

## INTS 200: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Fall 2010

MWF 2:00 – 2:50 PM, 110 Buckman

Professor Risley

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Office hours: Thursday 2 – 4:30 pm

Friday 3 – 4:15 pm

(or by appointment)

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This course provides an introduction to the study of domestic politics and governments around the world. We will discuss the core concepts and themes of comparative politics and pose a number of questions: What are the similarities and differences among non-democratic regimes? What conditions are necessary for the successful transition to democracy and the subsequent consolidation of democracy? How do democratizing countries deal with human rights violations committed during periods of dictatorship? How and why do political institutions vary across democracies, and what are the consequences of these differences? We will shed light on these and other questions by examining diverse country cases, including Chile, China, Iran, Russia, and South Africa, among others. You will also have the opportunity to do independent research on a country of particular interest to you.

Upon completion of this course, you should have a deeper understanding of politics, especially the ways in which political decisions and policies affect people's lives as well as how people mobilize to influence those decisions and policies. In addition, participation in this class should improve your ability to think critically, analytically, and comparatively about politics, to consider current events from a more historical and theoretical perspective, and to formulate arguments and support them with evidence.

### Requirements

You are responsible for material covered in class and in the readings. Please note that much of the material covered in class is *not* included in the readings (and vice versa).

Your final grade is based on the following components:

Two exams	35%	10/6, 12/1
Country monitoring reports	25%	Due 9/24, 11/19, 12/13
Two film analysis papers	20%	Due 9/14, 10/26, or 11/9
In-class exercises	10%	Dates vary
Participation	10%	

- *Exams*: These consist of short-answer questions, to be completed during class, and a take-home essay question, to be completed outside of class. Exam 2 will emphasize material covered since Exam 1. There is no comprehensive exam during finals week.

- *Country monitoring:* You will select a country that interests you and become an expert on current and recent political events there by consulting outside sources. You will turn in reports analyzing different aspects of your chosen country. More detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided in class.
- *Film analysis papers:* Three feature-length films are available on Moodle and on reserve at Barret Library's Media Center. You will select *two* of the three films and write short analytic papers relating their content to issues discussed in class. Specific instructions for each paper are available in my public folder (saved under the title of the film).
- *In-class exercises:* These unannounced exercises usually consist of brief questions on readings. They are designed to encourage active, engaged reading before each class. At the end of the semester, your lowest score is dropped. No make-ups will be scheduled for missed exercises.
- *Participation:* The format of this course is a combination of short lectures and discussions. You are expected to attend class regularly, complete the assigned readings for that session, and participate vigorously in discussions and activities. This grade is determined by 1) your attendance record (see policy below), and 2) your in-class contributions.

The grading scale for the course is as follows: A (100-93); A- (92-90); B+ (89-88); B (87-83); B- (82-80); C+ (79-78); C (77-73); C- (72-70); D+ (69-68); D (67-63); D- (62-60); F (59 and below).

### **Class policies**

- Honor Code: It is expected that the College's Honor Code will govern the work that you do in this course, as well as your conduct in class. Pertinent information is available at: <http://www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1478.asp>.
- Absences: Students with **five** or more *unexcused* absences automatically receive a failing participation grade. *Excused* absences entail providing documentation of a personal or family emergency (e.g., illness) or prior commitment (e.g., jury duty) and are subject to the instructor's approval. Personal travel is not a valid reason for missing class; make your plans accordingly.
- If you participate in student athletics or other extra-curricular activities, it is your responsibility to inform me of travel/conflicts as soon as you know your schedule for the semester. You should prepare and turn in assignments early whenever possible.
- Tardiness: Arriving late to class more than 1-2 times signals to me that this is a low-priority course for you. As a result, your participation grade will be lowered by one whole letter grade.
- Please refrain from using cel phones or other electronic gadgets during class. Laptops should be used strictly for note-taking.
- Assignments submitted via email will not be accepted unless explicitly noted otherwise by the professor. I mark late work down one-third of a letter grade per day (for instance, an A becomes an A-, then a B+, etc.) until I receive a hard copy.
- If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services at x3994 as soon as possible.

### **Tips for succeeding in this course**

- Attending class, keeping up with the readings, and critically engaging the course materials (both during and outside of class) are all crucial to your success. The more effort you devote to this course, the more valuable the experience will be!

