

## **Introduction to Comparative Politics**

**PS 100 Autumn 2000**

Room 387 Arps Hall\

**Allyson Lowe, Instructor**

2001 Derby Hall

292-9496 (answering machine)

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**Office Hours:**

Tues & Thurs 9:30-11:00 am and

*by appointment*

Course times: TR 7:30-9:18 am

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION & Objectives**

What does it mean to be a global citizen? Why is this idea important and how does such an idea impact you? Why is it important to understand political science concepts to be a global citizen? This course is designed to provide you with some of the basic concepts, tools, and issues to help you be an informed global citizen. That is! I want you to be able to pick up the newspaper, participate in a discussion about governments, or travel to another country and be able to think about the factors that might be influencing the politics about which you are reading, talking or experiencing.

We will explore key concepts, terms, and theories about politics, political actors, and institutions and apply these ideas to country cases and events in the world today. This course can lay the foundation for majors pursuing other political science classes and for non-majors interested in politics more generally.

### **READINGS/TEXTS**

There are two required books for this course. The first is our basic text that provides a framework for understanding comparative politics. The second book compares the United States to other major governments - and points out the "unusualness" of the U.S. I've chosen these two pieces in order to give you both a broad framework of concepts, terms and methods, as well as some very real, specific case where these ideas can be seen in practice. There is also a very small packet at Cop-Ez at the Shops at Tuttle Place (near CC Building).

The instructor reserves the right to assign additional readings or modify the reading assignments.

The texts are:

Frank L. Wilson (1996) *Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Comparative Analysis*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

John W. Kingdon (1999) *America: the Unusual*. New York: St. Martin's/Worth.

Cop-Ez PA~KET

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

*Attendance, Readings and Participation:* You are expected to be in class. Class lectures and guest presentations will build on material in the text not simply repeat it. Being current with the readings will help you make sense of class topics and should help you participate or encourage you to ask questions about the material. We will try to work discussion into general class sessions and I will expect everyone to be ready to participate. It will be useful to have done the readings *prior to* class, and you may also find it helpful to review the text again once we've covered new terms.

*Exams and quizzes:* There will be one map quiz There will be one midterm and a final (at the time scheduled by the university).

## EVALUATION AND GRADES

Attendance/participation	10
Map Test	50
Current events (3)	60 (20 points each)
Midterm	100
Paper	80
Final	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	400

## GRADING

Grades will be given following the standard +/- format of the university. No extra credit assignments will be given, but some extra credit points may be possible on the map quiz and exams.

## CLASS POLICIES

### **Make-up Work:**

If you miss class, please arrange to get the notes from another student.

Students are expected to take the exams on the scheduled dates and times. Make-up exams, which will be different from those given at the scheduled time, will be permitted at the discretion of the advisor, and usually only with prior notification. In emergency situations, where prior notification is not possible, you are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as possible after the exam to discuss the possible alternative.

Late assignments will be accepted up to the class following the due date and will receive one full letter grade off the final paper grade for each day it is late.

**Academic Honesty:**

All of the work you do for this class must be your own work. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any and all cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and will be handled according to university policy. Penalties can include failing this class and/or expulsion from the university.

It is important that you understand what plagiarism consists of, so that you will not put yourself in jeopardy. Plagiarism can take several forms. First, it is the word-for-word copying of someone else's work, in whole or in part, without acknowledgement, from any kind of work (e.g. magazine article, book, newspaper, internet site, etc.). You must provide appropriate acknowledgement for verbatim use of another's work by: (1) enclosing all such copied portions in quotation marks, and (2) giving the original source either in the body of your essay or in a footnote. A paper consisting entirely of quotes is not original work. You must express ideas and content in your own words.

A second form of plagiarism is the unacknowledged paraphrasing of the structure and language of another's work. Simply making a few changes in words, omitting sentences, or changing the order of words and sentences does not constitute an original work and thus cannot receive credit. If you borrow in such a way from another's work, the source must still be acknowledged in the text or footnotes.

Finally, some forms of plagiarism are more difficult to define. These consist of writing a paper based solely on the ideas of another. Even though the words and language are not the same, if the thinking expressed is not clearly your own, then this constitutes plagiarism.

*\* This brief explanation of plagiarism is derived from the student handbook and university material. You may ask the instructor for more clarification if you have concerns.*

**Civility:** You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in discussion and to ask questions about material you don't understand. I expect you to treat one another and me with respect and to be responsible for asking appropriate questions and responding to inquiries from the instructor or other students for clarification about your ideas. Please, no cell phone or beeper noise in class.

**Students with Disabilities**

It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to make their needs known to the instructor and to seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats. Contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880 for additional assistance.

## **Graduating Seniors**

It is the responsibility of graduating seniors to notify the instructor of this status by the middle of the quarter. Such seniors will take their final exam early and will submit their final paper on the day of the senior exam.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### Week 1: Introductions, syllabus, expectations, and overview of the course

Thurs Sept 21:

Wilson Chapter 1

### Week 2: Setting the Stage: key concepts and theories in Political science

Tues Sept 26:

Kingdon Chapter 1 (introduction)

Thurs Sept 28:

Wilson Chapter 2

### Week 3: Political Participation

Tues Oct 3:

Kingdon Chapter 2

Thurs Oct 5:

Reading from Packet; Bring your newspaper to class

**MAP QUIZ**

### Week 4: Why are things this way?

Tues Oct 10:

Kingdon Chapter 3

Thurs Oct 12:

Wilson Chapter 4

Articles from Packet (NY *Times* 9/23/99 and 10/25/99)

**Current Events #1 Due**

### Week 5: History and Path Dependence

Tues Oct 17:

Kingdon Chapter 4

Wilson Chapter 3

Thurs Oct 19:

Wilson Chp 3 continued

Review Session

### Week 6:

Tues Oct 24:

**MIDTERM EXAM**

Thurs Oct 26:  
Wilson Chapter 5  
Articles from Packet (CNN article about Merkel)  
\*\*Bring a newspaper to class

Week 7: Institutions of Government

Tues Oct 31:  
Wilson Chapters 6 and 7

Thurs Nov 2:  
Wilson Chapter 8  
Article provided by instructor  
**Currents Events #2 Due**

Week 8: Building a government

Tues Nov 7 - Election Day!  
Wilson Chapter 9  
Video  
Article from Packet (NY *Times* 11/22/99)

Thurs Nov 9:  
Wilson Chapter 10  
Article in packet ("Union pauses for a breath")

Week 9: Does government work? How well?

Tues Nov 14:  
Wilson Chapter 11  
Articles from Packet ("Is Europe Corrupt?" and "Nigeria's New Leader")

Thurs Nov 16:  
Kingdon Chapter 5  
**Current Events #3 Due (relate article to Kingdon Chp 5)**

Week 10: The Future?

Tues Nov 21  
Wilson Chapter 12  
Article from packet ("Jihad vs. McWorld")

Thurs Nov 23  
Happy Thanksgiving. No classes. University closed

Week 11: Putting it all together

Tues Nov 28:

Article from packet ("What Democracy Is . . . and Is Not")

Democratic Transitions: In class simulation

Thurs Nov 30

Summary Lecture

Review for Final Exam

**FINAL PAPERS DUE**

**Final Exam is scheduled for  
Thursday December 7 at 9:30 am  
in our regular room.**