POLITICAL SCIENCE 2301.02
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Fall 2015

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Randall Parish
OFFICE: SRC 540
OFFICE HOURS: MW 9:00-11:30, 3:00-4:30; TR 11:00-12:00
TELEPHONE: 706-310-6231
EMAIL: Randall.Parish@ung.edu

II. TEXT AND OTHER MATERIALS

Patrick H. O’Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share *Cases in Comparative Politics*, 5th ed.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students are introduced to countries of the world through studying specific countries from the major regions of the world in depth and through studying universal political principles. Themes, such as democratization, political behavior, and politicized religion, as well as learning about regime types found throughout the world and principles of regime change are examined. Country case studies are viewed in the context of these themes and principles using comparative politics’ analysis. Variables influencing countries’ politics are examined, such as culture, religion, history, economics, geography, natural resources, interests of key individuals and groups, and countries’ interactions within the global political/economic system.

This course can be used in either Area B or E in the core curriculum.

This course fulfills the Global Perspectives learning outcome.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Analyze the interaction of political actors and institutions within countries and their interactions with global political actors and organizations.
2. Analyze the impact of economic, cultural, and historical factors on countries’ political development.
3. Analyze the impact of global forces on countries’ political development.
4. Analyze the sources, organization, and functioning of power in countries’ political systems around the world.
5. Analyze political, cultural, or socioeconomic interactions among people or organizations of the world.
V. COURSE CALENDAR

- Sep 7 – Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 10 – Research proposal due
- Oct 6 – Mid-Term Exam
- Oct 12 – Withdrawal deadline
- Oct 27 – Research paper due
- Nov 23-27 – Thanksgiving Holidays
- Dec 10 – Final Exam (10:20-12:20)

VI. COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance policy.** Students are expected to attend and be on time for all classes, and attendance will be recorded. Attendance will play an important role in determining any final or borderline grades. Leaving during the middle of class creates a distraction, so barring a legitimate emergency, students may leave class early only if they have received permission before the period begins.

2. **Make-up assignments.** Missed exams will receive a zero, and make-up exams will only be issued under extraordinary circumstances. It is the student’s responsibility to provide written documentation from a physician or similar authority to justify a make-up exam. Missed quizzes will receive a zero unless the student provides such documentation. Quizzes missed during an excused absence will be dropped and not count toward the overall average.

3. **Disruptive behaviors.** Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt this class or its learning activities will be considered under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which are considered to be inappropriate in this classroom include coming in late and leaving early, using electronic devices for non-class work, interrupting others, talking out of turn, inappropriate behavior during group work, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive. Students who exhibit such behavior may be temporarily dismissed from the class by the instructor and may be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the Student Handbook.

4. **Supplemental Course Information.** Students are responsible for observing the policies on the Academic Success Plan Program, students with disabilities, academic integrity, disruptive behavior, class evaluations, academic exchange, inclement weather, and course grades and withdrawal process found at [http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php](http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php).

5. **Academic Dishonesty.** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and at a minimum, any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment. Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one’s own. Any of the following acts constitutes plagiarism unless the source of each quotation or piece of borrowed material is clearly
acknowledged. Please see me if you have any question on what should be cited in your research paper.

- Copying out part(s) of any document or audio-visual material (including computer based material);
- Using or extracting another person’s concepts, experimental results, or conclusions;
- Summarizing another person’s work;
- In an assignment where there was collaborative preparatory work, submitting substantially the same final version of any material as another student (Macquarie University glossary of university terms).

6. **Communication.** UNG email is the official means of communication at the college.

7. **Student Disability Services.** This university is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities, and welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations and services must register with Disability Services and submit supporting documentation. Disability Services provides accommodation memos for eligible students to give to their instructors. Students are responsible for making arrangements with instructors, and must give reasonable prior notice of the need for accommodation.

Contact Information for Disability Services: Erin Williams, ewilliams@gsc.edu, Administration Building, Room 112, 706-310-6202

8. **Accessibility Statement.** If you need this syllabus in another format, please email Randall.Parish@ung.edu or call 706-310-6231.

**VII. COURSE GRADING**

1. **Exams.** There will be two exams during the course, a mid-term and a final. The exams, based on course readings as well as class discussions, will have multiple choice, short answer, and essay components. Each exam will be worth 250 points on the final grade.

