POLI 2053 - 04: Introduction to Comparative Politics
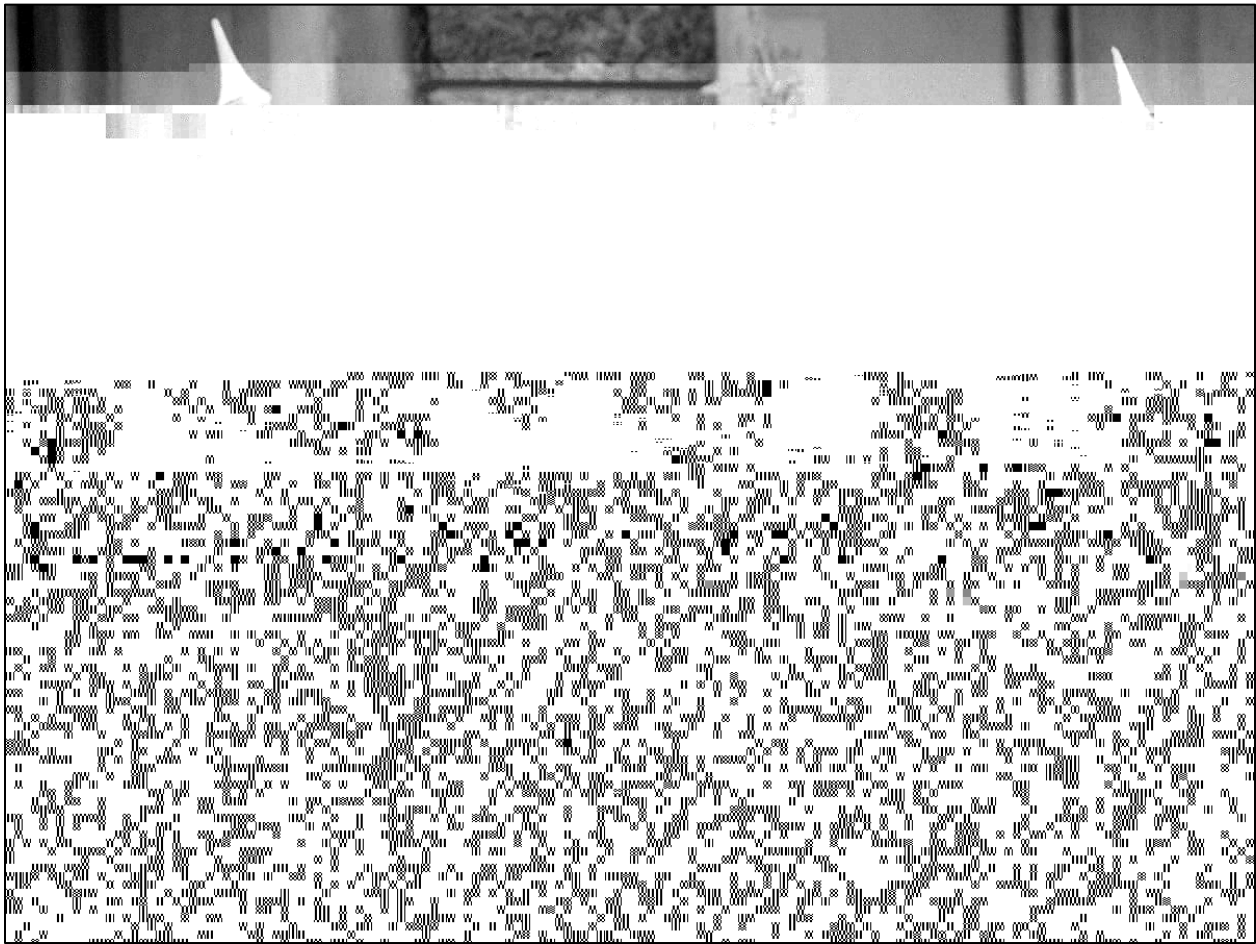
Dr. Alex D. Cole

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TR 12:00-1:15, Stubbs 116

Virtual Office Hours MWF 12:30-2:30 PM (CST),
or by Appointment

and apply the text to existing knowledge, reach an original conclusion, and convey that conclusion in writing (3-4 pages, 25%).

