

Bowie State University
Department of History and Government
GOVT 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2010
TR 11:00-12:20

[Hybrid Course: although the course is face to face, a number of resources(readings, videos, data) for the course are only available online. If you have problems accessing these resources, pleas notify the instructor.]

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Course Description

_____ This course is an introduction to the comparative study of how different polities approach problems of government and governing. The focus will be on comparing and contrasting developed and developing societies. _____

Course Overview

The class is designed to provide students with a general introduction to the field of Comparative Politics. Comparative politics, as a subfield of political science, uses the cross-national (comparative) approach to examine the external and internal behavior of states. Central themes to be discussed in the class include: the challenge of democracy in the developing world; the state's role in managing economic policy; the interaction of states within the international arena; conflict within states; and the impact of ethnicity (or race), class, gender, or religion on the politics of contemporary nation-states. In addition to these general themes, the course also focuses on five geographic areas: Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, Asia, and the Middle-East.

*******Special Needs:** Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 1328 in the Business and Graduate Studies Building or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

A: General Education Competencies

- 1) Written and Oral Communication
 - Write a short research paper on a selected country
 - Write five video and film reports
 - Present a country report to class
- 2) Critical Thinking and Reasoning
 - Carefully interpret, analyze, and evaluate evidence statements, graphics, and questions
 - Construct well-supported (evidence based), clearly articulated, and sustained arguments
- 3) Scientific Analysis Using Quantitative and Qualitative Sources
 - Apply descriptive statistics (such as UN and World Bank data) to evaluate claims and current literature

- Use decision-maker and policy documents to access the accuracy of claims made by politicians
- 4) Technology Competence
 - Use word processor to create a text document
 - Use Graphics program (such as Excel) to create tables and graphs for data analysis
- 5) Information Literacy
 - Use a Library Database (such as EBSCO Academic), the internet, or “MyPoliSciKit” to conduct research for class
 - Use traditional (hard copy books or journals) to conduct research for class

B: Student Learning Objectives

- 1) Define the basic concepts and themes of comparative politics, such as: power, legitimacy, authority, developing countries, nationalism, hegemony, imperialism, colonialism ;
- 2) Distinguish between different forms of governance, such as: democracy, communism, socialism, theocracy, and authoritarianism;
- 3) Distinguish between different forms of political economic systems, such as: liberalist, mercantilist, communist, and social-democracies.
- 4) Identify the key theories and actors in international politics, such as: realism, liberalism, constructivism, states, international organizations, and transnational corporations, and non-governmental entities;
- 5) Use the requisite skills for research in political science;
- 6) Demonstrate this knowledge in the use of technology and library resources.

C: Expected Outcomes: Students will be required to complete the following:

- 1) Two Tests to evaluate their mastery of key concepts, themes, ideologies, and actors (learning objectives 1-4). Tests will be composed of multiple choice, short answers, and essays.
- 2) Make one presentation to the class on their selected country (learning objective 1-3).
- 3) Write one short research paper (approx. 8 pages) using qualitative and quantitative sources (such as UN and World Bank data) to evaluate the strengths and weakness of different their selected country objectives 1-6).

Requirements

1. Class Readings: Students will be responsible for weekly readings taken from textbooks and supplemental articles. The required texts are:

Patrick O’Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2009).

Patrick O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2009).

Additional readings, country data, and multimedia sources will be provided to students via Angel. The student’s grade for participation will be partially derived from class discussions of the readings. While quizzes are not formally part of the course requirements, if students fail to keep up with the weekly reading assignments the instructor reserves the right to conduct pop quizzes.

2.) Tests: Students will take two exams as a part of the evaluation process in this course. The tests will be composed of multiple choice, short answers and essays covering material reviewed in the prior weeks. The grading scale for the course is weighted toward the end of the semester with the last test and group project constituting more weight than the first two (see below).

