

## **Political Science 100N: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Winter 2005)**

Instructor: Dinissa Duvanova  
2043 Derby Hall  
duvanova.1@osu.edu

MW 5:30PM – 7:18PM  
Townshed Hall 256  
Office hours: TR 9:30-10:30AM or by appointment

### **Goals/ Rationale**

As a course in social science, this course will help students understand human behavior, the structures of human societies, political culture, and institutions. By introducing students to diversity and international issues, the course will help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

### **Learning Objectives**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of political science and government. The course is structured around two themes central to the study of politics: 1) democratic governance and 2) political control of economy. The first theme covers the issues of democratization, political regime change, institutions of government, and forms of political participation. The second theme is connected to the issues of economic development, stability, and the ways governments influence them. The course will address the issues of democratization and political economy in a comparative perspective. We will study the politics and government of five countries: Great Britain, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran. The system of government in the United States will be briefly considered to facilitate comparison.

After learning the concepts and theories introduced in this course, students should be able to:

1. exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.
2. understand some theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. comprehend human differences and similarities in various social, cultural, economic, and political contexts.
3. develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

### **Readings**

A textbook for this course is available in campus book stores:

Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, and William Joseph, eds. 2004. Introduction to Comparative politics. Third Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company). ISBN 0-618-21446-1.

### **Assignments**

The course is organized in a lecture-discussion format. Your participation is important. To ensure the quality of your input to class discussions it is essential to do all the assigned readings before you come to class. There will be one midterm, a cumulative final, and a paper assignment. Students will also be assigned to present particular topics in class. Presentations will be based on assigned readings.

### **Grading**

You final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation – 10 %	Midterm – 20 %
In-class presentations – 10 %	Essay – 20 %
Map Quiz – 10 %	Final Exam – 30 %

### **Attendance and Make-Up Exams**

You are expected to attend every class session. If you miss the class for legitimate reasons, proper written statements to that account should be provided. I keep the right to refuse to accept papers turned in after the deadline, if no prior notice and arrangements have been made. Make-up exams will be given if medical or family emergency prevented you from taking exams at scheduled dates.

### **Special Needs**

Students with special needs who are certified by the Office for Disabilities Services should bring their needs to my attention early in the quarter. I will make every effort to assist those with special needs.

### **Academic Honesty**

No violations of the proper academic conduct will be tolerated. No cheating or plagiarism! Please familiarize yourself with the university academic honesty policy available on the OSU website:

[http://oie.osu.edu/int\\_scholars/1osu\\_academic\\_misconduct\\_policy.asp](http://oie.osu.edu/int_scholars/1osu_academic_misconduct_policy.asp)

### **Course Schedule**

#### **January 4, 9: Conceptual Framework**

What is democracy? What is political economy? What are different types of authoritarianism?  
How economic systems differ? Why should we compare?

Readings: KKJ, pp. 5-23, for those unfamiliar with the US government structure, pp.297-345

#### **January 11, 18, 23: Great Britain: Parliamentary Democracy and Liberal Market Economy**

The Historical Background; Structure of Government;

Political Economy of Industrialization and Growth: Regulations vs. Laissez-Faire

Readings: KKJ, pp. 26-81

#### **January 25, 30, February 1: Germany: Multi-party System and the Welfare State**

The System of Government; Politics of Economic Development;

The Welfare State and Cooperative Market Economy

Readings: KKJ, pp. 136-191.

#### **February 6: Midterm Exam**

#### **February 8, 13, 15: Russia: Authoritarianism, Regime Transition, and Economic Reforms**

Politics and Economics of Socialism; Collapse and Regime Transition;

Post-Communist Politics: Capitalism and Failing Democracy

Readings: KKJ, pp. 345-406.

#### **February 20, 22, 27: Authoritarianism and Economic Reforms in the Communist China**

Peasant Revolution and Chinese Communism; Economic Reforms and Political Hegemony

Alternative Strategies of Growth

Readings: KKJ, pp. 463-509.

#### **February 27: The Essay is Due**

#### **March 1, 6, 8: Iranian Politics and Development: Theocratic Authoritarianism**

The Iranian Revolution; Political organization of the Islamic Republic;

Economic Development and Oil Economy

Readings: KKJ, pp. 573-617.

#### **March 13, 3:30 PM – 5:18 PM: Final examination**