

Fall 2011 Political Science 2053 Section 001

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Audubon 112 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:40–1:30

Instructor: Qiao, Liang

Office Hours: 320 Stubbs Hall 2:00–6:00 Wednesdays or by appointment

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Description

We will examine over the course of the semester the central themes, theories, concepts, and questions of the contemporary study of comparative politics. This means that our course will be primarily thematic. Representing such a diverse field of study in one course is practically impossible; therefore, the objective is to acquire a *basic* knowledge of the *basic* concerns and approaches of the field. These will prove vital for an understanding of how political institutions, actors, and processes operate around the world and how they affect society, culture, and the economy.

General Education Credit

POLI 2053 is a **general education** course that is designed to provide fundamental knowledge of comparative politics and political institutions in the world. As advised by the University, “In courses designated as general education, students begin a process of developing competencies or essential learning outcomes which continues through their study in upper-level elective courses and courses in the major field of study.” Therefore, this course is developed to improve the knowledge of political issues globally and to identify and analyze important social phenomena through the coursework which employs basic theories and empirical methods, and will help students develop the requisite interests and motivation to understand different cultures among nations and participate effectively in the civic life of communities.

Requirements

Required Text: Caramani, Daniele. 2011. *Comparative Politics (2nd Edition)*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199574971.

Each student’s grades will be determined in the following manner:

- 6 In-class Quizzes: 30%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Mid-term Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

Grade Scale: A=100-90, B=89-80, C=79-70, D=69-60, F=59-0

Students will be notified of the date of the quizzes 1-2 class periods ahead of time. Mid-term exam will be performed in class in the week of Friday, October 7th; Final exam will be on Tuesday, December 6th, 2011(7:30am-9:30am).

Student Responsibility

There are no makeup exams except under extreme circumstances. These circumstances must be documented, and I must have access to these documents. Examinations that are not taken or assignments that are not turned in will receive an 'F.'

You are responsible for attendance at all class meetings. Class discussion will often involve critical examinations of the assigned readings, not mere presentation of the text. Class lectures and discussion will draw from your assigned readings and outside sources. The classroom is a unique learning environment; taking advantage of this opportunity will help you through the course. If you did not attend the first day of class and/or added the class late, all class policies apply equally to you. It is your responsibility to catch up on the class periods you missed.

Laptops are NOT allowed. As an introductory level political science course, there is no need for advanced software or the Internet usage during class meetings of this course. Therefore, you may not use a laptop computer or a cell phone during the class at all times. Students with special needs of using such devices must have the instructor's permission to proceed.

If the readings or class discussion are unclear for you, please ask questions. I am eager to help you in class, in my office, or by e-mail so long as you are receptive and concerned about the quality of your work. In addition, daily readings guides, supplementary readings, and grades will be posted on Moodle.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

- 8/22 Introduction/Syllabus
- 8/24 What is Comparative Politics?
- 8/26 What is Comparative Politics (continued)?
- 8/29 Theoretical Perspectives
- 8/31 Theoretical Perspectives (continued)
- 9/2 State
- 9/5 *Labor Day Holiday*
- 9/7 State (continued)

9/9 Nation
9/12 Nation (continued)
9/14 Nation-state Case Study
9/16 Regimes and Institutions
9/19 Democracy
9/21 Democracy (continued)
9/23 Authoritarian Regimes
9/26 Authoritarian Regimes (continued)
9/28 Other Regimes
9/30 Movie TBD
10/3 Democracy Case Study
10/5 Authoritarianism Case Study
10/7 Midterm Exam
10/10 Legislatures
10/12 Legislatures (continued)
10/14 Fall Holiday
10/17 Elections and Electoral Systems
10/19 Elections case study
10/21 Elections case study (continued)
10/24 State Building and Political Order
10/26 Party Systems
10/28 Movie TBD
10/31 Party Systems (continued)
11/2 Political Culture
11/4 Political Culture (continued)
11/7 Government and Bureaucracy
11/9 Government and Bureaucracy (continued)
11/11 Regions

11/14 Regions Case Study

11/16 Regions Case Study

11/18 Social Movement

11/21 Social Movement (continued)

11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28 Modernization and Globalization

11/30 Modernization and Globalization (continued)

12/2 Final Review

12/6 Final Exam 7:30am