Political Science 597.02:  
Political Problems of the Contemporary World

Jeremy Wallace  
Autumn 2011

Time:    MW  11:30am – 1:18pm  
Office Hours:  T  9:30 – 11:30am
Location:  Denney Hall 0206  
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For the first time in history, more than half of the world’s nations are democracies and its people live in cities. This course addresses these two critical political issues in the contemporary developing world: regime type (that is, dictatorship versus democracy and the blurring of the lines between the two) and urbanization.

Course Requirements

1. Participation and Attendance  
2. Data Assignment  
3. Midterm Exam  
4. Cumulative Final Exam

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.

Data Assignment – Students will write a brief research note (3-5 pages) related to course material.

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.

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.

GEC

This course fulfills the capstone requirement from the General Education Curriculum of the College of Arts and Sciences.
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.

93-100  A  80-82.99  B-  67-69.99  D+
87-89.99 B+  73-76.99  C  60-62.99  D-
83-86.99 B  70-72.99  C-  Below 59.99  E

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/.

Schedule of Readings – available on carmen.osu.edu.

Week 01

Sep 26, 28

Democracy and Dictatorship

Week 02 – On Regime Types
Oct 3, 5


Week 03 – Modernization Theory
Oct 10, 12


Week 04 – Types of Non-Democratic Regimes & States
Oct 17, 19


Week 05 – The Resource Curse
Oct 24, 26


Week 06 – On Shooting Protestors & Midterm

Oct 31


Nov 2 – Midterm Examination

Urbanization

Week 07 – The Basics of Cities

Nov 7, 9


Week 08 – Urban Bias

Nov 14, 16


Week 09 – Global Issues & Bubbles

Nov 21, 23


Week 10 – Conclusions

Nov 28, 30


Thursday, December 8, 2011 11:30am – 1:18pm

Final Examination
http://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/AU11Finals.pdf