

Political Science 100: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2005)

Instructor: Dinissa Duvanova
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MWF 10:30 – 11:48
MacQuigg Lab 161
Office hours: MW 12-1pm or by appointment

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.

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, however, to ensure the quality of 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 and newspaper articles.

Grading

You final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation – 10 %	Midterm – 20 %
In-class presentation – 10 %	Essay – 30 %
	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 in the first weeks of classes. I will make every effort to assist students with special needs.

Academic Honesty

Violations of the proper academic conduct will not be tolerated. No cheating and no plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). 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

Course Schedule

September 21: Introduction.

September 23-30: 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

October 3 - 10: 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

October 12 - 19: Germany: Multi-party System and the Welfare State

The System of Government
The Politics of Economic Development
The Welfare State and Cooperative Market Economy

Readings: KKJ, pp. 136-191.

October 21 Review

October 26 Midterm Exam

October 28 - November 4: 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.

November 7 - 16: 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.

November 16: The Essay is Due

November 18 - 28: Iranian Politics and Development: Theocratic Authoritarianism

The Iranian Revolution
Political organization of the Islamic Republic
Socioeconomic Development and the Oil Economy

Readings: KKJ, pp. 573-617.

November 30, December 2 : Review

December 8, 7:30-9:18: Final examination