative paper = 110 points (16% Of your grade)

#### **5. Course grades:**

Class quizzes	150	points
Midterm exam	140	points
Final exam	150	points
Participation	150	points
Comparative Paper	100	points
Paper proposal with references	<u>10</u>	points
Total points for entire course	<u>700</u>	points

Your grade will be determined on a percentage basis.

Grading Scale

90% or above = A, 85 - 89% = A-, 80 - 84% = B+, 75 - 79 % = B, 70 - 74 % = B-, 65 - 69 % = C+, 60 - 64% = C, 55-59%=C-, 50-54=D+, 45-49%=D, 40-44%D-, below 40%=E

### **Course Outline**

#### **SECTION I: STUDY OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

##### **Week ONE (January 9-January 15): Introduction to Comparative Politics**

**Readings:** APS&D -- Chapters 1 and 2

**Important dates:**

Tue January 10: Mandatory Post 1 due (Midnight)  
Quiz 1 is available  
Thur. January 12: Quiz 1 and Response Post 1 due (Midnight)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Participation Questions and Quiz 2 are available

##### **Week TWO (January 16-January 22): Ideology, Regime Type, and Political Culture and Socialization**

**Readings:** APS&D -- Chapter 3

Summer 1993-- Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan AModern Nondemocratic Regimes

**Important dates:**

- Tue January 17: Mandatory Post 2 due (Midnight)
- Thu. January 19: Quiz 2 and Response Post 2 due (Midnight)  
3rd Participation Questions and Quiz 3 are available

**Week THREE (January 23-January 29): Interest Articulation and Aggregation**

**Readings:** APS&D – Chapter 4 and 5

**Important dates:**

- Tue January 24: Mandatory Post 3 due (Midnight)
- Thur. January 26: Quiz 3 and Response Post 3 due (Midnight)  
4th Participation Questions and quiz 4 are available

**Week FOUR (January 30-January February 5): Public Policy and Policy Making**

**Readings:** APS&D – Chapter 6 and 7

**Important dates:**

- Tue January 31: Mandatory Post 4 due (Midnight)
- Thur. February 2: Quiz 4 and Response Post 4 due (Midnight)  
5<sup>th</sup> Participation Questions and quiz 5 are available

**SECTION II: MODELS OF DEMOCRACIES**

**Week FIVE (February 6-February 12): Parliamentarism**

**Readings:** APS&D – Chapter 8: Politics in England

**Important dates:**

- Tue February 7: Mandatory Posting 5 due (Midnight)
- Thur. February 9: Quiz 5 and Response Post 5 due (Midnight)  
6<sup>th</sup> Participation Questions and quiz 6 are available

**Week SIX (February 13-February 19): Presidential Regime**

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

**Important dates:**

- Tue February 14: Mandatory Post 5 due (Midnight)
- Thur. February 16: Quiz 6 due and Response Post 6 (Midnight)  
7<sup>th</sup> Participation Questions and quiz 7 are available

**Week SEVEN (February 20-February 26): Semi-Presidential Regime**

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

**Important dates:**

- Tue February 21: Mandatory Post 7 due (Midnight)
- Thur. February 23: Quiz 7 and Response Post 7 due (Midnight)  
Quiz 8 is available

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE MIDTERM EXAM.**

**SECTION III: POST-WAR DEMOCRACIES AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION**

**Week EIGHT (February 27-March 5): Germany**

**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. February 28: None

Thur. March 2: Quiz 8 due (Midnight)

8<sup>th</sup> Participation Questions and quiz 9 are available

**Midterm examination Thursday March 2 or Saturday, March 4**

**Week NINE (March 6-March 12): Russia**

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

**Important dates:**

Tue. March 7: Mandatory Posting 8 due (Midnight)

Thur. March 9: Quiz 9 and Response Posting 8 due (Midnight)

9<sup>th</sup> Participation Questions and quiz 10 are available

**Week TEN (March 13-March 19): China**

**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. March 14: Mandatory Posting 9 due (Midnight)

Thur. March 16: Quiz 10 and Response Posting 9 due (Midnight)

10<sup>th</sup> Participation Questions and quiz 11 are available

**Week ELEVEN (March 20-March 26): Japan**

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

**Important dates:**

Tue. March 21: Mandatory Posting 10 due (Midnight)

Thur. March 23: Quiz 11 and Response Posting 10 due (Midnight)

Quiz 12 is available

**Sunday March 26: one-page term paper proposal due**

## SECTION IV: THIRD WORLD DEMOCRACY OR A DEMOCRATIC FAÇADE?

### Week TWELVE (March 27-April 2): Nigeria

**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. March 28: None

Thu. March 30: Quiz 12 due (Midnight)  
Quiz 13 is available

### Week THIRTEEN (April 3-April 9): Mexico

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

**Important dates:**

Tue. April 4: None

Thur. April 6: Quiz 13 due (Midnight)  
Quiz 14 is available

### Week FOURTEEN (April 10-April 16): Egypt

**Readings:** APS&D – Chapter 16: Politics in Egypt

**Important dates:**

Tue. April 11: None

Thur. April 13: Quiz 14 due (Midnight)  
Quiz 15 is available

### Week FIFTEEN (April 17-April 23): India

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

**Important dates:**

Tue. April 18: None

Thur: April 20: Quiz 15 due (Midnight)

**Final exam. Monday, May 1**

**Friday May 5: Comparative Paper due (1:00 PM)**

## 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.

## **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 is it?

## 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 (Focusing 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 Ghandi 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.)