What do they know of England who only England know? — Rudyard Kipling

Comparisons are central to understanding politics. The objectives of this course are: (1) to introduce the beginning student to differences in the government and politics of various countries of the world; (2) to examine politics comparatively, that is, in terms of what the experience of one can tell us about others; and (3) to apply this knowledge to current political developments.

Course Requirements

1. Participation & Attendance 10%
2. Two Briefs (10% each) 20%
3. Midterm Exam 25%
4. Cumulative Final Exam 45%

Participation & Attendance – As stated in the Format section below, class sessions will combine lectures and discussions. In order for discussions to thrive, your active presence is required. Reading quizzes will be used if discussion betrays ignorance of the assignments.

Briefs – Relate academic work that we have read to a particular piece of news. Write a one page, single-spaced brief to a high government official (in the US or elsewhere) describing your thoughts on the event and how the work that we have studied illuminates it or should be discounted in light of the event. Attach the relevant news story to the brief.

Midterm Exam – This exam will cover all material from the lectures and readings that occurs prior to the exam.

Cumulative Final Exam – This exam will cover material from the entirety of the course, although the exam will be biased towards topics discussed after the Midterm Exam.

Grading

Grading will be based upon (a) accuracy of factual information; (b) ability to synthesize the appropriate evidence, both theoretical and empirical, from all parts of the course not just rehashing the texts; (c) judgment in separating the important from the trivial, keeping on the subject, critically evaluating all assumptions [including your own and mine]; and (d) effective expression—organization, choice of words, basic grammar, etc.

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Format

The class format will be that of a combined lecture-seminar. Sessions will typically include extensive remarks by the instructor – remarks designed to orient the student and to provide a context within which the readings for that day can be understood. Sessions will also include periodic discussion – as a whole class and in smaller groups – of both points made in the lecture and of the readings assigned for that day. All students are encouraged to ask questions and raise points of interest during our sessions.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/.

GEC

2. Breadth. 2. Social Science
4. Diversity. 2. International Issues (western/non-western)

Schedule of Readings – Available on carmen.osu.edu

Week 01 – On Comparative Politics
Sep 26, 28


Week 02 – Nations, States, and State-Building
Oct 3, 5


Week 03 – Regime Type I. On Democracy
Oct 10, 12


Week 04 – Regime Type II. Modernization Theory
Oct 17, 19


Week 05 – Regime Type III. Hybrid Regimes
Oct 24, 26


Week 06 – Midterm and Collective Action
Oct 31 – Midterm Examination
Week 06 – Midterm and Collective Action (cont)

Nov 2 – Collective Action & Participation


Week 07 – Violence

Nov 7, 9


Week 08 – USA

Nov 14, 16


To be announced later depending on current events

Week 09 – China

Nov 21, 23


Week 10 – Conclusions

Nov 28, 30

Nov 30. Second Brief Due.

Final Examination

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 1:30 – 3:18pm

[link](http://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/AU11Finals.pdf)