

SYLLABUS

Topics in Comparative Politics

Political Science PSCI 480/ 580 (Section 001, CRN 56343)

PS 480/ 580, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30-1:45 p.m. in HH 223

Description and Objectives

This is an upper division political science course designed to help students satisfy their major, minor, or upper division course elective requirements. The course exposes students to a broad variety of significant and current topics in comparative politics. Although a broad range of additional topics might be included in such a course, the 16 topics identified on the attached list are limited by student interest, time and resource constraints, and the instructor's expertise. However, departmental or other university faculty members holding expertise and/or interest in one or more of the topics covered in the course are welcomed to join the appropriate class discussion(s) to offer their input.

Textbooks

A common core readings for the course are available in the CQ Researcher's *Global Issues* text available for purchase at the Barnes and Noble (campus) bookstore and online (free) through the Cunningham library CQ database. Additional (second edition) copies of the text may be borrowed for reading during the Instructor's office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays (in HH 324). Thus, all students regardless of their financial circumstance will have access to the required readings. In addition to the CQ Researcher, a course bibliography will be provided that identifies additional required reading specifically matched to one or more of the sixteen topics covering in the course. These materials will be **loaned** to students but must be returned by the end of the course. Students will be expected to read **both** the required Global Issues chapters and the bibliographical material items (mainly books) loaned to students for each of the 16 comparative topics.

Grading and Course Requirements

The final course grade is the average score earned on the following three assignments:

In-class paper presentation, each student will lead a 30 minute in-class discussion (50%)

Complete the take home comprehensive final exam of 3-5 questions due by Dec. 17, 2004 (50%)

Grading scale

The grading scale in the course is: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and below 60 F.

Academic Honesty

Cheating on exams or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Evidence of either will result in automatic failure of the assignment and most likely failure of the course.

Extra Credit

Attendance will be taken during class via a student sign-in sheet. The sign-in sheet is for the Instructor's use only and will be used to document student attendance. An announcement of the students who have earned the extra credit will be made during the last regular class meeting of

the semester. However, students are responsible for keeping track of their own class attendance. Students who miss no more than 3 class sessions will receive a maximum of 10 extra points to be added to their lowest assignment score. For example if a student's lowest assignment score on one of the three course assignments (see above) is 70, then 10 extra points will be added to this score to bring the lowest score up to 80 for that assignment. But students who miss more than 7 class sessions will not receive the letter grade of "A" or "A-" in the course except in cases involving excused absences involving documented medical or organized university athletic obligations by the student. Absence from class due to death in the family will not be treated as an excused absence. No other extra credit will be awarded in the course.

Student Responsibility (Please read very carefully)

The Instructor will not provide course grade information via e-mail, telephone, or posted grades as student grades will be treated as confidential. Learning disabled students are required to contact Ms. Rita Worrall by Sept 8, 2004 at the Student Academic Services Center (237-2300). Students are responsible for attending class, completing the full in-class presentation assignment on time, completing the exams and reading the text. The course Instructor shall reserve the right to assign the score of "0" to students who fail to complete the exam(s) and/or paper-presentation. Permission to complete a make up exam or presentation is not automatic and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Office Hours

Office hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or by appointment in Holmstedt Hall 324, (second floor) phone (812) 237-2519, e-mail: psrash@isugw.indstate.edu or Samory@kiva.net Students are encouraged to contact the Instructor in the event of questions or course-related problems. Students should leave cell phones OFF during class.

In-Class Paper Presentation

All students must complete the in-class paper-presentation to receive a grade in the course. Each student will select a topic from a pre-approved list of topics, and provide one (1) thirty-minute in-class presentations on a pre-approved topic. Topics will be approved on a first-come-first-serve basis. Students must make formal requests for topic approvals IN WRITING that include the DATE the request is made. Written requests either in the form of e-mail correspondence or long hand written requests handed in during class or regular office hours will be accepted.

Paper-presentation grades will be assigned immediately following the presentation. Students must turn in to the Instructor the 10-page paper immediately prior to the presentation. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. The paper must (1) explore one of the pre-approved topic in comparative politics, (2) present a well researched, well written, and logically organized paper and presentation, and (3) provide convincing arguments supporting the student's analyses and research conclusions. By convincing arguments I mean arguments that are based on strong evidence, logical consistency, and persuasive information. Students will be evaluated on how well they respond to questions posed by students and the Instructor immediately following the presentation. A list of possible topics is attached. Students are encouraged to select a topic as soon as possible.

A presentation schedule will be provided in class. The schedule will assign all registered students for in-class presentations in alphabetical order that will begin on Oct. 9, 2004. Students who add the class late, i.e., enroll in the class after the official starting date of August 25, 2004 will be added to the in-class presentation schedule at a later time.

Students who fail to present their in-class paper presentation at the scheduled time will be automatically penalized 25 points if and only if excused medical or athletic absences are provided in writing and accepted by the course instructor. All other students who fail to make their presentations on time will receive a "0." Although students are encouraged to use visual aids, power-point or video presentations will not be allowed.

Important Deadlines Paper-presentation topics are due by, August 31, 2004. In-class paper presentations will begin on Thursday October 7, 2004, and the final day of class is December 17, 2004. Please see the attached course outline for further details. No two students should have the same topic.

Important information sources including websites and readings for research purposes.

