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IN THIS CLASS YOU WILL :

Learn about nine different countries

Classify political systems and identify domestic and international factors that explain different political outcomes

Examine how government institutions affect freedom, equality, and socioeconomic wellbeing

INSTRUCTOR

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OVERVIEW

This course introduces comparative politics, a field that studies governments, political actors and political behavior around the world. Comparativists contrast the domestic politics of specific countries to gain a better understanding of democracy, the state, or economic development. They study these events as empirical phenomena and theoretical categories. The first section of the course introduces key themes in the study of politics, including institutions, power and the comparative method. The second section defines the state, studies its historical development, and examines how it shapes and is in turn shaped by economic and cultural environments. We then look at the organization of democratic states by reading about established democracies and newly industrialized countries. The next part acquaints you with politics in non-democratic settings and the last section explores political contention, or social movements, protests and revolutions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course you should

- ◆ acquire informed perspectives on political institutions, actors and socioeconomic events in key countries around the world
- ◆ identify different patterns of state and government development
- ◆ understand how historical legacies shape politics in specific countries
- ◆ analyze sociopolitical dynamics across specific countries
- ◆ compare different forms of democratic government
- ◆ learn about authoritarian politics
- ◆ study different models of economic development
- ◆ identify the political influence of important world leaders
- ◆ understand the strategies used by ordinary citizens to challenge their governments or make new claims

TEACHING METHODS

This is a three credit course requiring 3 hours of in-class work and 6 hours of homework per week. The class is mostly organized around lectures, though occasionally you will engage in discussion and group-work. Lectures will not be limited to explaining class readings and will expand on concepts or the domestic dynamics of specific countries.

Therefore, you will gain a better understanding of the subject matter if you keep up with your readings and attend class on a regular basis. This means that you need to study and take note on a timely basis of lectures, class discussions, videos, and readings.

GRADING SCALE

| | |
|----|--------|
| A+ | 98-100 |
| A | 94-97 |
| A- | 90-93 |
| B+ | 88-89 |
| B | 84-87 |
| B- | 80-83 |
| C+ | 78-79 |
| C | 70-77 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

Late Policy

Assignments may be completed for full credit at a later time only if you have a university sanctioned absence. To receive full credit you must provide written documentation within the next 5 business days of the incident.

If you hand-in your paper or complete your assignment after class on the assigned date, and you don't have a university sanctioned excuse, I will take 5 points off.

I will also take 5 points off per day late, including weekends. This means that 10 points will be taken off if you complete your unexcused assignment the next day after it was due.

Take note of the class schedule and exam dates when making travel arrangements and other personal plans.

ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows: Two multiple choice exams (20% each), two 3-4 page papers (20% each) and four quizzes (20%). More information about the papers will be provided later.

The assignments are designed to help you:

- ◆ test your understanding of text and class materials
- ◆ identify and define concepts or theories
- ◆ understand domestic politics in different countries
- ◆ use course-related documents and data and apply your analysis to a specific problem
- ◆ experience and demonstrate skill in critical thinking

EXTRA CREDIT: (5%)

Students may choose to complete ONE of the extra credit assignments below. Please note that these assignments are NOT required.

First Option: Students can get 5% extra-credit by participating in class with clickers. To get the full credit, you must answer all the questions asked during one session (i.e. class meeting), participate in 80% of class meetings using clickers, and –with the exclusion of opinion questions—obtain a 60% average of correct answers. Note that if you forget to bring your clicker to class, you will not be able to participate in the question exercise.

Second Option: Students can get 5% extra-credit by writing a 7 page paper comparing the benefits and drawbacks of presidential vs. parliamentary systems. Use class materials and peer-reviewed or academic journals and/or books (at least 10 sources). The paper should be presented in Times New Roman; 12 font; double-space. Due at the beginning of the class on December 4; no late papers or email attachments. To obtain full credit, the paper must obtain a score of 70 (or at least a C). This means that the text and arguments should be thoughtfully written and documented.

Technology:*Course Website*

<http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>

Access Canvas with your regular CSU login and password. There you will find the syllabus, assignments, grades, and other course-related material.

Clickers

We will be using clickers throughout the semester. I-clicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class. Purchasing an I-clicker is optional. However, you are strongly encouraged to buy an I-clicker remote as it would facilitate learning and class discussions. If you do purchase one, you must register it by September 5.

Instructions to register your clicker:

<http://clicker.colostate.edu/docs/Canvas%20iClicker7%20Student.pdf>

For Frequently Asked Questions see:

<https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/studentfaq.aspx>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the General Catalog (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/>) and the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code>).

