

## PS 210 Introduction to Comparative Politics Fall 2012

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 0900-0950 AM**

**222 Chem-Phys**

Instructor: Anup Phayal

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Office Hours:

Wednesday 10:15-11:15 AM

Friday 10:00-12:00 pm

Office: 1602 POT

**Overview:** This course aims to familiarize students with the major political trends of countries around the world. It addresses key questions in understanding the basics of comparative politics. Why do countries have different political systems? How are they different in terms of institutions and ideologies that shape them? These questions are examined in the context of developing and developed countries by analyzing and comparing their institutions, regimes, ideologies and the relationship with citizens. The classes will be divided into lectures, discussions and case-study presentations. Students are encouraged to learn the issues by getting involved in a country research project and deliver it as a group presentation.

**Course Objectives:** To introduce students to the study of political processes outside of the United States and to help them achieve the following *learning outcomes*:

- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts, theories, and methods of political science in the comparative context
- Compare different political, social, and economic features of countries and regions around the world
- Apply the theories and comparative methods of inquiry to real-life issues in the world today
- Critically evaluate the relative merits of particular policy decisions, given ethical implications and indications of efficacy.

**Course Materials:**

Primary Text

Drogus & Orvis, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). CQ Press. Available at the UK Bookstore & on Amazon.com

Chapters are assigned for reading each week in order to prepare for discussion in class. There will also be journal/newspaper articles assigned for reading, in addition to the chapters. Students should have read the assigned reading materials prior to the discussion. I will present a brief introduction of the readings prior to the discussion classes and the relevant questionnaire to guide the readings will be posted on blackboard.

**Blackboard and instructor webpage for the course**

Blackboard be used to post course announcements, course materials, and grades. Students will also use blackboard or the instructor email to submit questions about the course. Students who have problems accessing blackboard are encouraged to consult: [elearning.uky.edu/](http://elearning.uky.edu/). The most update syllabus of the course will also be posted on my webpage.

**Evaluation:**

**Lecture Participation (15%)**— 15% of the total final grade is allocated for class attendance (10%) and participation (5%). With each unexcused absence, students will lose 25% of their attendance grade, which

means 4 unexcused absences will cost the student all credit for attendance. Moreover, exams and quizzes will be based on lectures and therefore missing it will adversely affect exam grades too.

In order to encourage participation in debates and discussions, students will be divided into smaller groups during the beginning week of the semester.

**Country presentation (25%)**— Corresponding to the class theme and the weekly readings, students will sign up for a 15 minutes country presentation during the second week of the class. The presentation will focus on a research question about the country, for which the student will research and present in their assigned groups. There are two main objectives of the country presentation assignment. First, it will familiarize the students with issues and questions in comparative politics through these cases from around the world. Second, it will help enhance the presentation skills. Moreover, this should also encourage the students in the audience to ask relevant questions, which can contribute directly to their participatory grades. Details about this assignment will be explained in class.

Library resource for country presentation: <http://libguides.uky.edu/Countries>

**Exams (45%):** Exams will cover lectures and case studies discussed in class.

Exam 1: (10/5) 15 % of the total grade

Exam 2: (11/12) 15 % of the total grade

Final exam: (12/10) 15 % of the total grade

**Quizzes (15 %):** There will be 3 unannounced quizzes spread throughout the semester covering the materials discussed in class. They will be fairly easy but requires that you attend the class in order to get them right.

**Grading Scale:** Each assignment will receive a percentage grade and both midterm and final grade formulas will result in a grade percentage, which will translate into a letter grade using the following scale: 100 – 90/A; 89 – 80/B; 79 – 70/C; 69 – 60/D; 59/E

### **Expectations:**

**Attendance**—I will take attendance in every class. Absences without documentation as defined by the University rule 5.2.4.2 will be considered unexcused. Make-up exams (for missed examinations) will only be given for documented excused absences as defined by the University (Senate Rule V.2.4.2) and are scheduled as needed. A missed exam or presentation assignment will result in a score of zero for that test, unless an acceptable written excuse is presented within 48 hours of the missed examination.

