

**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
POLITICAL SCIENCE 221
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
SPRING 2012**

SYLLABUS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:45-10:50 A.M
Main Classroom Building (MC) 0441

INSTRUCTOR:

Professor Glen Duerr
gduerr@csuohio.edu
Rhodes Tower 1750

Office Hours: MF 8:00-9:30 A.M
(or by appointment)

OVERVIEW AND GOALS:

This course is intended to provide a broad overview of comparative politics in order to introduce undergraduate students to the subject matter. It is designed to be fast paced and to cover different types of countries as well as various concepts in the field. This course will involve significant amounts of personal reading and writing time, and it is my desire to help you improve in these areas. If you engage in the process, you will do well. If you do not, your grades will suffer.

Essentially, the course will be split into three parts. After an introduction and an examination of what comparative politics is, we will investigate various concepts in the field. These include: political culture and political socialization, interest articulation, interest aggregation and political parties, government and policymaking, and public policy, as well as some information on pertinent issues like gas prices, US debt, and the Arab Spring. This will allow us to compare different concepts for the second and third parts of this course. In the second part of the course, we will split into two groups for a mock international summit, the G-20 Summit. You will have to present the views of your assigned country at a summit with your peers. In the third part of the course, we will examine various countries. These include: the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Japan, China, India, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, South Africa, and Iran. I have tried to present a range of countries so that you have a diverse understanding of how they work and how they compare to what you already know about government in the United States.

READINGS AND THE TEXT BOOK:

You will have to read approximately 50-100 pages each week for this class. The vast majority of this will be from the main textbook although some additional reading handouts will be provided in class. The textbooks are available at the CSU bookstore.

Patrick O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski. 2010. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (3rd edition), New York: W.W. Norton Company

Patrick O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2010. *Cases in Comparative Politics* (3rd edition), New York: W.W. Norton Company

EVALUATION:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| FOUR Current Events: | 20% (5% each) |
| Map Test: | 15% |
| Mock G-20 Summit: | 15% |
| Midterm Exam: | 25% |
| Final Exam: | 25% |
| Total: | 100% |
| Extra Credit Assignment | 2% |

As you can see, there are five major categories in which you will be graded. Attendance is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged. My philosophy on attendance is that it is important to attend every class because the content of the exams come from the text, various additional readings and from lecture material. However, attendance is completely up to you.

The due date of each assignment is clearly labeled in the syllabus. If you have any questions regarding the assignments, please contact me sooner rather than later. If you have a learning disability, please contact me and I will be happy to accommodate you. (Again, sooner is better than later.)

Throughout the course we will be discussing international current events. In tandem with this discussion, you will pick FOUR current events (of your choosing) and write a two page summary of the article and explain the importance of that event to world politics. These assignments can be submitted at any time prior to the final exam. (Obviously, it is better to submit these assignments earlier in the semester rather than later.) Current Events papers should be double-spaced with 1" margins and page numbers. Plagiarism is not allowed in any form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Another assignment in this class is the Map Test. As students of Comparative Politics, it is important to know the world. You will have two opportunities to take this test. (Only the BEST score is kept.) I will ask you to label 45 (of my choosing) of the 195 countries in the world. To help you study for this test, I will put some maps on Springboard. Focus on the larger countries (in terms of size and population). And, the first version of the test will be different from the second.

The next assignment is the Mock G-20 Summit. Essentially, you will be participating in a mock international summit in which you and your colleagues will meet and discuss some of the same problems that our leaders and diplomats are addressing. More information will be forthcoming. The assignment is worth 15% of your final grade and will be held on March 7th and 9th.

Finally, the midterm and final exams are designed to test your knowledge of the course. They are each worth 25% of your final grade respectively, so please study accordingly. The exams will cover the readings and lectures, so it is integral to read and attend class.

In addition to all of these assignments/exams, you will have the opportunity to complete an extra credit assignment worth an additional 2% of your grade. This assignment will be handed out at a later date.

Finally, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus.

With all that being said, good luck! I really enjoy this subject matter and I hope that you too will find it interesting.

| Grade | % |
|--------------|----------|
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92.99 |
| B+ | 87-89.99 |
| B | 83-86.99 |
| B- | 80-82.99 |
| C+ | 77-79.99 |
| C | 70-76.99 |
| D | 60-69.99 |
| F | <60 |

DISABILITY SERVICES

University Policy stipulates that students with disabilities be given reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access. Therefore, if you have a documented disability, please contact me at the beginning of the semester and the necessary arrangements will be made.

G-20 Summit

EVENT DATES: March 7 and 9

VALUE: 15%

For the upcoming G-20 Summit, you will each have to present for 2 minutes total. You will be assigned either issue #1, or issue #2. Group #1 will present on March 7, and Group #2 will present on March 9. The order of speakers will be decided at random.

