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## Office of the 2020 Stibbs

Halls  
Email: jnicke8@lsu.edu  
Office Hours: M 10:00a-11:00a  
or by appointment

Spring 2019  
Section 002  
239 Lockett Hall  
MWF 11:30a-12:20pm

### **Course Overview**

#### *Course Description*

This course provides a university-level introduction to comparative politics by addressing broad themes related to domestic politics and types of governments in countries around the world, including modern state formation, variation in regime type, and electoral systems and their effects, as well as other core topics & concerns of the sub-field. Particular attention will be given toward theories relating to political violence and lesser developed countries. While comparative politics covers a wide-ranging area of research, this course is designed to provide the student with a firm grasp and understanding of the fundamental issues, while also highlighting some of the emerging areas of current research and modes of thinking. Course instruction involves discussion of broad themes and topics, while also highlighting detailed information pertaining to case studies of individual countries.

#### *LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences*

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

### **Required Reading**

1) The textbook listed below is required for this course. It can be found at university and area bookstores. The textbook is also available online for purchase at various online bookstores and websites.

Newton, Kenneth and Jan W. van Deth (2016). Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Cambridge University Press

2) Several topics and class meetings for this course will require additional or alternate readings not found in the textbook. These materials are listed by date on the Topics and Readings Schedule

3) Students will also be required to keep up-to-

## *Exams (2)*

Content for exams are taken from in-class lectures and assigned readings (textbook chapters & other readings). The format for exams will be multiple choice. The exams are non-cumulative (see more below).

### **-Midterm Exam-**

This exam will test for content covered from the beginning of the course to the date of the Midterm Exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice. The Midterm Exam will be administered in-class on **February 25, 2019**. You will need a small scantron for this exam.

### **-Final Exam-**

This exam will test for content covered after the Midterm Exam. While this exam is not cumulative, you will still need a fundamental grasp of the concepts and ideas discussed in the first half of the semester to be effective on this exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice.

## **Grading Policies**

### *Absences, Missed Exams and Make-ups*

Allowance for the excusing of missed class and make-ups of missed exams & quizzes will be in

### *Diversity*

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority.

### *Special Accommodations*

LSU is committed to providing adequate accommodations to all students with documented and approved disabilities. As per University policy, special accommodations approved by LSU Disability Services will be incorporated into individual student learning, and will remain confidential. Eligible students should contact Disability Services (115 Johnson Hall, 225-578-5919), so that official approval can be processed. Eligible students should notify the instructor as soon as possible and provide official documentation.

### *General Statement on Academic Integrity*

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at [www.lsu.edu/saa](http://www.lsu.edu/saa). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Note that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) viewing other students' answers during quizzes/exams, accessing & viewing testing materials from previous courses, sharing notes through group email chains, note swapping websites, et cetera. I have no problem with you obtaining notes from an individual classmate on an occasional basis when you miss class. But this must not be on a regularly recurring basis and may not be done through any type of collective group effort.

### *Plagiarism*

Students will refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of others and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. For this course, it is recommended that you use the APSA citation style. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting, and how to properly cite each

instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

*Communication and Conduct*

All communication with the instructor and all written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use “texting” language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class.

Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and in a professional, courteous manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others with respect and courtesy. Talking while the.



**Lecture 14 Less Industrialized States & Failed States**

Required Reading: Wood 2008

Rotberg 2013

**Lecture 15**