

**PSC 211**  
**Comparative Government and Politics**  
Summer 2007  
M-F 11:20 AM-12:50 PM  
WRI-C237

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**Course Description**

Comparative politics is one of the broadest fields of political science. In this field, one addresses issues related to, for example, political institutions, political culture, political economy, and political development in countries across the world. Although some associate comparative politics with “the comparative method,” those conducting research in the area of comparative politics use a multitude of methodologies and pursue diverse topics. In this course, some of the basic concepts and tools employed in comparative politics will be introduced. Areas such as political institutions, political development and democratization will be highlighted. In addition, the political systems of specific countries will be examined.

**Course Requirements**

**Required Texts and Reading:**

James N. Danziger. 2007. *Understanding the Political World* Eight Edition. Pearson Longman.  
Jeffrey Kopstein and Mark Lichbach. 2005. *Comparative Politics: Interests, Identities, and Institutions in a Changing Global Order*. Cambridge University Press.

## Grades

The total number of points that can be achieved in this course is 400. The points are allocated in the following way:

|                          | Number of Points | Percentage Equivalent |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Quizzes (every Friday) | 400              | 80%                   |
| Final examination        | 100              | 20%                   |
| Totals                   | 500              | 100%                  |

Missing 4 or more classes results in the loss of 5% of the total points (about one half a letter grade).

## Attendance, Participation and General Expectations

**Attendance** will be taken each class. Students may miss up to three classes without losing attendance points. Because students are already allowed three absences during the term, three points will be subtracted from the attendance points for every absence beyond three, whatever the reason for the absence. Attending class is a very important part of the learning process. If anyone foresees the possibility of missing class more than three times, she/he should consider taking PSC 211 when she/he will be able to attend all of the classes. **Signing the attendance sheet for another student is a form of fraud**, and anyone participating in this activity will be penalized.

**Participation** in class discussions is strongly encouraged. Of course, participation should be constructive, and all comments should be relevant to the material being covered in class. Students must **do all of the reading!** I will call on students in class and expect their answers to reflect familiarity with the ideas and information in the readings. Respect should be shown for all other class members at all times. Inappropriate and disruptive participation/behavior will result in a drop in the student's grade. If you are habitually late, the attendance portion of your course grade will be marked down substantially.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive promptly and have a collegial demeanor. Students are not allowed to sleep, read newspapers, listen to headphones, or talk to others during class. Engaging in these behaviors will result in a drop in the student's grade. **You must turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. Any exceptions must be cleared with me in advance. If you look at your cell phone during a quiz or exam, you will receive a zero for that quiz or exam.** Arriving late, leaving early, or interrupting class with a cell phone or other electronic device will also result in a drop in the student's grade. **Students are not allowed to tape record, photograph, video tape or otherwise electronically record any of the class.**

**I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus.** Students will be responsible for knowing any changes made to the syllabus during class time whether they were in attendance or not. The instructor's lecture notes are not available to students; it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes from a classmate, should class be missed.

Learning Enhancement Services (LES) is the office to provide Disability Services. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, suite 137. The phone number is 702-895-0866, or TTD 702-895-0652, or you may visit the website at [www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les](http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les).

**Academic Honesty:**

All breaches in academic honesty will be handled in accordance with the UNLV Student Conduct Code and Policies, which can be accessed at <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife>.

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Read the following assignments prior to the class.

|                           |                          |                           |                         |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4<br>D1<br>KL1            | 5<br>D2                  | 6<br>D3<br>KL2            | 7<br>KL2                | 8<br>Quiz                |
| 11<br>D5<br>KL4 (France)  | 12<br>D6<br>KL4 (France) | 13<br>D6<br>KL5 (Germany) | 14<br>KL5 (Germany)     | 15<br>Quiz               |
| 18<br>D7                  | 19<br>KL7 (Russia)       | 20<br>D8                  | 21<br>D9<br>KL 8 China  | 22<br>Quiz<br>KL 8 China |
| 25<br>D12<br>KL9 (Mexico) | 26<br>KL9 (Mexico)       | 27<br>D13<br>KL10 (India) | 28<br>KL10 (India)      | 29<br>Quiz<br>(Brazil)   |
| 2<br>D14                  | 3<br>D14                 | Holiday                   | 5<br>D15<br>KL11 (Iran) | 6<br>Final               |

Reading assignments:

Danziger, Understanding the Political World = D  
Kopstein and Lichbach, Comparative Politics = KL