Basically, I want you to give me a summary of who is to blame and what should be done to fix your assigned crisis. I have attached a copy of each question for your reference of the overall project. Remember to stay focused on the questions of what should be done to fix each crisis.

ISSUE #1) The current global economic crisis (2008-2012)—inclusive of the US subprime mortgage crisis, the Eurozone crisis, and the undervalued Chinese yuan—has caused numerous problems around the world. Who/what, if anyone, is to blame? What can be done to avert the crisis? How was your country affected? How can you keep your country insulated next time? Your goal is also to promote some regulatory measures that will be debated at the summit.

ISSUE #2) The Republic of Zonk, a former colony of three different European powers in the Indian Ocean, is a small country with an authoritarian, but secular government. The Republic of Zonk is now engaged in a fully-fledged civil war between the government and the rebels in the south over the issues of ethnicity and access to power. The country is resource rich (oil, natural gas and diamonds). Claims of genocide are being made by both sides and numerous refugees are pouring across the border into neighboring Duerrville. What can be done to stop the crisis? Should someone intervene? The major oil and natural gas companies throughout the world are lobbying the government for some involvement because they may suffer from this crisis. How do you approach this problem? The former colonial powers have significant influence in the country. Can the G-20 come together for an international treaty on peace in the Republic of Zonk? An international peace treaty may, however, result in decreased business productivity. PLEASE NOTE: The Republic of Zonk is a fictional country.

YOU WILL BE GRADED ON:

- content and substance (what did you say, did you stick to the point)
- delivery (how did you present your material, did you read your notes)
- participation in the summit (how did you participate, did you object, did you dress appropriately)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Part I: CONCEPTS

Week 1:

Introduction to Comparative Politics

- Introduction (January 18)
- What is Comparative Politics? (January 20)
 - Read: *Essential Readings*, Chapter 1

Week 2:

The State

- The State—Part I (January 23)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, Chapter 2
- The State—Part II (January 25)
 - Continue reading *Essential Readings*, Chapter 2
- Gas prices—Topical lecture #1 (January 27)
 - No reading

Week 3:

Nations and Society

- Nationalism (January 30)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, pp.68-76
 - *****MAP TEST ATTEMPT #1*****
- Ethnicity, Insurgency, and War (February 1)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, pp. 77-83
- The Clash of Civilizations (February 3)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, pp. 84-95

Week 4:

Democracy and Authoritarianism—Part I

- Democratic Regimes (February 6)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, Chapter 5
- Nondemocratic Regimes (February 8)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, Chapter 6
- US debt—Topical lecture #2 (February 10)
 - No reading

Week 5:

Democracy and Authoritarianism—Part II

- Economic Development and Democracy (February 13)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, pp.268-281
- Rethinking Recent Democratization (February 15)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, pp.336-345
- The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers (February 17)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, pp.376-382
 - *****MAP TEST ATTEMPT #2*****

Week 6:

Political violence and globalization

- NO CLASS—President's Day Observance (February 20)
- Political Violence (February 22)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, Chapter 10
- Globalization (February 24)
 - Read *Essential Readings*, Chapter 11

Week 7:

Exam and Review

- REVIEW SESSION (February 27)
- IN-CLASS MIDTERM (February 29)
- About the G-20 Summit (March 2)

PART II: G-20 SUMMIT

Week 8:

- Format of the G-20 (March 5)
- Group One—G-20 Summit (March 7)
- Group Two—G-20 Summit (March 9)

SPRING BREAK—March 11-18*****

PART III: COUNTRIES

Week 9:

Examining the Parliamentary System

- United Kingdom (March 19)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 2
- Canada (March 21)
 - No reading
- Quebec and Scotland (March 23)
 - No reading

Week 10:

Western Europe

- France (March 26)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 4
- Germany (March 28)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 6
- Belgium (March 30)
 - No reading

Week 11:

Authoritarian powers

- China (April 2)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 8
- Russia (April 4)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 7
- China and Russia-New Alliance? (April 6)
 - No reading

Week 12:

Asian democracies

- Japan (April 9)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 11
- India (April 11)
 - Read *Cases*,
- A shared Indo-Japanese task: Balancing the rise of China (April 13)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 13

Week 13:

Latin America: Emerging democracies

- Mexico (April 16)
 - Read *Cases*, 11
- Brazil (April 18)
 - Read *Cases*, 12
- NAFTA and MERCOSUR (April 20)
 - No reading

Week 14:

African politics

- South Africa (April 23)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 13
- Nigeria (April 25)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 14
- Colonialism and issues in African politics (April 27)
 - No reading

Week 15:

The Middle East

- Iran (April 30)
 - Read *Cases*, Chapter 10
- The Arab Spring—Topical lecture #3 (May 2)
 - No reading
- EXAM REVIEW(May 4)

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 9 at 8:30 A.M. in our normal classroom