

Political Science 211
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2006

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Office Hours: T/Th 1-2:20

This course is an introduction to comparative politics. It explores recent theories in comparative politics and also provides an analysis of politics in developing and industrialized countries. The course examines a limited number of themes and it is not intended to serve as an exhaustive survey of the field

The course is divided into two sections. In Part I, we will focus on political culture, democratization, and interest group systems. We will also study certain theories that have been applied to the subjects of culture and economic development, regime transitions, and the behavior of interest groups. Part II of the course contrasts recent developments in Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Requirements and Grading

Lecture and Discussion: The class will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-3:45 in Wright C301 for lectures and discussion. Students are expected to finish all of the assigned readings and to be prepared for discussion.

Exams and Grades: There will be three examinations. Exam 1 will be given on **October 10**; Exam 2 is on **November 14**. The final exam will be given on **December 12, 3:10PM-5:10PM**, Wright C301. The exams consist of short-answer sections and essay questions. The first two exams each count for 30% of your final grade; the final exam counts for 35%, with the remaining 5% from participation.

Make-up exams will be given only if the student can demonstrate she/he was absent due to illness or participation in an official university function. Students must provide an excuse in writing from a licensed health care provider or from a university administrator.

University Policy for Students with Disabilities: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Disability Resource Center (Room 137, Reynolds Student Services Center; 895-0866 [TDD 895-0652]).

Observance of Religious Holidays: Students who miss class due to observance of a religious holiday shall be given the opportunity to make up the missed work. Please notify the instructor no later than the end of the first week of classes if this policy applies to you.

Readings

All readings for this course are on reserve in the Lied library and are accessible through the web (<http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/>).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
8/29	Introduction	No Reading
8/31-9/5	Basic Concepts / Terms	Hague, "Comparative Politics..."
9/7-9/19	Political Culture	Almond, "The Civic Culture Concept." Hague, "Political Culture..." Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture."
9/21-10/5	Democratization	Sørensen, "What is Democracy?" Sørensen, "Processes of Democratization" Karl, "Economic Inequality and Democratic Instability"
10/10	Exam 1	
10/12-10/17	Interest Groups and Parties	Hague "Interest Groups." Evans, "The State as Problem and Solution..."
10/24-10/26	Mexico: History and Political Culture	Camp, 1-17; Cornelius, 469-484
10/31-11/2	Mexico: Interest Groups, Parties	Cornelius, 485-508; Camp, 128-57.
11/7-11/9	Mexico: Reforms & Policy Performance	Camp, 225-52; Cornelius, 508-517.
11/14	Exam 2	
11/16-11/21	England: History and Political Culture	Rose, 167-98
11/23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday	
11/28-11/30	England: Interest Groups, Parties	Rose, 198-206
12/5-12/7	England: Performance; Review	Rose, 206-208
12/12	Final Exam, 3:10PM-5:10PM	

http://slts1.studentlife.unlv.edu/apps/Academic_Calendar/FinalsSched.asp?T=3&AY=2006