

**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

email: wecrowth@uncg.edu  
Tel: 256-0519

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-20%, Quizzes-15%, 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 you will be studying during the semester and to write a brief 1-2 page report on whatever book you choose. Second, we will be reading *The Bottom Billion* for the honors section of this class in addition to the other texts. Third, we will meet separately as a group two or three times during the semester to discuss these assignments and your research projects.

Collectively, these activities will account for 10% of your grade.

### **Required Texts**

Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2010).  
Yap, O. Fiona, Ed., *Comparative Politics* 09/10 (Guilford, Connecticut: The Duskin Publishing Group, Inc., 2009).  
Collier, Paul, *The Bottom Billion: Why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

### **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 5<sup>th</sup>.**

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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*