Introduction to Comparative Politics
Political Science 2053

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Office Hours: 1-2:30 T, 1-2:30 W, or by appointment

Fall 2010
MWF 2:40-3:30
15 Atkinson

Course Description:

This course is designed to give students an overview of the political institutions and political cultures of several countries that have a prominent role in world affairs. We will examine the modern histories of each country, and compare the political institutions so that we may better understand the politics and political cultures of the countries we examine. In addition, we will attempt to write and adopt a constitution for a fledgling democracy applying the concepts we have learned from throughout the course. This course is an introductory-level course, and therefore no prior political science courses are necessary to succeed in this course.

“He who knows one country knows none.”
-Friedrich Muller

“What knows he of England who only England knows?”
-Rudyard Kipling

Course Requirements:

- **1st Midterm (October 1, 2010)** - The mid-term will consist of 30 Multiple Choice Questions and 3 short answer responses that will be completed in-class. In addition, students will be given a choice of two prompts for an out-of-class essay which will be due on the day of the in-class portion of the exam. (20 percent of final grade)

- **2nd Midterm (November 5, 2010)** - Same format as the first mid-term. (20 percent of final grade)

- **Final Exam (December 6, 2010; 3:00-5:00 pm)** (25% of final grade)

- **Participation** - This consists of in-class reaction papers, reading quizzes, and meaningful contribution to classroom discussions. (20% of final grade)
• Iraq Constitution Project- Students will be divided into groups, each of which represents a different faction of Iraqi society or a global or regional power who has a vested interest in Iraqi politics. Each group will complete a constitution they would like the Iraqis to adopt in order to promote a stable and democratic Iraq. Additionally, each group will negotiate with students from the other groups in order to build a coalition large enough to adopt a single Iraqi Constitution. (15% of final grade)

Required Text:

Hauss, Charles. Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges (6th Edition)

Special Needs:

Any student with a learning disability should make me aware of it so I that I may accommodate your situation appropriately and in accordance with LSU policy. Additionally, athletes and club members who will miss class and/or deadlines due to their involvement in extracurricular activities are required to know and follow school policy and procedures for making up the work.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated, and all matters will be automatically referred to judicial affairs. All students are expected to know and abide by LSU policy regarding plagiarism. http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism.htm

Additional Rules and Procedures:

• All cell phones and any other mobile electronic devices are to be turned off and put away for the duration of all of our class periods. Failure to comply with this instruction will have deleterious consequences for your participation grade.
• Students are expected to attend all class sessions and in a punctual manner. There is a strong correlation between success in my classes and excellent attendance.
• All reading assignments are due on the day they are mentioned in the syllabus. Students are expected to report to each class fully prepared, and periodic un-announced reading quizzes and response essays will be assigned to ensure that students are up to date with the course material.
• Laptops are not to be used in this class. While I am fully aware of the benefits that laptops can have in facilitating a student’s education, it has been my experience that more often than not, students are surfing the web rather than actively engaging in classroom material. This content of this course requires your full attention, and I believe that we will all get more from this course without these distractions.
In this course, we will spend a considerable amount of time discussing course material and additional news articles that I will periodically provide for you. In order to have a successful course, we must all be able to speak our minds freely in this class, and that means that all students will demonstrate courtesy to me and one another at all times. It is encouraged for everybody to have their own viewpoint, but we will also be respectful to the viewpoints of others.

Course Outline:

August 23, 2010:
Class Introduction

August 25, 2010
Core concepts in Comparative Politics, types of states  (Read Chapter 1)

August 27, 2010
Types of Democracies (Read selections from Arend Lijphart’s Patterns of Democracy)

August 30, 2010
Cleavages and Party Systems (Read Chapter 2)

September 1, 2010
American Political Institutions (Read Chapter 3)

September 3, 2010
American Political Culture and Parties

September 6, 2010
Happy Labor Day!  (No class)

September 8, 2010
British Political Institutions (Read Chapter 4)

September 10, 2010
British Political Culture and Parties

September 13, 2010
French History Day  (Read Chapter 5)

September 15, 2010
French Political Institutions

September 17, 2010

September 20, 2010
German History Day  (Reading to be assigned)
September 22, 2010
German Political Institutions (Read Chapter 6)

September 24, 2010
German Political Culture and Parties

September 27, 2010
European Union History Day (Read Chapter 7)
September 29, 2010
The Institutions of the European Union

October 1, 2010
1st Midterm Exam

October 4, 2010
Russian/Soviet History Day (Read Chapter 8)

October 6, 2010
The Collapse of the Soviet Union (Read Chapter 9)

October 8, 2010
The Contemporary Russian State

October 11, 2010
Chinese History Day (Read Chapter 10)

October 13, 2010
Chinese Political Institutions and Culture

October 15, 2010
The Developing World: Import Substitution vs. Structural Adjustment (Read Chapter 11)

October 18, 2010
Indian History Day (Read Chapter 12)

October 20, 2010
Indian Political Institutions and Parties

October 22, 2010
Happy Fall Break! (No Class)

October 25, 2010
Introduction to the Modern Middle East

October 27, 2010
Iranian History Day (Read Chapter 13)

October 29, 2010
Iranian Political Institutions and Culture
November 1, 2010
Iraqi History Day (Read Chapter 14)

November 3, 2010
Contemporary Iraq

November 5, 2010
2nd Exam

November 8, 2010
Iraqi Constitution- Lecture

November 10, 2010
All Drafts of Iraqi Constitution Due/1st Day of Negotiations

November 12, 2010
Adoption of the Iraqi Constitution?

November 15, 2010
Group Discussion on the challenges of crafting a new state

November 17, 2010
Nigerian History (Read Chapter 15)

November 19, 2010
Nigerian Political Institutions and Parties

November 22, 2010
Mexican History Day (Read Chapter 16)

November 24-26, 2010
Happy Thanksgiving! (No Class)

November 29, 2010
Mexican Political Institutions and Parties

Dec 1, 2010
Global Challenges and Domestic Responses (Read Chapter 17)

Dec 3, 2010
Review for Final Exam

December 6, 2010 (3:00-5:00 p.m.)
Final Exam