- I encourage you to visit me during office hours to discuss issues raised in class, assignments, study skills, etc.
- Keep in mind that the quality of your written work may be improved by visiting the Writing Center, where tutors assist students during multiple phases of the writing process.

## Readings

One *required*, custom-designed text is available at the Rhodes Bookstore:

Haus. 2010. *Introduction to Comparative Politics*. Cengage Learning. This book is referred to below as the Haus text.

Additional required readings, marked with an asterisk (\*) below, are on reserve in Barret Library and available in my public folder, where they are saved under the author's last name (unless noted otherwise).

I also urge you to read the *New York Times*, *Economist*, and/or other sources of international news on a regular basis so that we can incorporate current events into our class discussions.

Readings must be completed before the class meetings under which they are listed.

## Course schedule

W, 8/25: Greetings & introduction to the course

F, 8/27: Introduction to the field of comparative politics

*What sorts of topics do comparativists research? How (and why) do they compare political systems?*

- \*O'Neil. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (2010), Ch. 1.

M, 8/30: Important concepts in comparative politics

- \*Rotberg. "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure." *The Washington Quarterly* (2002).

## Part One: Political Regimes and Regime Change

*During this section of the course, we compare different types of regimes and discuss their evolution over time. Emphasis is placed on non-democratic regimes.*

W, 9/1: Defining democracy and other regime types

- \*Schmitter and Karl. "What Democracy Is... and Is Not" *Journal of Democracy* (1991).
- \*Almond. "Capitalism and Democracy." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (1991).

**Reminder:** Don't forget to watch the film *The Lives of Others* (the paper assignment is in my public folder). The paper is due in my office on Tuesday, 9/14 by 4 PM.

F, 9/3: When did the United States become a “democracy”?

- Leaflet circulated by the KKK. Available online at: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/price&bowers/Klan.html>
- Martin Luther King, Jr., “I Have a Dream.” Available online at: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm>

**M, 9/6: \*No Class\* (Labor Day)**

W, 9/8: Introduction to communism

- Chapter on current and former communist regimes in Hauss text, p. 3-24.
- Chapter on Russia in Hauss text, p. 27-42 (feel free to skim the rest of the chapter).

F, 9/10: Communism

Case: *Soviet Union*

- \*Brooks. *Thank You, Comrade Stalin!* (2000), p. 54-82; 126-149.

M, 9/13: Back in the USSR

- \*Applebaum. *Gulag* (2000), p. 92-109; 217-241.

W, 9/15: Communism, Take Two

Case: *China*

- Chapter on China in Hauss text, p. 67-100.
- *Recommended:* \*Hartmann. “China: ‘Gold Babies’ and Disappearing Girls.” In *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs* (1995).

F, 9/17: China continued

- \*Pye. “Traumatized Political Cultures...” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* (2000).

M, 9/20: Economic reform without political reform?

- \*Chen. “The New Inequality.” *Journal of Democracy* (2003).

W, 9/22: Comparative perspectives on mass killings

- \*Valentino. *Final Solutions* (2004), Ch. 5 (focus on cases of Germany and Rwanda).

F, 9/24: Discussion of country monitoring reports

**\*Country reports (first installment) due at beginning of class\***

- No reading assignment.

M, 9/27: Authoritarianism

Case: Chile

- \*Weiss Fagen. "Repression and State Security." In *Fear at the Edge: State Terror and Resistance in Latin America*, ed. Corradi, Weiss Fagen and Garretón (1992), p. 39-68.

W, 9/29: Authoritarianism continued

- \*Constable and Valenzuela. *Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet* (1991), Chs. 4 & 6 (p. 90-107, 140-165).

F, 10/1: Organizing under military rule

- \*Baldez. *Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile* (2002), Ch. 6.
- *Recommended:* \*News articles saved in public folder under "Pinochet."

M, 10/4: Wrap up non-democracies

Review for Exam 1

- \*News articles saved in public folder as "NYTimes 1" & "NYTimes 2."

**\*W, 10/6: Exam 1\***

Take-home essay is due in my office on Fri., 10/8 at 2 PM (Class will not meet).