3) Presentation and Paper: Students will be responsible for a country report (paper) on a selected country (countries are listed at the end of the syllabus). In addition to the paper, students must also present their papers to the class for a part of their grade. (See below)

Country Report and Presentation Guidelines

This assignment is divided into two parts. The first part of the assignment requires that the student present a report of their country in class at the specified time. Presentations should include all of the components listed below. The second part of the assignment requires that the student turn in a formal country report (paper) covering the areas detailed below. Each paper should be at least eight pages long, and it is due at the end of the semester. Information for the presentation and report should come from the following sources: country readings passed out in class, country reports from the UN or World Bank, regional periodicals (for contemporary issues), and one book (the book must be pre-approved by the professor). The first draft of the paper is due by (TBA). All papers must include a title page, proper citations (see instructor for citation formats) within the text, page numbers (do not number the title page), and a bibliography.

Each Presentation and Paper Must Contain the Following Components:

(Students have a maximum of 15 minutes for the presentation, and they must proportionally address each area listed below within that time frame).

1) Country's Socio-Cultural and Political History

- What is the history of the country? Was it colonized or subject to imperial rule?
- (Approx. 1 pg. of the paper)

2) Country's Demographic Makeup

- What type of population does the country have? Is its population homogenous or heterogeneous? If heterogeneous, what is the composition of ethnic groups in the country?
- (Approx. 1pg. of the paper)

3) Country's Political and Economic System

- Does the country have a democratic, authoritarian, or communist political system?
- What type of political economy does it have? Liberalist, social-democratic, mercantilist, communist?
- (at least 2 pages)

4) Recent Socio-Economic Performance

- Where does the country rank in terms of GDP per capita, HDI, Gini index?
- Is the country primarily an agricultural, industrial, or services economy?
- (at least 2 pages)

5) Contemporary Issues

- What are the major issues that the country faces today?
- (at least 1 page)

6) An analysis of the country from the student's perspective

– How does the country compare with the other country in the region (at least 1) in terms of development? – (at least 1 page)

7) Cultural Example: Provide one example of art from the country; such as poetry, music, or visual art.

Presentation and Paper Criteria Rubrics:

	Professionalism	Content	Oral Skills	Total
Presentation	Student has proper attire and is prepared for the presentation 0-6pts	Student covers all (7) the content areas listed under the requirements 0-12pts	Student demonstrates good speaking skills; for example, eye contact with audience & their material is well presented with minimum use of notes. 0-2pts	20pts

	Organization	Content	Citation/ Sources	Mechanical	Total
Paper	Paper contains a solid introduction and is clearly organized with all the main parts 0-7Pts.	Student evenly covers all the content areas, and provides sufficient information for each area. 0-7Pts.	Any paraphrasing from the author(s) is clearly cited; and data sources are clearly cited 0-3Pts.	Paper is correctly formatted, and free of grammatical & spelling errors. 0-3Pts.	20 pts

4: Film and Video Reviews: Students must complete five video reviews based off the videos and films listed on the syllabus. Each review must be at least 1 page long (standard format: double space, 1 in margins, with a font no bigger than 12), and it must answer the following questions:

For Lecture or Forum (a) who is, or are, the speaker(s), (b) what is the topic they are examining, (c) how does this discussion relate to topics we have discussed in class (such forms of government, identity, regime change, and development)?

For a Film (a) who are the main characters in the film, (b) what topic does the film explore, (c) how does this discussion relate to topics we have discussed in class (such forms of government, identity, regime change, political-economy, political violence or development)?

The first two reviews must be completed by mid-term, while the other three are due at the conclusion of the semester. All videos and films are available through Angel, and can be download or streamed from the server or an outside source (such as iTunes U or U Channel). For students who have problems accessing these resources, the professor can provide digital copies upon request.