NB: Both of these assignments are to use direct quotes and properly cited materials in Chicago or APA styles and submitted via Moodle in Word format.   Please consult OWL Purdue for more information regarding proper citational styles and practices.   **will not know when you are trying to mess with the margins to make a minimum paper count** **I am very serious about this issue** **ahead of time**

Breakdown of grades:

-Weekly quizzes (15%)
-Multiple Choice tests (17.5% each = 35%)
-Midterm (25%)
-Final (25%)

Extra Credit: On certain Saturdays during the semester, I will screen one of the following films over Zoom. If one attends these screenings, or watches the film themselves, and then *writes a short description of the film as it relates to the ideas in the course*, one will be granted five bonus points on a multiple-choice test, a midterm, or the final. NB: These cannot "stack."

Hiroshima, Mon Amour
The Lost Honor of Katherina Blum
Shin Gojira

Readings

Note: Readings subject to change.

Required Textbooks

　　-Dickovich & Eastwood, "Comparative Politics, Classic and Contemporary Readings." Oxford University Press.
　　-Munck &ucck3 (s)-1h &s.002 Tc -0.002 Tw 10.37 0 Td[(C)5 (o)3 (m)47lPCo6 (ar) (s)2 (3 (r)ead)7 e

-Munck, "The Past and Present of Comparative Politics" from Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics
-Acemoglu & Robinson "Why Nations Fail"

The State

-Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I*
-Rousseau, *Second Discourse on Inequality**
-Bates, "Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development"

Nationalism

-Nietzsche, "Nations and Fatherlands" from Beyond Good and Evil*
-Excerpt from Anderson, Imagined Communities
-Laitin, "Nations, States, and Violence."

Democracy & Dictatorship

-Aristotle, *Politics*, Books III & IV*
-Barrington Moore, Jr., "Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World"
-Lijphart, "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies"
-Levitsky & Way, "The Rise of Competitive AuthoritarianisTd(7 BDbTdC ET1i Tw 23.01 0 Td( )TjEN

<u>Transition & Revolution</u>

-Aristotle, *Politics*, Books V & VI*
-Scopol, "States and Social Revolution: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China."
-Kuran, "The Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989."

<u>Coda</u>

-Fisher, Leaving the Vampire's Castle*
-Luxemburg, *Social Reform or Revolution?**

*Available on Moodle.

<u>NB:</u> Both of these books are available at the LSU Bookstore at Barnes and Noble, but can also be found on Amazon, Powell Books, Book Depository, eBay, and the press websites themselves. I apologize for the cost of these books, but I find they contain the most accessible and high-level scholarship available in one single place. I have aimed to provide a good balance of free and "paid" sources. If you have difficulty procuring any of these materials, please let me know so we can work something out.

Rules and Stipulations

This course meets twice weekly from 12:00-1:15. Although, I do not take formal attendance, **your physical presence is highly recommended to succeed in this course**. This course is also **very text-heavy and discussion-heavy**. Please make an effort to prepare the readings ahead of time with questions in mind. Failure to participate in class will make it much more difficult and awkward to maintain a collaborative learning environment, so do make the effort. Furthermore, this course does not reward everyone's "opinion" equally. It rewards having an opinion *informed by the readings and student research*. I will say "no" occasionally in response to student answers when they miss the mark. This is not meant to discourage students, but to bring the discussion closer to the truth, or what the truth may most likely be.

This course will occur in the first semester after campus has officially reopened and will held entirely in-person. However, in the case a new wave of infections occurs, I am

something similar to "normality," so I am willing to be fairly lenient about deadlines especially if **you let me know ahead of time that you are having difficulties**. I am available by office hours and by email if you need to speak with me privately. Still, I implore you to use discretion when contacting me. Do not overshare; only tell me what is absolutely necessary. This precaution is undertaken in order to protect the sanctity of the classroom and the teacher-student dichotomy. Again, use common sense and refrain from disclosing anything you don't want others to know.

Comparative Politics is a fascinating and important subject that I have engaged in seriously for the past few years of my life. But it can also be very disturbing. Certain readings and films assigned have very evocative images involving genocide, violence, sexuality, nudity, and strong language. If any of you take offense to or are disturbed by this content, please contact me and we can discuss these issues in a private, safe, and calm manner.

ADA Compliance

The University is committed to making reasonable efforts to assist individuals with disabilities in their efforts to avail themselves of services and programs offered by the University. To this end, Louisiana State University will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented qualifying disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, you must present a letter to me from Disability Services in 115 Johnston Hall, indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

LSU Integrative Curriculum Statement

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to   LSU   and   andTw [L91 0 T Ta(a81(o)8210(3) TH0
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