2. **Research paper.** You will write a 6-8 page research paper (not counting the title and reference pages) on a topic chosen from the handout found in eLearning. The object of this project is for you to explain the political reasons that a government that interests you adopted a particular policy. In this context politics is the conflict between political actors fighting for what they want from government. The actors with the most power win, and your research will be to explain the power factors leading to that outcome. **Discuss the topic with me during office hours**, and follow the schedule below to complete the project.

   a. **Research paper schedule.**

      1) By **Sep 10** submit a 1-2 page **research proposal** that describes your research project. Use Step 4 of “Writing Your Research Paper” (found on eLearning under “Research Project”) as a guide to writing the proposal. Be sure that your research question and hypotheses explore how **politics** affected your topic. The proposal should have:
a) a brief description of the topic (give me enough background to understand what the topic is about and also use this intro to set up your puzzle, which will be stated in the research question),
b) the research question (asking why a government did something),
c) hypotheses (possible answers to the research question), and
d) a list of at least ten sources.

Since a solid proposal is crucial to the research paper, I insist that you complete a satisfactory proposal before writing the paper. See the grading sheet on eLearning to see what I am looking for. If you earn less than 20 points on either the Research Question or Hypotheses portion of the grading sheet, or less than 70% overall on the research proposal, we will schedule an appointment during my office hours to talk over your project. Then you will turn in a second proposal, and we will repeat this process until you have a solid proposal. I will not grade the paper until the proposal meets these criteria. If you submit more than one proposal, I will average the highest and lowest grades. The research proposal will count for 50 points on the final grade.

2) **The research paper is due on Oct 27.** Be sure to include the final research proposal along with your paper. The research paper will count for 200 points on the final grade. Be sure to include the final research proposal along with your paper.

**b. Research paper guidelines.**

1) Use at least ten sources, not counting any that are exclusively websites.
2) Format the paper according to the American Psychological Association (APA) Style (the eLearning website has a sample of common APA citation formats).
3) Double-space and use 12 point font and one-inch margins.
4) Spelling, grammar, and writing quality count.
5) Proposals, outlines, and research papers are due in hard copy in class on the assigned date. Late papers receive a deduction of ten-points per day, beginning after class.

3. **Quizzes.** There will be a series of unannounced quizzes throughout the course taken from the homework for each chapter, averaging one quiz per week. Missed quizzes will receive a grade of zero unless you bring a note from a physician or a similar explanation for missing class. Quizzes will also receive a grade of zero if you leave class after a quiz without previously coordinating an approved absence with me.

In addition to the unannounced quizzes, you will have several other activities that will count toward the quiz grade. Some activities will be in class, while others will be take-home assignments. I will drop the worst grade from final grade calculations, and the average of all quizzes will count for 250 points on your final grade.

4. **Extra credit.** There will be a variety of extra credit opportunities throughout the course. Each opportunity will be described on the eLearning website, and each must be completed by the last day of the semester, unless another deadline is cited on the website. I will add any extra credit points earned directly into students’ semester point totals.
5. **Grading summary:**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>900 – 1000 points</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>800 – 899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>700 – 799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>600 – 699</td>
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<td>Quiz average</td>
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<td>Below 600</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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VIII. CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

**Phase I: Concepts for Comparing Political Systems**

Aug 18: Course Introduction

Aug 20: The State (Shively Chap 3) **Syllabus Quiz due**

Aug 25: Political Science Research Project (Writing Your Research Paper – on elearning)

Aug 27: Democracy and Autocracy (Shively Chap 7)

Sep 1: Constitutional Design (Shively Chap 9)

Sep 3: Ideology (Shively Chap 2)

Sep 7: **Labor Day Holiday**

Sep 8: Interest Groups and Social Movements (Shively Chap 12, 13)

Sep 10: Political Parties (Shively 11) **Research Proposals due**

Sep 15-17: Elections (Shively Chap 10)

Sep 22-24: Parliamentary Government (Shively Chap 14)

Sep 29: Presidential Government (Shively Chap 15)

Oct 1: Bureaucracy, Law, and the Courts (Shively Chap 16, 17)

Oct 6: **Mid-term Exam**

**Phase II: Comparing Political Systems**

Oct 8-13: Great Britain (Cases... Chap 2)

Oct 15-20: France (Cases...Chap 4)
Oct 22-27: Germany (Cases...Chap 5) **Research papers due Oct 27**

Oct 29: Communism and Post-Communism (Oneil Chap 8 on elearning)

Nov 3-5: Russia (Cases...Chap 7)

Nov 10-12: China (Cases...Chap 8)

Nov 17: Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries (Oneil Chap 9 on elearning)

Nov 19: India (Cases...Chap 9)

Nov 23-27: **Thanksgiving Holidays**

Dec 1: India (Cases...Chap 9)

Dec 3: Course Conclusion

Dec 10: Final Exam (10:20-12:20)