5: Class Attendance/Participation: Attendance is a mandatory component of this course. Moreover, the participation element of the course will be partially derived from class discussions of the readings. While quizzes are not formally part of the course requirements, if students fail to keep up with the weekly reading assignments the instructor reserves the right to conduct pop quizzes. If any student misses more than four classes, the instructor reserves the right to automatically fail the student. *University professors are not obligated to honor any excuse or explanation for an absence, regardless if the absence is due to illness, family issues, or athletic events. If any student misses an assignment, she or he must submit the appropriate documentation (outlining specific details) for the professor to determine if the absence can or will be excused. Students are solely responsible for any materials that are covered or assigned (for example, if a test or quiz date is altered) during their absence.*

******Communications:** The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule or course requirements. Any alterations to the course will be announced in advance in class and via Angel. Announcements on Angel are sent to the student's BSU email address. Unless there is a technical problem with the system, students must communicate via their BSU email address.

Grading Scale

Video/Film Reviews	5%
First Test:	20%
Country Report:	25%
Second Test:	25%
Presentation:	20%
Attendance and Participation:	5%

Course Schedule

Week 1: Aug. 30-Sept. 3

Key Concepts & Issues in Comparative Politics

Required Readings: O'Neil Ch. 1; Joseph, "Politics of the Developing World," *Foreign Policy*, "The Global Top 20"

Video: Interview with El Salvador's President-elect Mauricio Funes (2009)

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/linktv.org.1509235148.01512319422.2094014967?i=1224520138>

Week 2: Sept. 6-10

Studying the State and Development

Required Readings: O'Neil Ch. 2, Country Reading: the United Kingdom

Film: Life and Debt

Suggested Reading: Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," Skocpal "Bringing the State Back In"
Rotberg, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure"

Week 3: Sept. 13-17

National Identities and Ethnicity in Comparative Politics

Required Reading: O'Neil Ch.3

Video: Benedita da Silva on Equality in Brazil (2010)

Cabinet Minister Benedita da Silva, First Afro-Brazilian woman elected to the Senate
City University of New York

iTunes U Link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/baruch-cuny-public.1613769614.01652666860.1669308230?i=2115465957>

Suggested Readings: Soe, Article 42: Cultural Explanations; Collier, "Ethnic Diversity: An Economic Analysis"

Week 4: Sept. 20-24

Political Economy

Required Readings: O'Neil Ch. 4, Country Reading: Japan

Video: Creating A World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism (2010)

Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

iTunes U Link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/uc.princeton.edu.1521136741.01521136748.1911484542?i=1331762459>

Suggested Reading: Soe, Article 30: "Globalization's Double Edge," Alesina, Glaeser, and Sacerdote,

Week 5: Sept. 27-Oct. 1

1st Test (20% of Student's Grade) & Forms of Governance: Authoritarianism

Required Reading: O'Neil Ch. 5,

Film: The Agronomist

Suggested Reading: Linz and Stephen, "Modern Nondemocratic Regimes,"

Week 6: Oct. 4-8

Authoritarianism Cont. & Introduction to Democracy

Required Readings: O'Neil Ch. 6

Video: Zimbabwe's Present and Future: A Conversation with Morgan Tsvangirai (2009)

Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister, Republic of Zimbabwe

Council on Foreign Relations

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/uc.princeton.edu.1521317325.01521317332.2254580137?i=1596155011>

Suggested Readings: Soe Article 19: "What Democracy is and is Not;"; Hobsbawm, "Spreading Democracies"

Week 7: Oct. 11-15

Democracy Cont.

Required Readings: Country Reading: India

Video: India The Emerging Giant (2008)

Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Indian Political Economy and Professor of Economics at SIPA
Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/uc.princeton.edu.1521136741.01917684759.1566503408?i=1518718247>

Suggested Readings: Zakaria, "A Brief History of Human Liberty;" Lijphart "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies" Duverger, "The Number of Parties" Soe Article 16: "Advanced Democracies and the New Politics"

Week 8: Oct. 18-22

Unique Systems: Communism, Corporatism, Clientalism, and Hybrid Regimes

Required Readings: O'Neil, Ch. 8; Country Reading: China

Video: Yang Jiechi, China's Minister of Foreign Affairs (2010)

