

Political Science 211  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Summer 2009

Professor John Tuman  
Wright B225  
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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 through Wednesday from 4:15 to 6:45 in Wright Hall C237. Students are expected to finish all of the assigned readings and to be prepared for discussion.

**Exams and Grades:** There will be two examinations. Exam 1 will be given on June 15. The final exam will be given on July 1 at 4:15PM in Wright Hall C237. All exams utilize an essay format. The first exam counts for 45% of your final grade; the final exam counts for 50%, with the remaining 5% from participation.

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 third class session if this policy applies to you.

**Contact by E-mail:** Students are required 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

All readings for this course 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 Article First, Project MUSE, and JSTOR databases in the library (available at

<http://www.library.unlv.edu/search/databases/index.html> ; To retrieve these readings, first go to the library database webpage; 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
6/1	Comparative Politics as a Subfield; Basic Concepts	Hague, "Comparative Politics..." in E-Reserves. <b>Suggested:</b> Patrick H. O'Neil, <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> , Second edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2006).Ch. 1, and pp. 20-28, 37-53
6/2-6/3	Political 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. <b>Suggested:</b> O'Neil, pp. 56-75; 115-117; 219-229
6/8-6/10	Democratization and Regime Transitions	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.
6/15	Exam 1	
6/16-	Comparing Group Systems and Performance	Hague "Interest Groups..." in E-Reserves. Evans, "The State as Problem and Solution..." in E-Reserves
6/17-6/22	Politics in Developing Areas;; Mexico in Comparative Perspective	Camp, pp. 1-17, 225-252, in E-Reserves; Cornelius, 469-508 in E-Reserves <b>Suggested:</b> O'Neil, pp. 230-249
6/23	Mexico— Conclusion	Cornelius, 508-517 in E-Reserves. 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	Rose, pp. 155-208 in E-Reserves. BBC News, "The Blair Years in Statistics," <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/uk_politics/07/blair_graphs/html/default.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/uk_politics/07/blair_graphs/html/default.stm</a> BBC News, "Cameron in 'People Power Pledge,'" May 26, 2009, <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8067505.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8067505.stm</a>
7/1	Final Exam	Final Exam