Introduction to Comparative Politics
(PSCI 2012)
Department of Political Science
University of Colorado at Boulder
Fall Semester 2012

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This course serves as an introduction to comparative politics, presenting the major topics and issues that confront political scientists in their research but more importantly the political challenges that face the world today. Toward that end, the class is designed to present the major themes and issues of comparative politics through the examination of four countries: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, and the Federal Republic of Brazil. Through the examination of these cases, the student will not only become familiar with the politics within each country, but will understand how the political theories and concepts of comparative politics work in the real world.

Requirements: Grades in the class will be based on two midterms (15% each), one 10-page paper (20%), recitation (25%) and a final (25%). Attendance is required for all classes and all recitation classes. In recitation, 15% will be from quizzes on The Economist, 10 percent will be the student's performance in section.

Grading policy: If there is any dispute concerning a grade, the student must address the issue face-to-face with his/her TA. If the issue cannot be settled between the TA and the student, I will be happy to re-grade the material. The student should bear in mind, however, that I reserve the right to assign a grade that is lower than the original score. There will be no assignments given to obtain extra credit in the class. For each third absence (in sections), five percentage points will be deducted from the final grade. Students with perfect attendance will have a third of a letter grade added to their final grade.

Required Materials:

Books available at the CU bookstore:


In addition to the required books, students are required to purchase a 13 week subscription to *The Economist*. Students can take advantage of the discounts available for the print edition as well. By purchasing the print subscription, access to the on-line edition is included. To subscribe, please go to the course D2L page where there is a link from Dr. Brown’s Twitter entries.

It is difficult to get through an entire edition of *The Economist*. Students are required to read the following sections in the weekly: The Americas, Asia, Middle East and Africa, and Europe. Reading the UK section when we cover the UK will also be required.

**Schedule**

**August 27th**

Introduction to Comparative Politics

*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

**August 29th**

What is Democracy?

Readings: Chapter 1 in *Comparative Politics*

**August 29th**

Introduction to Great Britain

**September 3rd (Holiday: Labor Day)**

**September 5th**

Introduction to Great Britain (continued)

Readings: Chapter 2 (sections 1 and 2) in *Comparative Politics*

**September 10th**

Rudiments of the Parliamentary System
Chapter 2 (sections 3, 4, and 5) in *Comparative Politics*

September 12th

Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism

September 17th

Thatcher & Blair

September 19th

Midterm Exam (Terms)

*Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

September 24th

Introduction to Pakistan

Readings: Through Chapters 1 & 2 in *Pakistan*

September 26th

Introduction to Pakistan (continued)

Readings: Chapter 3 in *Pakistan*

October 1st

Building a Nation

Readings: Chapter 4 in *Pakistan*

October 3rd

Religion and Politics

Readings: Chapter 6 (India) in *Comparative Politics*

October 8th

Religion and Politics
Readings: Chapter 5 in *Pakistan*

**October 10th**

Religion and Politics (continued)

Readings: Chapter 6 in *Pakistan*

**October 15th**

Democracy and Autocracy in Pakistan

Readings: Chapter 7 and Afterward in *Pakistan*

**October 17th**

Midterm Exam (Essay)

Russian Federation

**October 22nd**

Introduction to Russia

**October 24th**

Introduction to Russia (continued)

Readings: Chapters 1-4 in *Putin’s Labyrinth*

Chapter 11 (sections 1 and 2) in *Comparative Politics*

**October 29th**

Marxism and Communism

**October 31st**

Stalinism and The Soviet System

Readings: Chapters 5-7 in *Putin’s Labyrinth*
November 5th

Nationalism

Readings: Chapter 11 (sections 3, 4, and 5) in *Comparative Politics*

November 7th

Political Culture

Readings: Chapters 8-10 and Epilogue in *Putin's Labyrinth*

*Federal Republic of Brazil*

November 12th

Introduction to Brazil (Paper due)

Readings: Chapter 9 in *Comparative Politics*

November 14th

Introduction to Brazil

Readings: Chapters 1-3 in *The Accidental President of Brazil*

November 19th - 21st

Thanksgiving Break

November 26th

Dependency Theory

Readings: Chapters 4-5 in *The Accidental President of Brazil*
November 28th

Globalization and Development

Readings: Chapter 6-7 in *The Accidental President of Brazil*

December 3rd

Clientelism and Corruption

Readings: Chapters 8-9 in *The Accidental President of Brazil*

December 5th

Economic Reforms in Developing Countries

Readings: Chapters 10-12 and Epilogue in *The Accidental President of Brazil*

December 10th

Democracy and Development

December 12th

Conclusions and Review

Final Exam
Saturday, December 15th, 1:30pm to 4:00pm

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO POLICIES

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Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards
may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See polices at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

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