INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2053

Regime, Revolution and Re-Aligment

Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:20 PM

Instructor: William Schulz
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Office: Stubbs Hall 307
Office Hours: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment

Course Overview

This course is meant to be a general undergraduate survey of Western politics during the modern and post-modern eras. We will begin by discussing the nature of political order and the forms of regime that have been adopted by various governments over the course of history. As the semester progresses, our discussions will focus on the implementation of various types of political and economic regime: monarchy, republic, democracy, dictatorship, capitalism, socialism, and fascism, and the difficult periods of regime change that often occur throughout history.

As this course counts as a general education credit for the social sciences, students will be expected to meet the goals of LSU's general education curriculum. According to the LSU catalogue, “General education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather, they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. Their primary aim is to educate rather than train, and to instill a desire for life-long learning.” In light of this, students will directly confront the larger questions raised by historical political events and interpret them in light of current political concerns, both national and international. It is hoped that by approaching the study of comparative politics as a holistic enterprise concerned with all aspects of the existence of the state and society, by the end of the course, students will emerge better equipped to critically examine issues raised by the political leaders and thinkers of our day.

Course Requirements

Participation: While meditation on the deeper questions of being in the privacy and silence of one's own home may lead to the occasional valuable insight, experience has shown that the study of comparative politics in a group setting tends to produce wider and more frequent bursts of understanding. As such, students will be required to attend each scheduled class meeting. In addition, students will be expected to have read the assigned text prior to class, and be prepared for in-depth discussion of the material. While most classes will emphasize the lecture format, the instructor will often employ the Socratic Method to challenge students' understanding of the material covered to date. Reference to the assigned material will occur frequently throughout each class period, so it is to the student's advantage to bring the relevant text to class. In order to promote a comfortable and focused learning environment, please do not bring laptop computers to class, and please silence all cellular telephones prior to the start of class. I have no objection
to the use of recording devices in class, provided that it is understood that any such recordings may be used only for the purpose of facilitating note-taking and test-preparation. Any commercial use or publication of lecture material without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. Participation will be worth 20% of the overall grade. Students may earn participation points by (a) providing thoughtful answers to in-class questions that demonstrate knowledge of the assigned reading material (10%) and (b) doing well on written pop quizzes (10%). There is no need to inform me of an absence; no make-ups for pop quizzes will be given.

Tests: In order to maximize the opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge of course material, three tests will be given throughout the semester. Each test will be worth 20% of the overall grade. It is to the student's advantage not to miss class, as test questions will be drawn from both assigned readings and in-class discussions. The test dates and topics are shown below; any changes to these dates or topics will be announced in class. Make-ups will be granted only in the case of documented medical emergencies or university-approved circumstances (religious obligations, athletic commitments, death in the family). Students requiring special accommodations must notify the instructor before the end of the first week of class.

Papers: The study of comparative politics requires direct engagement with the ideas of the great political thinkers and historians. Later in the semester, one short paper (4-6 pages) will be assigned. Topics will be assigned by the date indicated and will be drawn primarily from themes raised by the texts. A handout regarding citation style and overall paper format will be distributed prior to the due date for the first paper. The paper will be worth 20% of the overall grade. Students will benefit greatly from reading Christopher Lasch's *Plain Style: A Guide to Written English.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Breakdown</th>
<th>Test 1 - 20%</th>
<th>Test 2 - 20%</th>
<th>Test 3 - 20%</th>
<th>Paper 1 - 20%</th>
<th>Participation - 20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100% = A</td>
<td>80 - 89% = B</td>
<td>70 - 79% = C</td>
<td>60 - 69% = D</td>
<td>0 - 59% = F</td>
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**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to the university learning environment. Each student will be expected to abide by the Louisiana State University Code of Student Conduct at all times. An understanding of plagiarism and related concepts is central to maintaining academic integrity. Many bright and talented students often prematurely terminate their careers due to ignorance of the nature of plagiarism. In order to minimize the chance of students falling afoul of plagiarism rules, each student is advised to consult LSU's Student Life and Enrollment website concerning rules for academic integrity. The following web address will lead students to LSU's accepted definition of plagiarism: http://saa.lsu.edu/Plagiarism.html Should students have further concerns regarding this matter, they may consult with the instructor or with the Center for Academic Success at Coates Hall room B-31.
Required Texts


Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto and Other Writings*, (Barnes and Noble Classics, 2005), ISBN: 978-1593081003


Course dates, required readings, and discussion topics

Monarchy: rise and fall of the *ancien régime*

January 15 - Introduction, course overview


January 17 – Monarchy: definition and politico-historical framework


January 22 – Domestic political concerns in a monarchy


January 24 - Economics of the monarchy

   Required Reading: *Revolutionary France* Chapter 1 (1-26), Francois Furet

January 29 – Functioning and Non-Functioning Monarchy: Louis XIV and Louis XVI

   Required Reading: *Political Order in Changing Societies* Chapter 1; *The Splendid Century*, Chapter 1, W.H. Lewis

January 31 – Functioning and Non-Functioning Monarchy: Louis XIV and Louis XVI (cont.)

   Required Reading: *Political Order in Changing Societies* Chapter 1; *Revolutionary France* Chapter 1 (27-40)
February 5 – Reform and reaction: Late Tsarist Russia


February 7 – The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of Secular, Democratic Turkey

Required Reading: The Ottoman Centuries, Chapter 5 (533-581), Lord Kinross

February 12 - Mardi Gras Holiday

February 14 – South East Asia: the rise of Ngo Dinh Diem and Ho Chi Minh

Required Reading: Triumph Forsaken, Chapters 1 and 2 (1-59), Mark Moyer

February 19 – Collapse of the ancien régime

Required Reading: The Communist Manifesto; The Passing of an Illusion chapter 1

February 21 – Consequences of revolution and regime change

Required Reading: The Passing of an Illusion, chapters 2 and 3

February 26 – Test 1

Twentieth Century Regimes: Liberal Democracy and Democratic Socialism

February 28 – Competing economic theories: Liberalism and Socialism

Required Reading: Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy, chapters 5 - 10

March 5 – The Bureaucratic Economy: India versus South Korea


March 7 – Fascist Economies: Argentina from Perón to the Neo-Liberals

March 12 – Transitioning from Socialism to Liberalism


March 14 – South Africa: liberal democratic apartheid

Required Reading: *The Boer War*, Chapters 38 – 42, Thomas Pakenham

March 19 – Clientele Citizenship: liberal democracy in Latin America; Paper topic assigned


March 21 – Types of democracy: proportional representation and majoritarian systems

Required Reading: *Political Order in Changing Societies*, chapter 7

March 26 – Power-sharing: enforced democracy


March 28 – Self-Determination in liberal democracies; Final date to drop this course


Spring Break

April 9 – Political Stability in the Twentieth Century

Required Reading: *Political Order in Changing Societies*, chapter 5.

April 11 - Test 2
Failures of the Twentieth Century

April 16 – Reconsidering liberal democracy

Required Reading: *Democracy: the God that Failed*, chapters 4 and 11

April 18 – Reconsidering monarchy

Required Reading: *Democracy: the God that Failed*, chapters 2 and 3

April 23 – Time-preference and the survival strategies of monarchy and democracy; Paper due

Required Reading: *Democracy: the God that Failed* chapter 1

April 25 – Monarchy versus democracy

Required Reading: *Democracy: the God that Failed* chapters 9 and 10

April 30 – The future of democracy

Required Reading: *The Passing of an Illusion* chapter 12 and epilogue; *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, Chapter 23 and “The March to Socialism; Political Order in Changing Societies chapter 6

May 2 - Review for Final and Course Evaluation

Required Reading: None

May 6 - Test 3 (Final Exam) 3:00 – 5:00 PM