

Political Science 260
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2008

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Office hours: 10:00 -11:00 MWF or by arrangement

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Course Meeting Time: MWF 1:00-1:50, Graham 209

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to introduce the basic concepts and methods of comparative political analysis. At the same time an effort will be made to familiarize students with the political institutions and practices of a variety of developed and developing countries.

Course Requirements

Those who take the course will be expected to keep up with the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. You will take a one-hour in class exam midterm for 25% of your grade. During the course of the semester there will be a series of short unannounced quizzes covering the assigned reading materials. Your scores on these quizzes will count for 20% of your grade. You will also be writing a paper comparing two countries of your choice of approximately 10-12 pages in length, which will count for 25% of your grade. Lastly, there will be a comprehensive final exam which counts for 30% of the class grade. Extra credit of up to 5% (1/2 grade point) can be earned by doing additional readings. Attendance is mandatory. More than three un-excused absences may result in dismissal.

Midterm-25%, Quizzes-20%, Paper-25%, Final Exam-30%
Grading is based on a 10 point scale: 90-100 = A, etc.

Required Texts

Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger, and Wiliam A. Joseph. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 4th ed. (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007).
Soe, Christian, Ed., *Comparative Politics* 06/07 (Guilford, Connecticut: The Duskin Publishing Group, Inc., 20057).

Course Outline

I. Introduction to Comparative Analysis:

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 1.

II. Established Democratic Political Systems

Soe, articles 16 and 17.
Extra Credit, Soe, Article 38.

A. Great Britain

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 2.
Soe, articles 2, 3 and 4.

B. France

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 3.
Soe, articles 5 and 6.

C. Germany

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 4.
Soe, articles 7 and 8.
Extra Credit, article 11.

Summary, Soe, Articles 12 and 13.
Extra Credit, articles 23 and 25.

Midterm Exam, approximately Friday, March 7th.

III. The Transition from Communism

A. Russia

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 8.
Soe, articles 27, and 28.
Extra Credit, Article 29.

B. The People's Republic of China

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 13.
Readings in Comparative Politics, 4.7.
Soe, articles 33 and 34.

IV. Less Developed Countries

A. Introduction

Soe, pp. 155-158.
Soe, articles 39, 41 and 42

B. Nigeria

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 11.
Soe Article 32.

C. Mexico

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 10.
Soe, article 30.
Extra Credit, Soe, article 34.

D. India

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 6.
Soe, Articles 35 and 36.

Final Exam Friday, May 9th, 3:30-6:30

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: Each student is required to sign the honor statement on all major work submitted for this course. Refer to the UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes unless prior permission is obtained in advance from the instructor.

DROP POLICY: Refer to UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*