

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE 220: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Office Hours: MTWF 10-11am

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the comparative study of political systems in different countries and regions of the world. We will begin with an introduction to the fundamental concepts and theories that are used in the field of comparative politics, and then apply them to a number of specific countries that represent different parts of the globe. In doing so, we will see how the logic of comparison will help us begin to tackle the following questions: What are the major similarities and differences in political processes and institutions between countries? Why do they differ? What does this variation mean for political and economic stability, social and economic welfare, and the prospects for democracy? Finally, how can we begin to explain patterns of continuity and change across political systems?

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The objective of this course is to teach you to think critically about the world's political systems. You will learn and demonstrate knowledge of various analytical tools, including key concepts, methods and theories in comparative politics. You will learn substantive information of political actors, institutions, cultures and events from around the world. Most importantly, you will be expected to apply the analytical skills you've learned in class to explain political phenomena or events in a given country.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* 12<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2009. *Cases in Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition NY: WW Norton.

All other required readings can be found on e-reserves.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSION: Students are expected to attend all lectures, and come prepared to discuss the readings or other materials. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions, comment on the day's topics, and otherwise participate in class discussion. Active engagement with the material is critical to your success in this class. Grades for class participation will be allocated as follows:

- F- You sleep in class, are disruptive, miss more than three classes and/or fail to meet the requirements stated under "Attendance and Participation" listed above.
- D- You come to class but are inattentive and/or miss more than three classes.
- C- You have consistent attendance, are consistently prepared and consistently attentive.
- B- You satisfy all of the requirements for a "C" *and* you consistently volunteer substantive questions and substantive comments that reflect time spent reading and thinking about the course.
- A- You satisfy all of the requirements for a "B" *and* you consistently share observations, introduce new insights or thoughts that raise the discussion to a superior level of inquiry.

CLASS PREPARATION AND COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Students are expected to have completed all the assigned readings and assignments **before** coming to class. In addition to the readings and other assignments, students are expected to monitor current events as related to the course or to the weekly topic(s). Two reliable sources you may access online are: The New York Times at <http://www.nytimes.com> or the BBC World Service at <http://www.bbc.co.uk>



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative formats upon request.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up exams will only be given with a UNM approved excuse, and at the discretion of the instructor. Any absences from exams must be documented. Make-up exams must be arranged with the instructor.

INCOMPLETES: Incomplete grades and withdrawals from the course will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

MISSING AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Students may turn in assignments late only if they have already spoken with and received approval from the instructor. Assignments turned in late will be docked by one letter grade. Missing assignments will be recorded as a zero.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY: *Students are expected to comply with all University policies regarding academic honesty and integrity. Please consult the UNM Student Code of Conduct 2.4 (outlined in the UNM Pathfinder) if you are unfamiliar with these policies. Ignorance of the University's policies is not sufficient defense for academic dishonesty. Cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated, and may result in the student(s) failure in the course or expulsion from the University and will automatically be reported to the UNM Dean of Students*

**GRADING SCALE AND BREAKDOWN:**

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Country Study	30%
Class Participation	10%

COUNTRY STUDY: Students will choose a country to study *throughout* the semester. Students will write a state report including: population size, ethnic composition, level of development, regime type, institutional design, electoral rules, party system (including number of parties, ruling party and main opposition parties), major policy trends within that state, as well as an *analysis* of how the institutional designs have impacted political outcomes in the country. This report should be 5-8 pages. While short, the paper should reflect a semester's worth of thoughtful consideration and research.

EXAMS: There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. The exams are designed to test your familiarity with the lecture material *and* reading assignments and your independent ability to apply what you have learned. The exams will be some combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, definition and essay or short answer questions. There will be map questions on the

midterm and final exam. You can explore <http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/> to help familiarize yourself with the states around the world.

**WEEK 1            INTRODUCTION  
                         OVERVIEW OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS & SYLLABUS**

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
WHY COMPARE?  
METHODS OF COMPARISON**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p. 1-20.

**WEEK 2            WHAT IS THE STATE AND WHY HAVE ONE?**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p47-98.

**WEEK 3            REGIME TYPE  
                         MEASURES OF REGIME TYPE**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p151-183.

Karl, Terry and Philippe C. Schmitt. 1991. "What Democracy Is...and Is Not" *Journal of Democracy* 2(3):75-86.

*Small Group Analysis: Karl and Schmitt*

Documentary: *Beyond Elections*

**WEEK 4            INSTITUTIONS I: PRESIDENTIALISM & PARLIAMENTARISM**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p323-371.

Hendrix Hertzberg, "Framed Up: What the Constitution Gets Wrong," (summary and review of Robert Dahl, *How Democratic is the American Constitution?*), *New Yorker* July 29, 2002.

*Small Group Analysis: Hertzberg*

**CASE STUDIES: THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES AND NIGERIA**

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2009. *Cases in Comparative Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* NY: WW Norton. p31-75, 75-115, 531-569

**WEEK 5            INSTITUTIONS II: FEDERALISM AND DECENTRALIZATION**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p213-235.

## **CASE STUDIES: GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES**

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2009. *Cases in Comparative Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* NY: WW Norton. p75-115, 157-200

### **WEEK 6 INSTITUTIONS III: ELECTORAL RULES**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p235-260.

## **CASE STUDIES: BRAZIL, FRANCE AND IRAN**

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2009. *Cases in Comparative Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* NY: WW Norton. p115-157, 450-490

*Small Group Analysis: Recommendations for Elections in Burma*

### **WEEK 7 INTEREST AGGREGATION: POLITICAL PARTIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p260-308.

## **CASE STUDY: MEXICO**

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2009. *Cases in Comparative Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* NY: WW Norton. p407-450

## **STUDY SESSION FOR MID TERM EXAM**

### **WEEK 8 MID TERM EXAM**

### **WEEKS 9-10 REPRESENTATION AND LEGITIMACY: POLITICAL CULTURE AND VOTING**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p183-213.

Blais, André. 2000. *To Vote or Not to Vote: the Merits and Limits of Rational Choice Theory* Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press. p1-137.

*Small Group Analysis: Blais*

### **WEEKS 11-12 COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMIES AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

Shively, W. Phillips. 2010. *Power and Choice: an Introduction to Political Science* Boston: McGraw Hill. p98-133.

## **COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNISM**

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2010. *Essentials of Comparative Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* NY: WW Norton. p197-230.

Documentary: *China in the Red*

**WEEK 13      CONTENTIOUS POLITICS: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

O'Neil, Patrick. H. 2010. *Essentials of Comparative Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* NY: WW Norton. p261-291.

*Small Group Analysis: What are human rights? How do we protect them?*

**\*\*\*FINAL COUNTRY STUDY DUE\*\*\***

**WEEK 14      CONTENTIOUS POLITICS: ETHNIC IDENTITIES, REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL MOBILIZATION**

Wilkinson, Steven. 2006. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India* NY: Cambridge University Press. pTBA

**WEEK 15      END OF THE SEMESTER WRAP-UP STUDY SESSION FOR FINAL EXAM**

**WEEK 16      FINAL EXAM**