

POLITICAL SCIENCE 100
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
AUTUMN 2004
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 10:30-11:48
CALDWELL LABORATORY 0277

INSTRUCTOR: NATALIE KISTNER
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OFFICE HOURS:
MON & WED 12:00 – 1:00;
THURS 10:00 – 11:00
AND BY APPOINTMENT

Have you ever turned on CNN or opened The New York Times and found yourself puzzled by headlines like these?

“British Cabinet Changes Set Stage for Elections” (NYTimes 09/13/04)
“Netanyahu Joins Call for Referendum on Pullout of Gaza Settlers” (NYTimes 09/14/04)
“Chechen Rebels Mainly Driven By Nationalism” (NYTimes 09/12/04)
“European Union Can’t Reach Deal on Constitution” (NYTimes 12/14/03)
“Glum Day for Hong Kong Democrats” (NYTimes 09/14/04)

- *What is a Cabinet? Is the British Cabinet like the President’s Cabinet in the U.S.?*
- *What is a referendum? How might the issue of Gaza settlers be solved by one?*
- *Who are the Chechen rebels and what do they want? What is nationalism?*
- *What is the European Union? Why can’t it reach a deal on a constitution?*
- *Are Democrats in Hong Kong the same as those in the U.S.? If not, who are they?*

By the end of this course, you will understand these concepts, and many more, as we work to make you a more informed “global citizen.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of comparative politics. As such we will examine the major themes and issues traditionally used to compare across countries, including types of political systems, political actors, and institutions. As we explore these themes, you will become familiar with specific countries around the world, while at the same time gaining a greater appreciation of politics in the United States. In addition to the content of the course, we will also work to develop your critical thinking skills through regular class discussions and class assignments.

CLASS FORMAT:

In line with the first objective above, introducing you to the field of comparative politics, I will present material to the class in a lecture format using PowerPoint slides. Turning to the second objective, developing your critical thinking/analytical skills, we will engage in active class discussion and debate regarding the substantive information presented in the books/lectures. In addition, to meet both objectives, we will regularly incorporate activities aimed at providing you with opportunities for “active” learning, including small group work, among others.

READINGS:

There are two required texts for this course. The first of these is the main text for the course as it presents the key concepts we will discuss throughout the quarter. The second is a collection of articles illustrating these key concepts within the context of specific countries. Please note that both of these books are *required* and students are responsible for all assigned readings.

Wilson, Frank L. 2002. *Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Comparative Politics*. 2nd edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Søe, Christian, ed. 2004. *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 04/05*. 22nd Edition. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

*The publisher's website for the Annual Editions book will also be helpful:
www.dushkin.com/online/

In addition to these two texts, you will periodically be asked to read information online or from handouts. Websites, and their addresses, are listed on the syllabus. Please note these readings are also *required*.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE CLASS SCHEDULE AND/OR ASSIGN ADDITIONAL READINGS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and do all required reading for the course. Lectures are intended to build upon the information in the readings but will not necessarily cover all material included in the readings. If you miss class, you are still responsible for the material.

Students are further expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Late assignments will be accepted through the class period following the due date but will be marked down one full letter grade for each *calendar* day it is late. If you know you must miss an exam, it is your responsibility to obtain permission from the instructor ahead of time. In the case of a family or medical emergency, you must provide appropriate documentation and make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible to make-up the exam.

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

- **Two Exams:** Each exam will cover material from the assigned readings and class lectures. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer and identification questions. Please see the schedule below for the exact dates of each exam. The final exam will **not** be cumulative, that is, it will only include material covered after the mid-term. **Each** exam will be worth **22.5%** of your final grade, or **225 points**.
- **One Reaction Paper:** This paper will be a short (five typed pages) examination of an issue discussed in the course. This paper is intended to be an exercise in critical thinking, rather than a research paper. Suggested topics and guidelines will be provided. The paper will be worth **20%** of your final grade, or **200 points**. See the schedule below for due date.

- **Article Summaries:** On an index card, you will write a one-paragraph summary and include one discussion question for each assigned article from the “Annual Editions” text. You will be permitted to use these index cards on the mid-term and final exams so in addition to ensuring you keep up with the reading, they directly help you when taking the exams. The article summaries will combine for **20%** of your final grade, or **200 points**. There are 25 total articles assigned throughout the quarter; I will collect summaries of 20 of them making each summary worth **10 points**.
- **Attendance and Participation:** As mentioned above, your attendance in class is critical to developing a full understanding of the course material. While simply being in class is important, I also want to encourage you to ask/answer questions and to share your own thoughts by participating in class. Participation will also take the form of various in-class activities (such as the small group work mentioned above). Attendance will be worth **5%** of your grade, or **50 points**; participation will be worth **10%** of your final grade, or **100 points**.
- **Extra Credit:** You will be given an opportunity to earn **20 points** (or the equivalent of **2%** of your final grade) in extra credit by participating in one experiment through the Political Science department’s subject pool. Sign-up information and details will be provided in class.

