

Florida State University
Department of Political Science
CPO 2002 Section 1
Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics
Summer 2005

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the study of government and politics in a comparative setting. In comparative politics, we generally want to know why political, economic and social phenomena occur in some countries and not others. Why, for example, did democracy develop relatively smoothly in some countries and not in others? Why do some countries face rebellion and instability while others do not? What role do political institutions play in resolving or exacerbating societal problems? We will explore these questions using the comparative method. In other words, we will look at the history, geography, economy, and political structure of each country and compare it to other country's experiences. CPO 2002 does not have any formal prerequisites although it is helpful to be familiar with the inner workings of the American political system.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has three main objectives. First, my goal is to introduce you to important theories and concepts related to the study of comparative politics. Second, since many students are unfamiliar with the political systems of foreign nations, we will focus on a few countries to gain detailed knowledge concerning how these systems function. Third, each student should develop the basic skills in comparative analysis and be able to apply them in the study of political systems.

READING MATERIAL

Most of the readings for the class will be from the textbook (Almond, Gabriel A., G Bingham Powell Jr., Kaare Strom, and Russell J. Dalton. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 8th ed. NY: Pearson Longman, 2004. ISBN: 0-321-15896-2). I will also place readings on blackboard, and these are noted in the syllabus. I also expect you to read a newspaper everyday. You can choose any paper you would like, but I would recommend the New York Times (www.nytimes.com) or Christian Science Monitor (<http://www.csmonitor.com>) as they generally have the best coverage of international events. You may anticipate test and quiz questions regarding current political developments.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. *Attendance and Participation (20%)*—attendance and participation are required. I may call on you randomly so you need to be prepared each day. We will meet a total of 30 times during the summer, and each day you will receive a point for showing up and one for participating. You must provide documentation within 48 hours of an absence for it to be excused.
2. *Tests (60%)*—every two weeks we will have a test over the previous material. The tests (worth 20% each) will be a mixture of multiple choice and essay. There will be three tests.
3. *Pop Quizzes and Map Quizzes (20%)*—On occasion, I will have a pop quiz over the reading to encourage everyone to keep up with the course material. In addition, we will have several map quizzes to ensure that each student has an adequate sense of where each country is in the world.

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 60 or below
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Make Up Exams and Quizzes

Unexcused absences from exams or quizzes will result in a 0 for the assignment. To qualify for a make-up test or quiz a student must:

- a) notify me of the absence in advance (e-mail or call me)
- b) provide documentation

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code.

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

E-MAIL:

I expect that you will check your e-mail regularly as you are responsible for the material that I send electronically.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra credit projects can be conducted by students during the semester. These projects must: a) be relevant to the course objectives b) be approved by the instructor during the first week of classes (no extra credit project will be considered after this time period) and c) student designed and directed.

Class Schedule

- Week #1 Introduction to the study of Comparative Politics*
- May 9 Introduction to Comparative Politics/Review Syllabus
- May 10 **READ** Chapter 1—Issues in Comparative Politics
- May 11 **READ** Chapter 2—Comparing Political Systems
- May 12 Building a Democratic Iraq
READ Dawisha, Adeed, and Karen Dawisha. "How to Build a Democratic Iraq." *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2003, 82 no. 3.
Available on-line at
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20030501faessay11218/adeed-i-dawisha-karen-dawisha/how-to-build-a-democratic-iraq.html>.
Lawson, Chappell. "How Best to Build Democracy: Laying a Foundation for the New Iraq." *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2003, 82 no. 4.
Available on-line at
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20030701faresponse82418/chappell-lawson/how-best-to-build-democracy-laying-a-foundation-for-the-new-iraq.html>.
- May 13 **Map Quiz**—Western Hemisphere, Overview of the US system and comparison with other countries, **READ**—US Australia Comparison
<http://www.australianpolitics.com/usa/australia/>
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- Week #2 System and Processes*
- May 16 **READ** Chapter 3—Political Culture and Political Socialization, **MOVIE**—Manufacturing Consent
- May 17 **READ** Chapter 4—Interest Articulation
- May 18 **READ** Chapter 5—Aggregation and Political Parties
- May 19 **Map Quiz**—Europe, **Movie**—*This is What Democracy Looks Like*
- May 20 **Exam #1**
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- Week #3 Governments and Policy*
- May 23 **READ** Chapter 6—Government and Policymaking
- May 24 **Simulation**—Democracy, Autocracy, and the Prisoner's Dilemma
- May 25 **READ** Chapter 7—Public Policy
- May 26 **READ** Chapter 8—Politics in England p156-177

May 27 **Map Quiz**—Africa, **READ** Chapter 8—Politics in England p177-203

Week #4 Politics of Developed Democracies—Britain and France

May 30 NO CLASS—MEMORIAL DAY

May 31 Watch Prime Minister Question Hour in Class **READ** Chapter 9—Politics of France, p207-229

June 1 **READ** Chapter 9—Politics of France, p229-256

June 2 **Map Quiz**—Asia, Comparing France and Britain

June 3 **Exam #2**

Week #5 Politics of Developing Countries

June 6 **READ** Chapter 15—Politics of Brazil, p520-541

June 7 **READ** Chapter 15—Politics of Brazil, p541-576

June 8 **Map Quiz**—Globe **READ** Chapter 17—Politics of India p634-656

June 9 **READ** Politics of India p656-681

June 10 **Movie**—Burn!

Week #6

June 13 **READ** Chapter 18—Nigeria p690-714

June 14 **READ** Chapter 18—Nigeria p714-738

June 15 **Movie**—Battle of the Titans

June 16 Review for Final

June 17 **Final Exam**