## **Part Two: Democracy and Democratization**

*In Part Two, we discuss the "Third Wave" of democratization that has occurred in various regions of the world. After analyzing the processes of democratic transition and consolidation, we explore the inner workings of democracies, noting the sheer diversity of their institutions and examining the consequences of this variation.*

M, 10/11: Regime change from 'above' and 'below'

- No reading assignment. We'll watch part of the documentary *A Force More Powerful* in class.

**Reminder:** Don't forget to watch the film *Machuca* (the paper assignment is in my public folder). The paper is due in my office on Tuesday, 10/26 by 4 PM.

W, 10/13: Phases of democratization

- \*Linz and Stepan. "Toward Consolidated Democracies." *Journal of Democracy* (1996).

F, 10/15: Democratic transitions

- \*Munck and Leff. “Modes of Transition and Democratization....” *Comparative Politics* (1997).

**M, 10/18: \*No Class\* (Fall Recess)**

W, 10/20: Democratic transitions continued  
Case: *South Africa*

- Chapter on South Africa in Hauss text, p. 173-202.

F, 10/22: The transitional justice debate

- Essay on truth commissions available at:  
[http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/truth\\_commissions](http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/truth_commissions)
- \*See also the short handout saved as “policy options” in my public folder.
- \*Applebaum. *Gulag* (2000), p. 564-577 (Epilogue).

**Reminder:** Don’t forget to watch the film *Red Dust* (the paper assignment is in my public folder). The paper is due in my office on Tuesday, 11/9 by 4 PM.

M, 10/25: Transitional justice continued

- \*Stanley. “Evaluating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” *Journal of Modern African Studies* (2001).

W, 10/27: Democratization: Comparing Eastern Europe and South America

- \*Bunce. “Comparing East and West.” *Journal of Democracy* (1995).

F, 10/29: Challenges of democratic consolidation and deepening: Civil society

- \*Morje Howard. “The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society.” *Journal of Democracy* (2002).

M, 11/1: Further challenges of democratic consolidation and deepening: Rule of law  
Case: *Brazil*

- \*Dudley. “Deadly Force: Security and Insecurity in Rio.” *NACLA Report on the Americas* (1998).

W, 11/3: The relationship between economic development and democracy

- \*Inglehart and Welzel. "How Development Leads to Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* (2009).

F, 11/5: Economic development and democracy, Part Deux

Case: *India*

- Chapter on India in Hauss text, p. 103-139.

M, 11/8: The debate over democracy in the Muslim World: A Democratic "Deficit"?

- \*Inglehart and Norris. "The True Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Policy* (2003).

W, 11/10: Spotlight on Iran: What sort of regime is this?

- Chapter on Iran in Hauss text, p. 141-171.

F, 11/12: Comparative perspectives on politics in the Middle East

- \*Brownlee. "The Decline of Pluralism in Mubarak's Egypt." *Journal of Democracy* (2002).

M, 11/15: Democratic institutions: Parliamentary and presidential systems

Cases: *United Kingdom and United States*

- \*Mainwaring and Shugart. "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics* (1997).
- *Recommended:* \*Lijphart. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies." In *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, ed. Diamond and Plattner (1996).

W, 11/17: More fun with parliamentary and presidential systems

- \*Articles and briefings saved in public folder under "US."

F, 11/19: Discussion of country monitoring reports

**\*Country reports (second installment) due at beginning of class\***

- No reading assignment.

M, 11/22: Representation in democracies  
Case: *Namibia*

- \*Bauer. "The Hand That Stirs the Pot Can Also Run the Country: Electing Women to Parliament in Namibia." *Journal of Modern African Studies* (2004).

**W, 11/24 & F, 11/26: \* No Class (Happy Thanksgiving)\***

M, 11/29: Review for Exam 2

- \*Rueschmeyer. "Women's Participation in Postcommunist Politics." In *Central and East European Politics*, ed. Wolchik and Curry (2008).

**\*W, 12/1: Exam 2\***

Take-home essay is due in my office on Fri., 12/3 at 2 PM (Class will not meet).

M, 12/6: Ongoing challenges in the study of comparative politics: Regime change through military force  
Case: *Iraq*

- \*Papagianni. "State Building and Transitional Politics in Iraq: The Perils of a Top-down Transition." *International Studies Perspectives* (2007).

W, 12/8: **Last class meeting**

**\*Monday, 12/13: \*Country reports (optional third installment) due in my office by 4 PM.\***

*Note: The above schedule is subject to modification if the instructor deems it necessary.*