

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2011

117 TUREAUD HALL

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Office Hours: 2-3 T Th, 10-12 W

Course Description

several useful tools and concepts which can be used to examine the governments of foreign countries. These tools will also be applied to several countries, allowing students to see these concepts in action in the world today. Students should also gain an understanding of the

Course Requirements

The graded work for this class will fall into 3 categories: Exams, Quizzes, and Papers.

1) There will be two exams given in this class: October 6 in class and December 8 at 12:30pm. Each of these exams will be worth 50% of your final grade for a total of 100%. The format will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.

2) There will be one quiz each week. These quizzes will cover both the material for the week and current events questions. These quizzes will make up a total of 20% of your final grade.

3) The paper will take the form of a plan of government paper derived from reading a work of fiction and describing the government featured in the novel. This will test student's abilities to examine the linkages of complex systems given broad strokes of information. Further detail will

EXAM 1 30%

EXAM 2 30%

Makeups will only be available for medical emergencies with a physician's note and provided in advance.

The grading for this class will be conducted on the 10-point scale.

Required Text

Comparative Politics Today: A World View by G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton, Kaare Strom. Pearson Education, 2011. ISBN 0205109136

This book should be available at all campus booksellers as well as online. While this book is the 10th edition, the 9th edition should also suffice.

from a well-regarded source. The oriented sources from which the current events questions will every day.

Further supplemental material will be provided, recorded, placed on the Moodle page for the class.

Special Notice

As attendance and participation in class are highly important to student success, **Laptops, mobile devices such as iPads, and Cellphones are banned during class time.** The faculty is well aware of the benefits and drawbacks of using laptops in class, and have come to the decision that they are not worth the trouble they cause in a classroom.

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated, and all matters will be automatically referred to Judicial Affairs. All students must know and abide by I SIU's plagiarism policy.

<http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism.htm>

Schedule

~~Week 1 Aug 22 & 25 - Introduction to Political Science: What is a State?~~

Week 2 Aug 30 & Sept 1 - Leadership Selection and Voting Regimes (PR v Majoritarianism) *August 29 is the last day to drop without a W*

Week 3 Sept 6 & 8 - Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Semipresidentialism

Week 4 Sept 13 - Types of Authoritarian Regimes

Sept 15 - NO CLASS

~~Week 5 Sept 20 & 22 - Democracy and Development (The Political~~

~~Week 6 Sept 27 & 30 - Democratization and Development (The Political Economy)~~

Week 7 Oct 4 & 6 - Catch up, Exam Review, Exam 1

~~Week 8 Oct 11 - England (Majoritarian Parliaments)~~

~~Oct 13 - No Class (Fall Break)~~

Week 9 Oct 18 & 20 - England continued and France (Semipresidentialism)

Week 10 Oct 25 & 27 - Germany (PR)

~~Week 11 Nov 1 & 3 - Russia (Semipresidentialism?) *November 4 is the last day to drop without dues from the university.*~~

~~Week 12 Nov 8 & 10 - China (Party Authoritarianism)~~

~~Week 13 Nov 15 & 17 - Iran (Fundamentalism)~~

~~Week 14 Nov 22 - Singapore (Modern Fascism)~~

Nov 24 - NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

~~Week 15 Nov 29 & Dec 1 - Mexico (Regional Transition to Democracy)~~ ~~Beginning of class Nov 29.~~

Week 16 - Dec 8 - FINAL EXAM 12:30pm

Readings will be assigned at the end of class, due in time for the beginning of the next class.

Any supplemental readings will be placed on the course page for the class. This syllabus is

subject to change based on events in the world, as well as the speed with which we are able to

cover the material. The graded assignments, however, are not subject to change and the dates