

Political Science 260
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2010

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213-A Graham
Office hours: 11:00 -12:00 MWF or by arrangement

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Course Meeting Time: MWF 11:00-11:50, Graham 204

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*, 5th ed. (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2010).
Yap, O. Fiona, Ed., *Comparative Politics* 09/10 (Guilford, Connecticut: The Duskin Publishing Group, Inc., 2009).

Course Outline

- I. Introduction to Comparative Analysis:**
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 1, Introduction.
Yap, articles 1 and 32.
Extra Credit, Article 8.
- II. Established Democratic Political Systems**
Yap, articles 2 and 3.
 - A. Great Britain
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 2.
Yap, articles 14 and 21.
Extra Credit, Article 26.
 - B. France
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 3.
Yap, Articles 10 and 38.
Extra Credit Article 4.

- C. Germany
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 4.
Yap, articles 9 and 16
Extra Credit, article 24.

Midterm Exam, approximately Friday March 5th.

III. The Transition from Communism

- A. Russia
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 11.
Yap, articles 15, and 29.
Extra Credit, Article 39.
- B. The People's Republic of China
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 13.
Yap, articles 19, and 33.
Extra Credit, Yap, Article 37.

IV. Less Developed Countries

- A. Introduction
Yap, articles 40 and 41
- B. Nigeria
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 8.
Yap Articles 6.
- C. Mexico
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 10.
Yap, article 18.
- D. India
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Chapter 6.
Yap, Article 34.

Final Exam Wednesday, May 12th from 8:00 to 11:00.

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*