Useful websites and bibliographic information are listed at the end of each chapter in your text. Copies of the Global Issues readings will be available to every student. A list of additionally useful website will also be distributed to students no later than the third week of class. A course outline is attached.

Topics
Topic in Comparative Politics
PS 480/ 580

1. Comparative approaches to Western Political Liberalism

Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and others

2. Comparative approaches to penal control and reform

Communist systems, Russia, China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Cuba
African systems, South Africa, Sudan,
Islamic Shari'ah systems, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sudan, Nigeria
U.S. systems, Mandatory minimum sentencing, prison privatization
U.N. international prison standards regime

3. Comparative approaches to Islamization

Algeria, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, al Qaeda, Egypt, Indonesia, Afghanistan,
Malaysia, Jordan, Turkey, Iran

4. Comparative approaches to Media Bias Reform in the U.S.

Major television networks, the "Liberal Media," Conservative Media, Alternative
Media, Talk Radio, Academia

5. Comparative approaches to Anti-terrorism and their results

U.S., E.U., Algeria, Columbia, Peru, Argentina, Israel, Iraq

6. Comparative backlash against the unintended consequences of Globalization

NAFTA, Kyoto, World Court, anti-structural adjustment, War on Drugs,
War on Terror, Third World Debt Relief Movement, Anti-Farm subsidy movement

7. Comparative approaches to local indigenous resistance

Ethnic Cleansing in Bosnia, Rwanda, Burundi, Europe, Sudan
Cultural Assimilation in France, N. Africa, Mauritania, China, Canada, India, Australia
Military force, Mexico, Peru, Algeria, Iraq, Turkey,

8. Comparative approaches in the trend toward greater democratization

Privatization in the U.S., Western Feminism and Islamic Feminism in the Islamic world
Glasnost/Perestroika in Russia, Market Socialism in the PRC, Democratization in Iraq
and the Middle East, Democratization in India

9. Comparative approaches to nation/state economic development

Neo-classical market development approaches
Neo-Marxist approaches
Free market economic approaches, deregulation, regional cooperation
New Institutional approaches (IMF, World Bank, NGO, U.N. approaches)

10. Comparative political systems

Democracies, U.S., E.U., Canada, Parliamentary systems including India,
Multi-racial pluralistic societies, Brazil, S. Africa, Malaysia, U.S., E.U.
Theocracies, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sudan, Northern Nigeria
Indigenous/traditional systems, Somalia, Afghanistan, Liberia, Cote d' Ivoire
Radical reformist systems, Iran (1979), U.S.S.R., Maoist China, Cambodia

11. Comparative revolutions/insurgency experiences

Communist Revolutions, Russia, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, N. Korea
Maoist Peoples' Revolutions, China, Cambodia, Nepal,
Latin American Revolutions, Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, Columbia
Third World Revolutions, Algeria (FLN), South Africa (ANC),
Europe, Basque (ETA), Ireland (IRA), Greece (19 Nov.), Yugoslavia, Neo-Nazis

12. Comparative counter-insurgency experiences

U.S.-CIA intervention in Iran (1953)	U.S. intervention in Iraq (current)
UN intervention in the Congo (1960)	S. African intervention in Mozambique
Contra Counter insurgency in Nicaragua	CIA intervention in Cuba (Bay of Pigs)
U.S. Military interventions, Panama, Grenada, Somalia, Lebanon, Korea, Vietnam	
Russian intervention in Afghanistan,	China's intervention in Vietnam

13. Comparative genocide/ human rights tragedies

Genocide against indigenous people, Native Americans, Australian Aborigines
The Atlantic slave trade and its consequences
Genocide against non-indigenous people, Nazi Holocaust, Anti-Tutsi Genocide
Khmer Rouge Genocide in Cambodia, Bopal India human disaster, 9-11 in U.S.

14. Comparative expropriation/nationalization experiences –and the impact on International and their impact on international business environments

Communist countries, Russia, Cuba, Malagasy Rep. North Korea,
Socialist third world countries, Middle East, Africa, Latin America
Capitalist third world countries, Kenya, Ghana –under Rawlings
Latin America, Third world debt revisited (Brazil, Argentina, Mexico)
Special case, Zimbabwe, Russia

15. Comparative occupation experiences

Israeli Occupation of Palestine	Russian Occupation of Chechnya
French Occupation of Algeria	U.S. Occupation of Iraq
French Occupation of Indochina	
Russian Occupation of E. Europe	
Turkish Occupation of Greater Kurdistan	

16. Comparative spread, treatment, and management of infectious diseases

AIDS/HIV in SubSaharan Africa
SARS in China
'Bird Flu' in Asia
AIDS/HIV in India, China, and Southeast Asia
AIDS/HIV in the Caribbean and Latin America
AIDS/HIV in Russia and in Europe via the trade in human trafficking
AIDS/HIV amongst black Americans in the U.S.

17. Comparative Diaspora experiences

The Jewish Diaspora	The African Diaspora	The Indian Diaspora
The Chinese Diaspora	The Palestinian Diaspora	The Kurdish Diaspora

18. New perspectives and lingering debates

American power and the emergence of an “American Empire”
Paradox of American Power (Norman Nye)
Jihad vs. McWorld (William Barber)
Robert Dahl’s Polyarchy revisited