

Political Science 211
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2008

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Wright A-212
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This course is an introduction to comparative politics. It explores recent theories in comparative politics and also provides an analysis of politics in developing and industrialized countries. The course examines a limited number of themes, issues and theories and is not intended to serve as an exhaustive survey of the field

The course is divided into two sections. In Part I, we will focus on political culture, democratization, and interest group systems. We will also examine theories on culture and economic development, regime transitions, and compare the effects of different interest groups on performance. Part II of the course contrasts politics in developing areas and in advanced industrialized states, with a focus on Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Requirements and Grading

Lecture and Discussion: The class will meet Monday and Wednesday from 1:00-2:15 in CBC A110 for lectures and discussion. Students are expected to finish all of the assigned readings and to be prepared for discussion.

Exams and Grades: There will be three examinations. Exam 1 will be given on **October 1**; Exam 2 is on **November 5**. The final exam will be given on **December 8, 1-3PM in CBC A110**. The first two exams each count for 30% of your final grade; the final exam counts for 35%, with the remaining 5% from participation. Mid-term grades will be accessible through Web Campus; students will be provided with instructions on accessing Web Campus.

Make-up exams will be given only if the student can demonstrate she/he was absent due to illness or participation in an official university function. Students must provide an excuse in writing from a licensed health care provider or from a university administrator.

University Policy for Students with Disabilities: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Disability Resource Center (Room 137, Reynolds Student Services Center; 895-0866 [TDD 895-0652]).

Observance of Religious Holidays: Students who miss class due to observance of a religious holiday shall be given the opportunity to make up the missed work. Please notify the instructor no later than the end of the first week of classes if this policy applies to you.

Contact via E-mail: A new UNLV policy requires students to use Rebelmail accounts when they contact faculty via e-mail. As the official e-mail system for students, Rebelmail is available to all students who have been admitted to the university. Non-matriculated students should contact the Office of Information Technology at UNLV students for assistance.

Readings

Required: Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, Second edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2006).

In addition, a small number of readings are on electronic reserve in the Lied library and are accessible through the web (<http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/>). Some readings are also available through the web and the Article First, Project MUSE, and JSTOR databases in the library (available at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/search/databases/index.html> ; next, select Project MUSE, Article First or JSTOR, and follow the instructions for accessing the database and searching for articles by author or title).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

8/25	Course Introduction	No readings
8/27-9/3	Comparative Politics as a Subfield; Basic Concepts No class 9/1 (holiday)	O'Neil, Ch. 1, and pp. 20-28, 37-53
9/8-9/15	Culture, Participation and Development	Almond, "The Civic Culture Concept." In E-Reserves. Ronald Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture," in <i>American Political Science Review</i> , Vol. 82, No. 4 (Dec., 1988), pp. 1203-1230 in JSTOR database. O'Neil, pp. 56-75; 115-117; 219-229
9/17-9/29	Democratization and Regime Transitions	O'Neil, Chapters 5-6, and pp. 205-217. Sørensen, "What is Democracy?" in E-Reserves Sørensen, "Processes of Democratization" in E-Reserves Henry S. Rowen, "When Will the Chinese People be Free?" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> volume 18, no. 3 (2007), in Project MUSE.
10/1	Exam 1	
10/6-10/13	Interest Groups, Political-Economic Systems, and Performance: Comparative Perspectives	O'Neil, Chapter 4 Evans, "The State as Problem and Solution..." in E-Reserves
10/15-11/3	Politics in Developing Areas: An Overview; Mexico in Comparative Perspective	O'Neil, pp. 230-249 Camp, pp. 1-17, 225-252; in E-Reserves; Cornelius, 469-508 in E-Reserves
11/5	Exam 2	
11/10	Mexico—Conclusion	Cornelius, 508-517; Joseph Klesner, "The July 2006 Presidential and Congressional Elections," <i>Electoral Studies</i> Vol. 26, no. 4 (December 2007), pp. 803-08, in Article First database.
11/12-12/1	Politics in Advanced Industrialized States; United Kingdom in Comparative Perspective	O'Neil, Chapter 7 Rose, pp. 155-208 BBC News, "The Blair Years in Statistics," http://news.bbc.co.uk (complete web address given in class) BBC News, "Drop in East European Immigration," August 18, 2008, http://news.bbc.co.uk/
12/3	Review and Conclusion	

