

## SYLLABUS

### *Comparative Politics*

(POSC 270-010)

Fall Semester 2002  
Time: TR, 11:00-12:15  
Room: Kirkbride 205

TA: Richard Bosire

Professor Green  
Smith Hall 464  
Office Hours:  
Weds: 9:30-11:00  
Thurs: 12:30-2:00

This course is designed to introduce students to basic concepts and processes in the study of comparative politics. As an introductory course, our goal by the end of the semester must be to thoroughly understand the fundamental elements and institutions of politics and be able to apply this analytic vocabulary to a variety of countries and topics. The course is organized around three loose geo-topical varieties of political system: industrialized democracies, former communist countries, and developing countries. There are similarities but also great differences between these three categories of countries, but our focus will be on common politico-economic concepts that can be used in analyzing politics in all three areas, always referring back to the U.S. as a reference as well. The course will be truly comparative.

To help unify our discussion of such disparate political systems, two common themes will run throughout the course. One of these themes is the "Global Democratic Revolution" of the last few years and the spread of formal democratic institutions in developing countries and the former Soviet Bloc. To bring the new wave of democracy into our discussions, a central aim of the course will be to analyze different kinds of democratic systems and examine the variations in patterns of politics in nominally democratic settings. We will thus spend a good deal of time discussing differences in governments, bureaucracies, political parties, and in the societies in which they are found.

A second theme of the course will be the process of "globalization" and the impacts of the changing international system on the internal politics and economic development of the countries we examine. Countries around the world have become increasingly interdependent in their political and economic affairs in recent years, some going so far as to form politico-economic communities such as NAFTA and the European Union. The external environment also impinges on internal politics to such an extent now that countries tend to go through similar phases of policy and politics at the same time. We will trace and examine some of these patterns and discuss their root causes.

Throughout the course there will be a strong emphasis on in-class discussion of particular topics. To make discussions more fruitful and informed, **students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings for that day.**

#### **Country Team Project:**

This course also features a "problem-based learning" (PBL) exercise in the form of a semester-long "Country Team" project on issues and contending political forces in a specific country. This is a group-based learning exercise that involves dividing the class into groups of 5-6 students, for research outside the classroom, in-class

discussion, and joint production of a short paper and presentation addressing specific questions about the country a given team is researching. PBL exercises are excellent opportunities for creative and hands-on work, expanded student participation in learning, and a break from the lecture/discussion format more typical of class. Attendance and full participation in group efforts is essential. Groups will meet in class for 20 minutes, most Thursdays after October 24. Students unwilling or unable to work in groups and attend regularly should drop the course before add-drop ends.

### **The Financial Times:**

Another major element of this course will be discussion of current events, informed by reading the *Financial Times* newspaper on a daily basis. Every student is required to subscribe to the Financial Times for 15 weeks for \$29. I will be bringing subscription forms to class beginning in the second week of class and faxing them to the Financial Times; students will be billed directly by the Financial Times. We will use the FT to follow events around the world on a daily basis and as a resource for a Country Article Analysis paper and the final Country Team paper and presentation. The beginning of each class period will be devoted to a 10-15 minute discussion of current events from the FT. Topics discussed will appear on exams, so students should pay attention and, of course, participate.

### **Grading:**

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on two exams and two short PBL-related papers, plus participation and attendance. There will be a mid-term exam (October 24) and a final exam (Finals Week). The mid-term and final exams will be in-class and will consist primarily of essays and short paragraph-answers. Study guides will be handed out in advance for the mid-term and final.

Weighting of grades is as follows:

EU PBL paper (Oct 15):	8% ( 25 pts.)
mid-term (Oct 24):	33% (100 pts.)
Country Team paper/pres:	16% ( 50 pts.)
final exam (Finals Week)	33% (100 pts.)
participation	<u>8% ( 25 pts.)</u>
	300 pts.

Also remember to study the maps provided in your texts, with the goal of being able to locate any country in the world.

### **Textbooks:**

There are only two textbooks for this course (plus the Financial Times), available at the UDel bookstore and elsewhere. We will be reading most of both of them, so it is a good idea to buy both.

**Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges.** Fourth Edition. Charles Hauss. (Thomson/Wadsworth, 2002).

**Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 02/03.** (Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2002).

## Topics and Readings Calendar:

### Readings:

Hauss = Main textbook, by Charles Hauss, **Comparative Politics**.

AE = **Annual Editions** reader.

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### 1. Introduction and the U.S.A.

\*Sep 5: Introduction to the Course Material

\*Sep 10: The Study of Comparative Politics

Hauss - Ch.1 "Seeking New Lands, Seeing with New Eyes," 2-18.

AE - No.20

## *SECTION I: "INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES"*

### 2. Great Britain

\*Sep 12: The United States and Britain Compared

Hauss - Ch.2 "The United States," 19-34.

AE - Nos.14-15, 21

(Note: Begin signing up for the FT.)

\*Sep 17: Background to British Politics

Hauss - Ch.4 "Great Britain," 62-73, 82-87.

\*Sep 19: Current Issues in British Politics

Hauss - Ch.4 "Great Britain," 73-82, 87-93

AE - Nos.1-4

### 3. Germany

\*Sep 24: German Politics - Background

Hauss - Ch.6 "Germany," 131-164.

\*Sep 26: Current Issues in German Politics

AE - Nos.6-9

**NOTE: Today in class we will divide into groups for the Country Team PBL Exercise.**

#### **4. The European Union and Europe**

\*Oct 01: Introduction to the European Community and European Union

Haus - Ch.7 "The European Union," 165-188.

\*Oct 03: The Institutions of the EU

AE - Nos.25-26

\*Oct 08: The Euro (Deepening) and Expansion (Broadening)

AE - Nos.27-28

\*Oct 10: Identity and the Multicultural West

AE - Nos.5, 29, 52

### *SECTION II: COMMUNISM IN TRANSITION*

#### **5. Communism, Democratization and Russia**

\*Oct 15: Communism and Transitions Away from It

Haus - Ch.9 "Current and Former Communist Regimes," 230-252.

AE - No.31

**NOTE: Hand in Country Article Analysis Paper Today**

\*Oct 17: The Soviet Union and Russia

Haus - Ch.10 "Russia," 253-264.

\*Oct 22: Contemporary Russia

Haus - Ch.10 "Russia," 264-288.

AE - Nos.32-34

EXAM TIME

**\*\*\*Thursday, Oct 24: MID-TERM EXAM**

## **6. China**

\*Oct 29: Contemporary China

Haus - Ch.11 "China," 289-303.

\*Oct 31: Current Issues in China

Haus - Ch.11 "China," 303-322.

AE - Nos.41-43

**\*Nov 05: Election Day, No Classes**

## *SECTION III: "THE DEVELOPING WORLD"*

## **7. Introduction and Africa**

\*Nov 07: Introduction to Developing Countries, from First World to Fifth

Haus - Ch.12 "The Third World," 326-352.

AE - Nos.35, 37, 46

\*Nov 12: Africa and South African History

Haus - Ch.15 "South Africa," 426-446.

\*Nov 14: Contemporary South Africa

Haus - Ch.15 "South Africa," 446-461.

AE - No.39

## **8. Mexico**

\*Nov 19: Understanding Mexican Politics

Haus - Ch.16 "Mexico," 462-480.

\*Nov 21: Shock and Liberalizing Change, 1982-2002

Haus - Ch.16 "Mexico," 480-497.

AE - No.38

**\*Nov 26: Country Team Presentations, Group I**

**\*Nov 28: Happy Thanksgiving (No Classes)**

## **9. India**

\*Dec 03: Indian History and the Colonial Experience

Haus - Ch.13 "India," 353-366

\*Dec 05: India Today

Haus - Ch.13 "India," 366-387.

## *SECTION IV: CONCLUSIONS*

**\*Dec 10: Country Team Presentations, Group II**

**NOTE: All Country Team Papers due today**

FINAL EXAM: sometime during Exam Week