

Political Science H100

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Autumn 2000

Instructor: Professor G. Shabad

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Off. Hrs.: Monday, noon-1 pm; Thurs., 9:30-10:30 am; and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is concerned with a number of common and long-standing themes in the study of comparative politics: the characteristics and effects of various types of political systems in the contemporary world, the problems and prospects associated with the establishment of stable democracies, the relationship between politics, on one hand, and economic development and social well being, on the other, and the sources and consequences of nationalism and globalization.

The course has two related goals. The first is to familiarize students with some of the most important concepts used in comparative politics. The second is to enable students to understand and make reasoned comparative judgments about political phenomena and their effects across a variety of national contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You have several responsibilities in the course. You should do thorough readings of the materials for the course, you should attend class regularly, and you should carry out all the assignments for the course appropriately and on time. Most of all, to do well in the course you should think carefully about the issues discussed in your readings and in class sessions, and you should apply your learning and your thinking to class discussions and written assignments.

My main responsibility is to do everything I can to help you succeed in the course. This means that you should let me know any time that you need help, especially if you are having difficulty with course material or with an assignment. And you should also let me know when something is not working as well as it should - for instance, if I do not present material clearly in class. You are always welcome to see me during my office hours. If those hours are not a good time for you, we can arrange another time. And if you use e-mail, feel free to send me a message at any time if you have a question.

## REQUIRED READINGS

The following books are required. Comparative Governance may be purchased at the University Bookstore; America the Unusual may be purchased at the University Bookstore, Long's and SBX.

P. Shively, Comparative Governance. Primis. McGraw-Hill, Inc.

J. Kingdon, America the Unusual. St. Martin's/Worth.

In addition, articles listed below in the course outline have been put together in a packet for purchase at the Tuttle COP-EZ Center (next to the University Bookstore). The assigned reading comes to an approximate total of 650 pages.

Newspaper Articles: One way to think about the goals of this class is that I want you to understand the implications of what you read or see about politics in the news media. For this reason I'll ask you to read articles on the politics of foreign countries in a daily newspaper (other than the Dispatch) in print form or on the Web, or to listen to a national news program on radio or television each day. I especially recommend The New York Times, which can be found on the Web at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com). On numerous occasions we'll spend some time discussing current political developments from a comparative perspective, so paying attention to foreign news in the media will provide important preparation.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The overall grade for the course will be broken down as follows:

(1) **Three short papers** (about four-five typewritten pages each) in which you present a description and analysis of an issue related to material in the course. The papers will involve some small amount of research beyond class materials and course readings. Suggested topics for each paper will be announced two weeks before the due date. The general guidelines for the papers are the ones you would expect: papers must be handed in by the due date (points will be deducted for lateness), both **content and quality of writing** are important, and plagiarism is a serious offense that will be handled under university disciplinary procedures. **Each paper** will count for **15%** of the final course grade.

(2) **Two examinations** given on the dates indicated in the class schedule. The **first exam** is worth **20%** of the final course grade. The second examination, which will be given on **TUES., DEC. 5th, at 11:30 am-1:18 pm** during finals week, **will not** be comprehensive. It is worth 25%. A makeup test will be given only in cases of unavoidable conflict or health problems and **must be arranged prior to the scheduled examination**. If students do not have my permission to miss the scheduled test, they will **normally** receive a score of zero.

(3) Attendance and involvement in class discussion will each be worth 5% of the final course grade. It is not expected that everyone will play an active part in discussion on each class day, but rather will be involved in discussion over the quarter as a whole.



Democracy: Comparative Perspectives Vol. 1 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1994), pp.137-62.

Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," Journal of Democracy 2 (Winter 1991), pp.72-84.

P. Shively, Comparative Governance, chapters 4 and 5.

Jurg Steiner, European Democracies, 3rd edition (NY: Longman Publishers, 1995), pp.3-54, 203-15.

"Democratic Imperfections: Trends in the Role of Public Opinion, Political Parties, and Interest Groups," Economist, July 17, 1999, pp.49-50; July 24, 1999, pp.51-52; August 21, 1999, pp.44-45.

Martin Lee, "The Fascist Response to Globalization," Los Angeles Times, Nov.28, 1999, M2, M6.

Mon., Oct.23

\*\*\*\*\***FIRST PAPER DUE**\*\*\*\*\*

Wed., Oct.25

\*\*\*\*\***MIDTERM EXAM**\*\*\*\*\*

Oct.23, 30

### **Varieties of Authoritarian Regimes**

Here we will focus on the underlying characteristics of the great variety of authoritarian regimes in the contemporary world, including certain core features of Communist political systems. Particular emphasis will be given to the relationship between political elites and society

#### Readings:

Carl Friedrich and Z. Brzezinski, Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1956), pp.3-39.

Nov. 1, 6, 8

### **From Authoritarianism to Democracy to Stable Democracy: What Makes for Success?**

Here we will examine various explanations of democratization and its possible outcomes: failure, stable but partial democracy, unstable democracy, consolidated democracy. We will then apply and assess these theoretical frameworks in an examination of a few recent cases of successful and unsuccessful democratization from authoritarian rule.

#### Readings:

S.P. Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," Journal of Democracy (Spring 1991), pp.12-34.

David Remnick, "Can Russia Change?" excerpt from Foreign Affairs (Jan Feb 1997), pp.35-49.

Michael McFaul, "The Perils of a Protracted Transition," Journal of Democracy 10 (1999), pp.4-18.

Larry Diamond, "Is Pakistan the (Reverse) Wave of the Future?" Journal of Democracy, Vol.11, 3 (2000), pp, 91-106.

Terry Lynn Karl, "Economic Inequality and Democratic Instability," Journal of Democracy, Vol.11, 1(2000), pp.149-156.

Mon., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\***SECOND PAPER DUE**\*\*\*\*\*

PART III

### **POLITICS AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

Nov.13, 15, 20

Here we will focus on current controversies about the impact of politics on economic performance, in

particular economic development, growth, inequality and quality of life.

Readings:

P. Shively, Comparative Governance, chapter 6.

Gabriel A. Almond, "Capitalism and Democracy," Political Science and Politics Vol.24, no.3 (September 1991), pp.467-73.

Armntya Sen, Democracy as a Universal Value," Journal of Democracy, Vol. 10, 3 (1999), pp.3-17

Eric Willenz, "Why Europe Needs the Welfare State," Foreign Policy 63 (Summer 1986), 88-107.

PART IV  
MODERN STATE

**NATIONALISM AND GLOBALIZATION: CHALLENGES TO THE**

Nov.22, 27,29

Here we will focus on the simultaneous and seemingly paradoxical challenge posed by nationalism and globalization to both democratic and no democratic states

Readings:

Gail Stokes, "The Devil's Finger: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia," in Gail Stokes, The Walls Came Tumbling Down New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), pp. 218-252.

Michael Ignatieff, Blood and Belonging: Journeys to the New Nationalism ~Y: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993 ), pp.142-177.

S.P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," Foreign Affairs (Summer 1993), pp.1-25.

Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," excerpt from The Atlantic Monthly~ (March 1992), pp.53-63.

"Cultural Explanations," Economist~ November 9, 1996, pp.23-26.

Fri., Dec. 1 by noon

\*\*\*\*\***THIRD PAPER DUE**\*\*\*\*\*

Tues., Dec. 5th  
11:30 am- 1:18am

\*\*\*\*\***FINAL EXAM**\*\*\*\*\*