

Political Science 211
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2008

John P. Tuman
Wright A-212
Office Hours: T/TH 12:50PM-2:20PM
Phone: 895-3754
e-mail: john.tuman@unlv.edu

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 groups in comparative context. 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 CBC C216 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 **February 26**; Exam 2 is on **April 8**. The final exam will be given on **Thursday May 13, 3:10-5:10 PM in CBC C216**. 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.

Contact via E-mail: A new UNLV policy requires students to use Rebelmail accounts when they contact faculty via e-mail. As the official e-mail system for students, Rebelmail is available to all students who have been admitted to the university. Non-matriculated students should contact the Office of Information Technology at UNLV students for assistance.

Readings

Nearly all of the readings for this course are on reserve in the Lied library and are accessible through the web (<http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/>). A small number of readings are also available through the web and through the Article First database in the library (available at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/search/databases/index.html> ; next, select Article First, and follow the instructions for accessing the database and searching).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
1/22	Introduction	No Reading
1/24-1/29	Basic Concepts / Terms	Hague, "Comparative Politics..."
2/5-2/12	Political Culture	Almond, "The Civic Culture Concept." Hague, "Political Culture..." Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture."
2/14-2/21	Democratization	Sørensen, "What is Democracy?" Sørensen, "Processes of Democratization" Karl, 'Economic Inequality and Democratic Instability'"
2/26	Exam 1	
2/28-3/4	Interest Groups	Hague "Interest Groups." Evans, "The State as Problem and Solution..."
3/6-3/13	Mexico: History and Political Culture	Camp, 1-17; Cornelius, 469-484
3/18-3/20	Spring Break	
3/25-3/27	Mexico: Interest Groups, Parties	Cornelius, 485-508; Camp, 128-57. Joseph Klesner, "The July 2006 Presidential and Congressional Elections," <i>Electoral Studies</i> 26, no. 4 (December 2007), pp. 803-08, in Article First database.
4/1-4/3	Mexico: Reforms & Policy Performance	Camp, 225-52; Cornelius, 508-517.
4/8	Exam 2	
4/10-4/17	UK: History and Political Culture	Rose, 155-78, 188-98 BBC News, "No Decision on non-EU Workers," January 16, 2008, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/7190348.stm
4/22-4/29	UK: Interest Groups, Parties	Rose, 178-187, 198-206
5/1-5/8	UK: Performance; Conclusion	Rose, 206-208 BBC News, "The Blair Years in Statistics," Select life expectancy, household disposable income, unemployment graphs. http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/uk_politics/07/blair_graphs/html/default.stm
5/13	Final Exam, 3:10-5:10	