COURSE DESCRIPTION

The principal objective of this course is to introduce many of the core concepts and debates that are central to the comparative politics field. In doing so, it will upon the experiences of a variety of countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The course is divided into four major sections. We will begin with a review of the development of the modern nation state, examining competing theories of development and economic growth. Next we will look comparatively at variations among industrialized democracies, including presidential versus parliamentary systems, majoritarianism versus proportional representation, corporatism, and developmentalism.

The course will then turn to the rise and subsequent fall of Communist regimes, both through rapid collapse (the Soviet Union) and gradual, ongoing transformation (China).

Finally the challenges of political and economic development in the developing world will be explored, including the legacy of colonialism, the different paths towards democracy, and the problems of economic reform in the face of globalization.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

1) Have a clear understanding of the nature and scope of economic globalization;
2) Be familiar with historical development of the modern democratic state in the industrialized world;
3) Understand the difference between presidential and parliamentary regimes and between majoritarianism and proportional representation;
4) Have a strong familiarity with the concepts of corporatism and developmentalism;
5) Be capable of identifying the key types of trading blocs;
6) Understand the nature of command economy systems and the different ways these systems have been transformed;
7) Be familiar with the problems of authoritarianism and democratization as well as globalization and economic reform in the developing world.
REQUIRED READINGS

The book listed below is required and may be purchased from the campus bookstore.


Students are expected to complete the required readings for each topic by the date of that lecture and be prepared to discuss and ask questions about them.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students are required to attend class regularly and participate in discussions, take an in-class midterm, write a paper, and complete a final exam. Grades are based on a 1,000 point scale, weighed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>350</td>
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Final grades will be given in accordance with the number of points received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>930–1,000</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>900–929</td>
<td>A−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>870–899</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>830–869</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>800–829</td>
<td>B−</td>
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<tr>
<td>770–799</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>730–769</td>
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<td>700–729</td>
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<td>670–699</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>630–669</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>600–629</td>
<td>D−</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 600</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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*Attendance:* An attendance sheet will be distributed for each regular class session (excluding the days of the midterm and final). Those not attending will need to have a valid and documented excuse to not be docked for missing that day. At the instructor’s discretion, those arriving after roll has been taken may be given half credit for attendance if they talk to the instructor immediately after class.

Up to fifty points for attendance will be allocated in proportion to the number of sessions attended. For example, an 80% attendance rate will earn 40 points for attendance. Excused absences will neither be counted as present nor absent in calculating this percentage (that is, as if there had been no class session that day in that student’s case).

Note that any student caught signing in for a fellow student not in attendance will be considered to be cheating on an assignment and will be disciplined accordingly.
**Participation:** Students are expected not only to attend class regularly, but participate in class discussions. Each student will be graded according the degree to which he or she has participated in discussions regularly and in an informed manner. For average levels of participation, this portion of the grade will roughly match that for attendance, but it will be adjusted upwards or downwards for greater and lesser participation levels.

**Midterm:** The midterm will be held during regular class session on Tuesday, October 15 and will be based on the readings, lectures, and discussions through October 10 (that is, Parts I and II of the course). At least one week prior to the midterm, a study guide will be distributed giving more details as to its structure and content.

**Paper:** A paper topic will be distributed on the date of the midterm after the exam is turned in and will be due at the beginning of class on October 31. In addition to the hard copy, students must submit an exact copy in Word (DOC or DOCX), Rich Text (RTF), or Adobe Portable Document (PDF) format to Turnitin via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. that evening. Please begin the file or archive’s name with your last name (the rest of the filename may be anything you wish).

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be held on Thursday, December 12 from 8:00 am–10:00 am in the regular class room. It will be comprehensive in nature, but will emphasize the readings and lectures since the midterm, as well as key information that was discussed during the current events presentations. As with the midterm, at least one week prior to the final a study guide will be distributed giving more details as to its structure and content.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating on papers and exams will result in an automatic failing grade for the course and the reporting of the student to university authorities for disciplinary action, including possible expulsion.

In writing, remember that credit by means of a footnote or endnote must be given for every direct quotation, for paraphrased or summarized text, and for information that is not common knowledge. *Ignorance as to what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse.* Students who have questions about the definition of plagiarism should consult the university’s official statement on Academic Dishonesty <http://csrr.sdsu.edu/academics1.html>, or ask the instructor.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

In accordance with federal law, individualized accommodations, such as additional time for test taking, will be made for students with disabilities. However, requests for such accommodations must be made by the end of the second full week of instruction and may require approval and certification from Student Disability Services (SDS), Calpulli Center, Suite 3101 <dsstest@mail.sdsu.edu> [619-594-6473].
COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject to change)

I) INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Introduction to Course and Review of Syllabus (August 27)

The Challenge of Globalization (August 29–September 5)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapters 1 and 17.

II) ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES

Development of the Modern Democratic State (September 10–12)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 3.

Presidential versus Parliamentary Regimes: The US and the UK (September 17–19)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapters 2 and 4.

Systems of (Semi-) Proportional Representation: France (September 24–26)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 5.

The Corporatist State: Germany (October 1–3)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 6.

Trading Blocs and the Emergence of the European Union (October 8-10)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 7.

→ Tuesday, October 15: MIDTERM (IN-CLASS)
→ Tuesday, October 15: PAPER TOPIC DISTRIBUTED

III) COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNISM

Marxism and the Rise of Communism (October 17)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 8.

Communism’s Collapse and Aftermath in Russia (October 22–24)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 9.

Communism’s Reform in China (October 29–31)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 10.

→ Thursday, October 31, 9:30 am: PAPER DUE

IV) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Economic and Political Development in the Developing World (November 5-7)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 11.
Colonialism, Authoritarianism, Invasion, and Independence: Iraq (November 12–14)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 14.

The “Unlikely” Democracy: India (November 19–21)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 12.

Oil, Ethnic Division, and Democracy: Nigeria (November 26–December 3)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 15.

November 28: Thanksgiving Holiday

The Gradual Path of Political and Economic Reform: Mexico (December 5–10)
Hauss & Haussman 2013, Chapter 16.

Thursday, December 12, 8:00 am–10:00 am: FINAL EXAM