Introduction to Comparative Politics

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts and four major themes in Comparative Politics: (1) Political Authority and Governance Structures; (2) Political Culture and Identity Politics; (3) Forms of Participation and Opposition; and (4) Political Economy. Through the comparison of politics in different countries, we can evaluate and theorize about the historical development and future trajectories of individual or groups of countries. In this course, we will be focusing six countries to illustrate the comparative method: China, France, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and the United States. In addition, students will be required to research an additional country which will inform both their exams and term paper.

Course Requirements:

A. Examinations (Mid Term 25%, Final 35%)
There will be two exams for the class. The mid-term will be a take-home exam due at the beginning of class on March 14th. While students are encouraged to study together, once the essay questions are handed out, all work must be done independently. The final exam will also be an essay exam with additional short identification questions that cover the material in the second half of the class. The final exam will take place at the time scheduled by the university. For both exams, students are expected to write clear, coherent essays that incorporate lecture notes and the assigned readings. In addition, each student is expected to read a supplementary article/book on each of four themes (two for each exam) that they may draw on as a source when writing their exam essays. These additional readings should be about the country they intend to write on for their term paper to provide the necessary background to their topic.

B. Term Paper (30%)
Students will be required to write a short term paper (5-7pp). Students are to choose any country and identify a topic by February 15th when they must submit a paragraph outlining the topic and a short bibliography of preliminary sources, including the four supplemental readings on each of four major themes of the course. The term paper is due at the beginning of the last day of class, May 2nd.

Grading Policy Regarding Late Exams and Papers: All due dates are noted on the syllabus and are firm deadlines. For each day a paper is late, 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade (e.g., an A+ becomes an A when an assignment is a day late). No paper will be accepted that is more than one week late unless there is a documented family or health emergency, in which case an extension will be negotiated for a precise amount of time, after which the penalties for a late paper will apply. When possible, students must give prior notification that an emergency will prevent them from submitting the paper on time. Each assignment must be submitted prior to the due date of subsequent assignments or no credit will be given for the late assignment.
C. Participation (10%)
Students are required to regularly attend class as well as a discussion section. Students must sign up for a discussion section by the second week of classes and may not change sections without prior authorization by the instructor. There will be no written assignments for the discussion section. To receive full credit for participation, however, students must not only regularly attend the discussion section, but also have completed the reading assignments for that week and actively participate in the discussion.

Readings:
The following books are available at Labyrinth Bookstore. A reading packet will be made available to students for the remaining readings.

M. Kesselman et al. 2000. *Introduction to Comparative Politics.*

** All readings are also available on reserve at Barnard Library **

**Recommended:** Subscription to *The Christian Science Monitor*
Although various major American newspapers, including *The New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times,* cover international news, the Christian Science Monitor does a good job of on-going covering beyond punctual events. To diversify from American news sources, I would also recommend *The Economist, The Guardian, Le Monde* and the BBC, which has an excellent on-line service at [http://news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk).

**SYLLABUS**

**Introduction**

**Jan 22-24: Comparative Politics and The Comparative Method**
Kesselman et al, *Introducing Comparative Politics,* 1-25
Kesselman et al, *United States,* 287-319

**Recommended Reading:**

W. Greider. 1962. *Who Will Tell the People?*
S. Verba. *Comparative Politics: Where have we been, where are we going?* in Wiarda, 31-44.
I. The State, Political Authority and Structures of Governance

Jan. 29-31: The State and Political Legitimacy
Webber and Skocpol in Brown and Macridis, 146-157
Kesselman et al. Nigeria, 545-606
R. Joseph. "Class, State and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria" 44-63. reprinted in P. Lewis

Recommended Reading:
J. Migdal, Studying the State, in Lichbach and Zuckerman, 208-236.

Feb 5-7: Regime Types: Authoritarianism and Democracy
Aristotle, Waldron and Lewis in Brown and Macridis, 196-199, 216-221, 238-246
Kesselman et al. China and Iran, 485-544, 607-652

Recommended Reading

Feb. 12-14: Democratization and Consolidation
Huntington, Linz and Horowitz in Brown and Macridis, 222-228, 342-355.
Kesselman et al. Mexico, 545-606
J. Fox. The Difficult Transition from Clientelism to Citizenship, World Politics 46:2, 151-184.

Recommended Reading
E. Katzenberger (ed). *First World, Ha ha ha! The Zapista Challenge.*

**Feb. 19: Identifying Themes in Comparative Politics: A Place Called Chiapas (1998)**

**II. Political Culture and Identity Politics**

**Feb 21: Political Cultural**

Almond in Brown and Macridis, 66-86 [Xerox to be handed out in class]

**Recommended Reading:**
M.H. Ross, Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis, in Lichbach and Zuckerman, 42-80.

**Feb 26-28: The Varying Forms and Theories of Identity Politics**

Geertz, Eller and Coughlan, Barth, and Hecter in *Ethnicity Reader,* 40-50, 75-82, 90-97.

**Recommended Reading**

**Mar 5 : The Nation-State and Nationalism**

Kedourie, Gellner, Hobsbawm, Anderson and Anthias and Yuval-Davis in Hutchinson and Smith, 49-63, 76-83, 89-96, 312-316.

Kesselman et al. France, 75-134.


**Recommended Reading**


Special Issue on *Beyond the Melting Pot*. 2000. *International Migration Review*. 34:1


**Mar 7: Guest Lecture by Tony Marx, Nationalism in Comparative Perspective**

**MID-TERM DUE IN MARCH 12 AT 9:10 AM**

**III. Forms of Participation and Opposition**

**Mar 12: Political Interests and Representation**

Inglehart, Gladdish, in Brown and Macridis, 260-277. [Xerox to be handed out in class]


**Recommended Reading:**

Michels and Kirchheimer in Brown and Macridis, 244-260.


I. Young. 2000. *Inclusion and democracy.*

**Mar 14-26: Civil Society and Social Capital**
Diamond in Brown and Macridis, 206-216 [Xerox to be handed out in class]

**Recommended Reading**

**Mar 28 April 2: Social Movements and Revolution**
Skocpol in Brown and Macridis, 429-440. [Xerox to be handed out in class]
McAdam, Tarrow and Tilly, Toward an Integrated Perspective on Social Movements, in Lichbach and Zuckerman, 142-171.
**Recommended Reading:**


D. McAdam et al. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*.


T. Skocpol. *States and Social Revolution*.

S. Tarrow. 1998. *Power in Movement*


**April 4: Guest Lecture-E. Friedman on Women's Movements in Comparative Perspective**

**IV. Political Economy**

**Apr 9-11: Political and Economic Development**

D. Stoesz et al. 1999. *International Development*.


**Recommended Reading**


**Apr 16: Guest Lecture by Xiabo Lu, Corruption in Comparative Perspective**

**Apr 18: Globalization: Whither the State?**


Recommended Reading

Apr 23: Guest Lecture by Rob Smith, Transnationalism

Apr 25: Viewing of Movie: Las Cartas de Alou

Apr 30: The Withering the Welfare State?

Recommended Reading:
P. Hall, *The Role of Interests, Institutions, and Ideas in the Comparative Political Economy of Industrialized Nations,* in Lichbach and Zuckerman, 174-207.

May 2: Review of Course

TERM PAPERS DUE ON LAST DAY OF CLASS

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