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

READINGS:

Most assigned readings are found in the two textbooks

Other readings are available at the CSU library's E-reserve webpage:

<https://reserve.colostate.edu/ares/ares.dll>

Or our class website:

<http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>

CLASS SCHEDULE

COMPARATIVE POLITICS: BASIC CONCEPTS AND ISSUES

22-Aug Introduction to the Class

24-Aug Essentials, Ch. 1 (Introduction)

26-Aug Cases, Ch. 1 (Introduction)

WHAT IS THE NATION STATE?

29-Aug Essentials, Ch. 2 (States)

31-Aug Essentials, Ch. 2, cont.

2-Sep Micklethwait, J. and A. Wooldridge. 2014. The State of the State. *Foreign Affairs*, 93(4): 118-132

2-Sep **FIRST QUIZ**

5-Sep **No class (Labor Day)**

7-Sep Essentials, Ch. 3 (Nations and Society)

9-Sep Essentials, Ch. 4 (Political Economy)

12-Sep Essentials, Ch. 4, cont.

12-Sep **SECOND QUIZ**

THE DEMOCRATIC STATES

14-Sep Essentials, Ch. 5 (Democratic Regimes)

16-Sep Essentials, Ch. 8 (Advanced Democracies)

19-Sep Essentials, Ch. 8, cont.

21-Sep Cases, Ch. 2 (United Kingdom)

23-Sep Cases, Ch. 2 (Continued)

26-Sep Cases, Ch. 4 (France)

26-Sep **THIRD QUIZ**

28-Sep Cases, Ch. 5 (Germany)

30-Sep Documentary: Sick Around the World (PBS 2008)

30-Sep Edmonds, M. 10 Healthcare Systems around the World. *How Stuff Works*
<http://people.howstuffworks.com/10-health-care-systems2.htm>

3-Oct Documentary, cont.

TIP

Complete assigned readings prior to class meetings. Reading the assigned texts on time will provide the necessary knowledge to comprehend lectures and learn the subject matter.

REQUIRED BOOKS

(Available at the CSU Bookstore)

O'Neil, Patrick. 2015. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, Fifth Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. [Abbreviated as "Essentials"]

O'Neil, Patrick, Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2015. *Cases in Comparative Politics*. Fifth Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. [Abbreviated as "Cases"]

REMEMBER

Two exams (40%)

Dates: Oct 21 & Dec 16

Two 3-4 page papers (40%)

Dates: Oct 10 & Nov 18

Four quizzes (20%)

Dates: Sep 2, Sep 12, Sep 26 & Nov 2

3-Oct Riley, A. Health-Care Check-up: Whose System is Least Efficient? *Bloomberg* (Nov. 30, 2015)
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-11-30/health-care-check-up-whose-system-is-least-efficient->

NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES

5-Oct Essentials, Ch. 10 (Less Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries)

7-Oct Ch. 10 Cont.

10-Oct **FIRST PAPER**

12-Oct Cases, Ch. 12 (Brazil)

14-Oct Brazil's Crisis. Irredeemable? *The Economist* (Jan 2, 2016).
<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21684778-former-star-emerging-world-faces-lost-decade-irredeemable>

17-Oct Cases, Ch. 11 (Mexico)

19-Oct Cases, Ch. 14 (Nigeria)

21-Oct **FIRST EXAM**

NON-DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES

24-Oct Essentials, Ch. 6 (Non-Democratic Regimes)

26-Oct Essentials, Ch. 6, cont.

28-Oct Cases, Ch. 10 (Iran).

31-Oct Esposito, J and D Mogahed. 2007. "What do women want?" *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*.
New York: Gallup Press, p. 99-133.

2-Nov **FOURTH QUIZ**

2-Nov Essentials, Ch. 9 (Communism and Post-communism)

4-Nov Essentials, Ch. 9, cont.

7-Nov Cases, Ch. 8 (China)

9-Nov Lampton D. 2014. "How China is Ruled." *Foreign Affairs* 93(1): 74-84.

11-Nov Cases, Ch. 7 (Russia)

14-Nov Ch. 7 Cont. Documentary: *Red Army* (Sony Pictures Classics, 2014)

16-Nov Documentary, cont.

16-Nov Greene, S. 2015. End of Ambiguity in Russia. *Current History* 114(774): 251-258.

18-Nov **SECOND PAPER**

21-25Nov Fall Recess

CONTENTIOUS POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY

28-Nov Essentials, Ch. 7 (Political Violence)

30-Nov Mitchel, T. Xi's China: Smothering Dissent. *The Financial Times* (July 27, 2016)
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ccd94b46-4db5-11e6-88c5-db83e98a590a.html#>

2-Dec Documentary: *The Decades Collection: Gandhi* (History Channel 2007)

5-Dec Marquez B, Jennings J. 2000. Representation by Other Means: Mexican and Puerto Rican Social Movement Organizations. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33: 541-6.

7-Dec Essentials, Ch. 11 (Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics)

9-Dec No readings assigned (Last day of classes)

16-Dec **SECOND EXAM (7:30a-9:30a) Engineering 120**