

Political Science 260-02
Honors Section
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2009

William Crowther
213-A Graham
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.

You will be doing three additional activities for the honors section of this course. First, I want you to read a novel or biography relating to politics in one of the countries that we will be studying during the semester and to write a brief 1-2 page report on whatever book you choose. Second, I also want you to watch a contemporary film relating to politics in a country of your choice (excluding the United States) and write a review of it. Third, we will meet separately as a group two or three times during the semester to discuss these assignments and your research projects.

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* 08/09 (Guilford, Connecticut: The Duskin Publishing Group, Inc., 2008).

Course Outline

- I. Introduction to Comparative Analysis:**
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 1.
Soe, article 1.
- II. Established Democratic Political Systems**
Soe, articles 6 and 41.
Extra Credit, Soe, Article 5.
 - A. Great Britain
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 2.
Soe, articles 9 and 10.
Extra Credit, Soe, Article 11

- B. France
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 3.
Soe, articles 12 and 13.
- C. Germany
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 4.
Soe, articles 14 and 15.
Extra Credit, article 11.
- D. Summary
Soe, Articles 8 and 25.
Extra Credit, articles 18 and 19.

Midterm Exam, approximately Friday, March 6th.

III. The Transition from Communism

Soe, Article 4.

- A. Russia
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 8.
Soe, articles 29, and 30.
- B. The People's Republic of China
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 13.
Soe, articles 31, and 33.

IV. Less Developed Countries

- A. Introduction
Soe, pp. 177-179.
Soe, articles 43, and 44.
Extra Credit, Soe, Article 45.
- B. Nigeria
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 11.
Soe Articles 35 and 36.
- C. Mexico
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 10.
Soe, article 34.
- E. India
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 6.
Soe, Articles 37 and 38.

Final Exam Monday, May 11th, 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*