

Comparative Government and Politics

Political Science 211-003 Fall 2006 Wednesday 4:00- 6:45 pm

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Classroom : CBC C216

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1, Course Objectives

The goal of this course is for the students to understand how and why politics and government in the world differ. The students are expected to acquire the tools to analyze, understand, criticize, and challenge the political events and phenomena in the world through the course. To achieve this goal, we must learn first what is politics, what is the government, how governments functions. Then we will examine the difference of political culture, and the institutions and functions of governments in different states. We will take up some distinguished or typical state for examination.

The study here should not be static: We will also learn why a government function as such, how it has been and will be affected by the interaction with other states. We will also examine and discuss the relevant topics in politics, economy and society in the world to deepen our understanding and to train critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, and developing new interest and ideas. .

Throughout this course, students are expected to learn what is universal and what is different among people, and what is human nature. These learning will enable students to think about what is the best institutions for America with the given condition.

2, Structure and sequences of class activities

The class consists of the following matters: lectures, discussions, midterm exam, final exam, country report.

Lectures: will be based on the textbook, but not limited to it. The topic of each class is on the following. pages. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters in advance.

Discussions: I believe that Socratic dialogue (Q & A) as the best way to develop and understand the issue in question. So I will throw some questions or problems which will enable the student think about our world and our better future. Students are expected to participate actively, and not to leave any questions and issues unsolved.

Midterm: is due on Oct. 25 at the class hour. It is closed-book sit-down exam on the issue

covered earlier. Essay style. It will not take more than one hour.

Final exam : is due Dec. 13th, 6pm. It is also closed-book, sit-down exam on the issue covered throughout the course. Essay style. It will be one-hour exam.

Country Report : Students are assigned to study the political system -- not only political institution but also political culture, history, and social features on which the political institutions are found. I will assign each student one country at the orientation. Two students in each class report on the country they are assigned.

3, Textbooks

Almond, Gabriel, et. al. Comparative Politics: Theoretical Framework,

4, Grading procedures

The grade consists of the following:

- Class participation 20%
- Midterm 30%
- Final 30%
- Country Report 20%

5, Course policies

Attendance -- required for all classes except emergency.
Cheating -- strictly prohibited.

6, Statement for students with physical disabilities

“ Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his other abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities ”

7, Class Schedule

Week 1, Orientation

Week 2, Social Science / Political Science

Week 3, 4, The World : So diverse, so complex and so dynamic. (chap. 1)

Week 5, Why we compare? (chap. 2)

Week 6, Concepts in Comparative Politics (chap. 2)

Week 7, Political Culture (chap. 3)

Week 8, Midterm Exam

Week 9, Political Socialization (chap. 3)

Week 10, Political Participation (chap. 4)

Week 11, Political Elites (Chap. 4)

Week 12, Interest Groups (chap. 5)

Week 13, Party Politics 9 (chap. 6)

Week 14, Legislature (chap 7)

Week 15 Administration (chap 7)