

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 100**  
**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**  
**WINTER 2005**

MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY 5:30-7:18  
SMITH LABORATORY 1048

**INSTRUCTOR: NATALIE KISTNER**

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

TUES 2:00 – 3:00 &

WED 4:00 – 5:00

AND BY APPOINTMENT

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**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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

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

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 second/final exam will **not** be cumulative, that is, it will only include material covered after the first/mid-term exam. **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 (preferably 4x6), you will write a brief (one-two 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 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**. Each summary is worth **10 points** and will be graded as follows: a “check plus” is worth 10 points; a “check” is worth 8.5 points; and a “check minus” is worth 7 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

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| TWO EXAMS (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>    |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                      | <b>1,000 POINTS</b> |

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

- Mon 01/03      Introduction to the course
- Wed 01/05      Introduction to Comparative Politics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 1  
Annual Editions, Article #19 - “What Democracy Is...And Is Not”
- Background to Politics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 2  
Annual Editions, Article #5 – “A Divided Self: A Survey of France”
- Mon 01/10      Politics and Economics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 3 (pp. 30-40)  
Annual Editions, Article #12 – “Japanese Spirit, Western Things”
- Wed 01/12      Society and Politics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 3 (pp. 40-54)  
Annual Editions, Article #6 – “French Secularism Unwraps . . .”  
**Country Study – India (Handout)**
- Mon 01/17      **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – NO CLASS**

### PART II: POLITICAL ACTORS

- Wed 01/19      Individuals and Politics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 4 (pp. 55-68)  
Annual Editions, Article #13 – “Public Opinion: Is There a Crisis?”  
Annual Editions, Article #21 – “Referendums: The People’s Voice”

- Mon 01/24                    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 (Handout)***
- Wed 01/26 &  
Mon 01/31                    Political Parties I – Advanced Democracies  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 5 (pp. 78-88)  
Annual Editions, Article #14 – “Political Parties: Empty Vessels?”
- Wed 02/02                    Political Parties II – Democratization and the Developing World  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 5 (pp. 88-104)  
Annual Editions, Article #31 – “Mexico at an Impasse”
- Mon 02/07                    Groups and Politics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 6  
Annual Editions, Article #15 – “Interest Groups: Ex Uno, Plures”
- Wed 02/09                    **MID-TERM EXAM**
- Mon 02/14                    Political Elites  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 7  
Annual Editions, Article #34 – “The Emperor is Far Away”
- The Military and Politics  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 8  
***Country Study– Nigeria (Handout)***
- Part III: Political Institutions**
- Wed 02/16&  
Mon 02/21                    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 02/23            Policy Implementation & Adjudication  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 10  
Annual Editions, Article #20 – “Judicial Review: The Gavel and the Robe”

**Part IV: Political Performance**

Mon 02/28            Political Performance  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 11  
Annual Editions, Article #2 – “The Blair Moment”

Wed 03/02            Political Change  
*Readings:*  
Wilson, Chapter 12  
Annual Editions, Article #39 – “There is No Crash Course in Democracy”

Mon 03/07            Globalization and Democratization  
Annual Editions, Article #30 – “Globalization’s Double Edge”  
Annual Editions, Article #43 – “Jihad vs. McWorld”  
**Country Study – Russia (Handout)**

Wed 03/09            The European Union  
*Readings:*  
Annual Editions, Article #23 – “When East Meets West”  
Annual Editions, Article #24 – “The European Union Cannot Reach . . .”

**REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS MONDAY 03/07**

**\*\*\*\*\* MONDAY 03/14\*\*\*\*\***

**FINAL EXAM**

**5:30-7:30**