### **Classroom Conduct:**

All students will be responsible for maintaining a professional classroom atmosphere. This should be simple: be respectful of the instructor and perhaps more importantly, your fellow students. Arrive on-time having read the material, turn off your cell-phones, put away all non-class material, and remain attentive until the instructor formally dismisses you. Laptops will not be used during the lectures. Also, if you must leave early, please inform the instructor beforehand, and when leaving, do so as quietly and courteously as possible. Finally, as per the nature of the course, disagreement will arise, in fact, this is encouraged, but personal attacks, or disrespectful behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Disrespectful students may be asked to leave.

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating in the exam very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the entire course. All assignments, projects, and exercises presented by students for this class should be the product of the personal efforts of the individual(s) whose name(s) appear on the corresponding assignment. Misrepresenting others' work as one's own in the form of cheating or plagiarism is unethical and will lead to those penalties outlined in the [University Senate Rules](#) (6.3.1 & 6.3.2). The [Ombud](#) site also has information on plagiarism.

Students with disabilities—All necessary accommodations will be made for disabled students who provide a Letter of Accommodation from the Dean of Students' Disability Resource Center. The center is located in Alumni Gym, Room 2—phone: 257-2754.

## **Course Schedule**

### Week 0

8/22 Introduction to the syllabus

8/24 What is Comparative politics? (Ch 1)

### Week 1

8/27 (Continue) Theory and methods in Comparative politics

8/29, 8/31 No class (APSA Conference)

### Week 2

9/3 Labor day holiday

9/5 Modern State: strong, weak and failed states (Ch 2)

#### *Reading assignment:*

Rotberg, Robert (2002) 'The New Nature of State Failure' in *Washington Quarterly* 25(3):85-96

Jones B G (2008), 'The global political economy of social crisis: Towards a critique of the 'failed state' ideology' in *Review of International Political Economy* 15(2):180-205

9/7 Failed state discussions

### Week 3

9/10, 9/12 Regimes and ideologies (Ch3)

9/14 Student country presentation Afghanistan failed state; Nigeria Weak state

### Week 4

9/17 Ethnicity and religion (Ch4)

9/19 (Cont.) Ethnicity and religion

9/21 Student country presentation: Iran (theocracy) and Germany (Fascism)

### Week 5

9/24 Case study Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka

9/25 Case study discussion

9/28 Student presentation: Race issues in US and ethnic problem in Nigeria

Week 6

10/1 States and Markets: Key economic debates (Ch5)  
10/3 Debate on markets and state intervention  
10/5 Exam 1

Week 7

10/8 Institutions in democracy (Ch6)  
10/10 Institutions (Cont)  
10/12 *NO CLASS*

Week 8

10/15 Student country presentations: Semi-Presidentialism in Russia and Indian government  
10/17 Case study on Nepal  
10/19 Federalism debate

Week 9

10/22 10/24 Participation (Ch7)  
10/26 Electoral systems

Week 10

10/29 Student country presentation UK electoral systems and Indian electoral system  
10/31 Authoritarian Institutions (Ch 8)  
11/2 Case studies Iraq under Saddam Hussein

Week 11

11/5 Student presentation China under Mao and Tunisia under Ben Ali  
11/7 Regime transition (Ch9)  
11/9 Case study on Libya. Discussion “Challenges and recommendation for democratization in Libya”

Week 12

11/12 Exam 2  
11/14, Video documentary on regime transition in Iran  
11/16 Globalization (Ch 10)

Week 13

11/19 Globalization (Ch 10)  
No class Thanksgiving week

Week 14

11/26, 11/28 Public policies (Ch 11)  
11/30 Politics of inclusion (Ch 12)

Week 15

12/3 Politics of inclusion (Ch 12)  
12/5 Case of Northern Ireland and consociational democracy  
12/7 Final exam review

Week 16

12/10 Final exam