GRADING SUMMARY

MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAM (225 POINTS EACH)	450 POINTS
REACTION PAPER	200 POINTS
ARTICLE SUMMARIES (10 POINTS EACH)	200 POINTS
PARTICIPATION	100 POINTS
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>50 POINTS</u>
TOTAL:	1,000 POINTS

Grades are calculated according to the university grading scale. The following will help you in calculating your final letter grade from your total points. A = 930-1000 points; A- = 900-930 points; B+ = 870-900 points; B = 830-870 points; B- = 800-830 points; C+ = 770-800 points; C = 730-770 points; C- = 700-730 points; D+ = 670-700 points; D = 630-670 points; E = 620 points and below.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy. If you have any questions at all about this policy, please consult the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and for seeking available assistance, in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880.

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE

Part I: Framework for the Study of Comparative Politics

- Wed 09/22 Introduction to the course
- Fri 09/24 Introduction to Comparative Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 1
Annual Editions, Article #19 - “What Democracy Is...And Is Not”
- Mon 09/27 Background to Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 2
Annual Editions, Article #5 – “A Divided Self: A Survey of France”
- Wed 09/29 Politics and Economics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 3 (pp. 30-40)
Annual Editions, Article #12 – “Japanese Spirit, Western Things”
- Fri 10/01 Society and Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 3 (pp. 40-54)
Annual Editions, Article #6 – “French Secularism Unwraps . . .”
Annual Editions, Article #26 - “In Search of Europe’s Borders . . .”
Country Study – India
Handout

Part II: Political Actors

- Mon 10/04 &
Wed 10/06 Individuals and Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 4 (pp. 55-68)
Annual Editions, Article #13 – “Public Opinion: Is There a Crisis?”
Annual Editions, Article #16 – “Advanced Democracies . . .”
Annual Editions, Article #21 – “Referendums: The People’s Voice”

- Fri 10/08 Women in Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 4 (pp. 69-77)
Annual Editions, Article #17 – “Women in National Parliaments”
Annual Editions, Article #18 – “Europe Crawls Ahead . . .”
Country Study – Sweden
- Mon 10/11 &
Wed 10/13 Political Parties I – Advanced Democracies
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 5 (pp. 78-88)
Annual Editions, Article #14 – “Political Parties: Empty Vessels?”
- Fri 10/15 &
Mon 10/18 Political Parties II – Democratization and the Developing World
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 5 (pp. 88-104)
Annual Editions, Article #31 – “Mexico at an Impasse”
- Wed 10/20 Groups and Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 6
Annual Editions, Article #15 – “Interest Groups: Ex Uno, Plures”
- Fri 10/22 Mid-Term Exam Review
- Mon 10/25 **MID-TERM EXAM**
- Wed 10/27 Political Elites
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 7
Annual Editions, Article #34 – “The Emperor is Far Away”
- Fri 10/29 The Military and Politics
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 8
Country Study– Nigeria:
Handout

Part III: Political Institutions

- Mon 11/01 -
Mon 11/08 Political Frameworks
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 9
Annual Editions, Article #22 – “The Case for a Multi-Party . . .”
Country Study – United Kingdom
Handout

“How Parliament Works:” <http://www.parliament.uk/works/works.cfm>
Annual Editions, Article #9 – “Untangling the System”

Wed 11/10 Policy Implementation & Adjudication
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 10
Annual Editions, Article #20 – “Judicial Review: The Gavel and the Robe”

Fri 11/12 **NO CLASS**

Part IV: Political Performance

Mon 11/15 Political Performance
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 11
Annual Editions, Article #2 – “The Blair Moment”

Wed 11/17 -
Mon 11/22 Political Change
Readings:
Wilson, Chapter 12
Annual Editions, Article #39 – “There is No Crash Course in Democracy”
Globalization and Democratization
Annual Editions, Article #30 – “Globalization’s Double Edge”
Annual Editions, Article #43 – “Jihad vs. McWorld”
Country Study – Russia
Handout
Annual Editions, Article #27 – “Ten Myths About Russia . . .”

REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS MONDAY 11/22

Wed 11/24 The European Union
Readings:
Handout
Annual Editions, Article #23 – “When East Meets West”
Annual Editions, Article #24 – “The European Union Cannot Reach . . .”

Fri 11/26 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**

Mon 11/29 &
Wed 12/01 TBA

Fri 12/03 Wrap-Up and Final Exam Review

******* THURSDAY 12/09*******

**FINAL EXAM
7:30-9:18 (A.M.)**