

Political Science 241: Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics

Fall Semester 2004

MWF, 10-10:50 am; Room: Marston 207

Professor Eric McGlinchey

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Office Hours: M, W 1-3pm

Teaching Assistant: Brandi Scott

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to central concepts of comparative politics—power, state formation, political economy, political culture, nationalism and identity, democratization, and globalization. Students will explore these concepts in the context of three differing types of states: established democracies, developing democracies, and non-democracies. Our conceptual travels will take us to concrete places, to states in the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. By the close of this course, students will be able to distinguish among and evaluate the real life consequences of differing types of democratic and authoritarian rule.

Course Readings:

1. Textbook: Michael J. Sodaro, *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction* (Second Edition, 2004). The textbook can be purchased at the University Book Store.
2. The *New York Times*—Understanding current events is central to our study of comparative politics. Class discussion will draw from our readings in the *Times*. Course exams will also include a current events component. Sign-up sheets for the *Times* are at the University Book Store. The *Times* will be available for pick-up after September 2nd.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are required to attend all classes.
2. Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters prior to class.
3. There will be a short geography quiz the fourth week of class.
4. There will be regular surprise quizzes and class exercises.
5. There will be *two mid-term exams and one comprehensive final exam*. Exams will include both multiple choice and short answer questions.

**Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only if students have proper documentation. If you anticipate you will have a conflict due to travel, please let me know within the first three weeks of class.

**This syllabus may change as the semester progresses.

Academic Dishonesty:

The 2003-2005 Iowa State University Bulletin states academic dishonesty “occurs when a student uses or attempts to use unauthorized information in the taking of an exam; or submits as his or her own work themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other products prepared by another person; or knowingly assists another student in such acts of plagiarism” (p. 38). Students are encouraged to read the academic dishonesty section of the Bulletin (<http://www.iastate.edu/~catalog/2003-05/1-54.pdf>) and to remain vigilant against such lapses in their own work. Any cases of academic dishonesty in this course will be pursued according to the guidelines detailed in the Iowa State University Bulletin.

Special Needs:

Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resources (DR) office (515-294-6624). DR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.

Grading:

Geography Quiz—25 questions	30
Mid-term 1—50 questions	100
Mid-term 2—50 questions	100
Surprise Quizzes/Class Exercises	100
Final Exam—100 questions	170
Total	500 points

Grading Scale:

	A: 460-500	A-: 450-459
B+: 440-449	B: 410-439	B-: 400-409
C+: 390-399	C: 360-389	C-: 350-359
D+: 340-349	D: 310-339	D-: 300-309
F: 299 and below		

Schedule:

Class session	Topic	Readings
WK 1: 8/23-8/27	Major Topics of Comparative Politics Power	Ch. 2 Ch. 4
WK 2: 8/30-9/3	Critical Thinking/Methodology	Ch. 3
WK 3: 9/6-9/10**	The State States and Nations **Note: MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY!	Ch. 5 Ch. 6
WK 4: 9/13-9/17**	What Is Democracy? Types of Democratic Government **GEOGRAPHY QUIZ FRIDAY	Ch. 7 Ch. 8 (To p. 196)
WK 5: 9/20-9/24	Types of Democratic Government Types of Democratic Government Conditions for Democracy	Ch. 8 (From p. 196) Ch. 12, "Liberalism" Ch. 9
WK 6: 9/27-10/1	People and Politics Political Culture	Ch. 10 Ch. 11; Ch. 12, "Islam"
WK 7: 10/4-10/8**	Political Economy **Note: 1 st MIDTERM ON FRIDAY!	Ch. 13
WK 8: 10/11-10/15	Politics of Development The UK	Ch. 14 Ch. 15 (To p. 368)
WK 9: 10/18-10/22	The UK Germany	Ch. 15 (From p. 369) Ch. 17; Ch. 12, "Fascism"
WK 10: 10/25-10/29	Japan Socialism	Ch. 18 Ch. 13, "Socialism"

WK 11: 11/1-11/5	Russia	Ch. 19
WK 12: 11/8-11/12	China	Ch. 20
WK 13: 11/15-11/19**	Review Session Monday **Note: 2 nd MIDTERM WEDNESDAY Film (TBA) Friday	
WK 14: 11/29-12/3	Mexico Brazil	Ch. 21 Ch. 21
WK 15: 12/6-12/10	Nigeria South Africa	Ch. 22 Ch. 22

FINAL: TBA