CSIS | Center for Strategic and International Studies

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/csis-public.1634583693.02358034607.2354642353?i=1673846118>

Suggested Reading: Diamond, "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes;" Soe Article 27: "Ten Myths about Russia"

Week 9: Oct. Oct. 25-29

Regional Cases: Latin America and the Caribbean

Required Readings: Country Reading: Brazil; Myers, "Venezuela: Shaping the New Democracy;"

Film: Fidel The Untold Story

Suggested Reading: Munroe, "Caribbean Democracy: Decay or Renewal" Soe Article 31: "Mexico at an Impasse;" Wiarda, "Brazil: The Politics of New Order and Progress;"

Week 10: Nov. 1-5

Regional Cases: Asia

Required Readings: Soe Article 33: "China: the Quiet Revolution;" Charlton, "The Parliamentary System in Asia: India and Japan;" Shankar, "Untangling India and Pakistan"

Video: The New Asian Hemisphere - The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East (2008)
Kishore Mahbubani, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore
Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/uc.princeton.edu.1521136741.01917684759.1571029628?i=1919507520>

Suggested Reading: Soe Article 36: "New Dimensions of Indian Democracy"

Week 11: Nov. 8-12

Regional Studies: Africa

Required Readings: Country Reading: South Africa; Collier and Gunning, "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly"

Video– Nigeria: Priorities for the Year Ahead (2010)

Oronto Douglas Senior Acting Assistant to President Goodluck Jonathan
CSIS | Center for Strategic and International Studies

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/csis-public.1634244332.02354723734.3683003775?i=1841097239>

Suggested Readings: Soe Article 32: "South Africa: Democracy Without People;" Diouf, "Urban Youth & Senegalese Politics;" Zolberg, "The Party State in Perspective;" Tripp, "Everday Forms of Resistance;"

Week 12: Nov. 15-19

Regional Cases: The Middle East

2nd Test Nov. (25% of Student's Grade)

Required Readings: Limbert, "The Islamic Republic of Iran;" Reich, "The State of Israel"

Suggested Readings: Soe Article: "Bin Laden, the Arab 'Street,' and the Middle East's Democracy Deficit"

Week 13: Nov. 22-26(Thanksgiving Break?)

Comparative Presentations Part I

Required Reading:

Week 14: Nov. 29-Dec. 3

Political Conflict

Comparative Presentations Part II

Required Reading:

Film: Johnny Mad Dog

Week 15: :Dec. 6-10

Democracy and Development for the Future
(Comparative Presentations Part III)

Required Reading: Notes on Dependency

Video: Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa: The Rwandan Experience (unknown)

Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of International & Public Affairs

iTunes U link:

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/uc.princeton.edu.1516637656.01567774598.1566448500?i=2120465666>

Suggested Reading:

Week 16: Dec. 13-17

Final Papers Due

The Final Paper Is Due On The Exam Date and Time Scheduled By The University. I will not accept any papers or assignments after this date.

International Websites

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

<http://www.africanews.com/site>

<http://www.un.org/>

<http://www.cubaweb.cu/>

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/index.html>

<http://ghanaian-chronicle.com/>

<http://www.caricom.org/>

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan.html>

<http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage>

<http://www.amnesty.org/actnow/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

Country Listing for Comparative Politics (Each student must choose one country for the presentation/paper)

Presentations will begin

Latin America:

Venezuela–
Brazil–
Columbia–
Mexico–
Argentina–
El Salvador–

Caribbean

Cuba–
Jamaica–
Haiti–
Trinidad and Tobago–
Dominican Republic–
Barbados–

Asia:

Japan–
China–
India–
South Korea–
Indonesia–

Middle East

Iran–
Afghanistan–
Saudi Arabia–
Palestine–
Israel–

Africa:

Ghana–
South Africa–
Nigeria–
Egypt–
Kenya–
Ethiopia–

Bibliography

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