

POLS 2010: Comparative Government

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INTRODUCTION

This course will present you with an understanding of comparative politics, a sub-field of the social science discipline of political science. You will learn about the institutions, political attitudes, and processes of the governments of several countries, as well as how political scientists study politics comparatively. You will also learn the relevance of our research in comparative politics to general knowledge.

TEXTBOOK & READING

The following books are required for this course and are available at one of the local bookstores:

- Lowell Barrington, et al., *Comparative Politics: Structures and Choices*, Wadsworth, 2009.
- Fiona Yap, *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 09/10*, McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2009.

EVALUATION

Grades in this class will be calculated according to the following formula:

<i>Grade Component</i>	<i>Percentage of Grade</i>
Participation & Syllabus Quiz (Fri., Jan. 15)	20%
Weekly Quizzes	10%
Exam #1 (Fri., Feb. 12)	15%
Exam #2 (Fri., March 26)	20%
Research Paper (Due Wed., April 21)	20%
Final Exam (Wed., May 5, 11A-1.30P)	20%
TOTAL	105%

EXAMINATIONS & QUIZZES

All exams must be taken at the scheduled time unless you provide a medical excuse BEFOREHAND. Failure to do so will result in a "0" for that particular exam. Students coming late to class on the day of the exam will not be allowed to take the exam. This will result in a "0" for that particular exam.

I do not give make-up exams.

QUIZZES: On the first class meeting of most weeks there will be a short, 5-question quiz on the reading that is assigned from the main text (Barrington, et al.) for that week. At the end of the semester I will drop the lowest quiz grade when I calculate your quiz grade average.

The quiz will start when class begins. If you are late AND the quiz is in progress you will still be allowed to start, but, I will collect your quiz when the last person who started the quiz on time is finished.

We will take this quiz regardless of whether you are here or not. It's your business, your decision, whether to be in class for the quiz. If you miss a quiz you will be assigned a grade of "0" for that particular quiz.

There will be no make-up quizzes given, for any reason, ever.

Please don't ask.

PARTICIPATION

Preparation and participation are required in this course. Preparation includes, at minimum, a careful reading of course materials prior to class. Regular class attendance will also be helpful for your participation grade.

MINI WRITING WORKSHOPS: Because this course carries the university's "writing intensive" designation, most Fridays we will devote our class time to a workshop dealing with various writing issues. Preparation for, and participation in, these workshops will count toward your participation grade.

We will do this on Fridays regardless of whether you are here or not. It's your business, your decision, whether to be in class for this. If you are not in class on these days I will be forced to assign a grade of "0" for that day's activity – regardless of why you are not there. To say this in a different way, I *cannot* assign a participation grade if you are not in class.

Preparation for these days will often include an assignment dealing with the improvement of some aspect of your writing skills.

There will be no opportunity to make this work up, for any reason, ever.

Please don't ask.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

The following will help orient you to what we will be doing throughout the course. It includes readings for each week, as well as important dates.

- Chapters from Barrington, et al., *Comparative Politics*, are abbreviated as "Barrington, et al."
- Chapters from Yap, *Annual Editions*, are abbreviated as "A/E, Reading"

I. FOUNDATIONS

Week 1 (Jan. 11-15): "The Comparative Study of Politics"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 1

DUE: SYLLABUS QUIZ, FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, AT THE START OF CLASS

Week 2 (Jan. 20 & 22): "The Setting of Politics"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 2

Week 3 (Jan. 25-29): "Economic Class, Development, and Globalization"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 3

Read: A/E, Reading #1, "What Democracy is...and is Not"

Read: A/E, Reading #32, "Capitalism and Democracy"

Week 4 (Feb. 1-5): "Ideas as Structures"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 4

Read: A/E, Reading #39, "Anti-Americanisms"

Read: A/E, Reading #40, "The True Clash of Civilizations"

Read: A/E, Reading #41, "Cultural Explanations"

Week 5 (Feb. 8-12): "Identity Structure"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 5

TEST #1: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

II. INSTITUTIONS & PARTICIPATION

Week 6 (Feb. 15-19): "Political Systems and Their Rules"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 6

COUNTRY AND TOPIC SELECTION DUE, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, AT THE START OF CLASS

Week 7 (Feb. 22-26): "Political Parties and Electoral Systems"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 10

Read: A/E, Reading #10, "Political Parties: Empty Vessels?"

Read: A/E, Reading #18, "How Did We Get Here?"

Week 8 (March 1-5): "Political Participation, Clientelism, and Interest Groups"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 9

Read: A/E, Reading #9, "Interest Groups: Ex Uno, Plures"

Read: A/E, Reading #11, "Police clash with Monks in Myanmar"

IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCES DUE, MONDAY, MARCH 1, AT THE START OF CLASS

MARCH 8-12: SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (March 15-19): "Legislatures and Executives"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 7

Read: A/E, Reading #14, "The Historic Legacy of Tony Blair"

Read: A/E, Reading #24, "Let Women Rule"

Week 10 (March 22-26): "The Unelected Components of Government"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 8

Read: A/E, Reading #28, "Turkish Court Calls Ruling Party Constitutional"

Read: A/E, Reading #29, "The Making of a Neo-KGB State"

TEST #2: FRIDAY, MARCH 26

III. MACRO-ISSUES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Week 11 (March 29 & 31): "Leadership and Individual Political Choices"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 11

Week 12 (April 5-9): "Regime Transitions"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 12

Read: A/E, Reading #5, "Facing the Challenge of Semi-Authoritarian States"

Read: A/E, Reading #7, "Bin Laden, the Arab "Street," and the Middle East's Democracy Deficit"

Read: A/E, Reading #8, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?"

1ST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE MONDAY, APRIL 5, AT THE START OF CLASS

DISTRIBUTION OF 1ST DRAFTS FOR PEER EDIT ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, AT THE START OF CLASS: It is **STRONGLY ADVISED** that you attend class on this day. Your paper grade will suffer substantially if you do not.

Week 13 (April 12-16): "Regime Transitions"

Read: NONE (No Quiz on Monday)

PEER EDIT OF 1ST DRAFT DUE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, AT THE START OF CLASS

Week 14 (April 19-23): "Public Policy and Government Performance"

Read: Barrington, et al., Ch. 13

PAPER DUE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, AT THE START OF CLASS

Week 17 (April 26): TBA

Read: NONE

FINAL EXAM: WED., MAY 5, 11-1:30

POLICIES & MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS

Classroom Decorum. The classroom is a learning environment. I expect all students to observe some basic rules of courtesy. Failure to follow these rules will negatively impact your participation grade.

- Arrive to class on time and do not leave before class is dismissed;
- Turn off cell phones;
- Do not check e-mail or access the Internet during class;
- Do not carry on private conversations with others in the classroom while someone else is speaking.

Attendance. There is no attendance policy in this class. While I am aware of the fact that other professors require them, I ask you NOT to bring me any type of documentation that explains your absence if for some reason you are not in class. Why? You are an adult, and what you do with your time is none of my business.

AGAIN: I ask that you please, under no circumstance, bring or present me with any type of documentation that explains why you may have missed a class.

This said, there is a participation component to your grade in this class. So, to be clear, your presence and active participation in class will have a positive effect on your grade.

Academic Integrity. I will strictly enforce the university code of academic integrity in this course. According to the East Carolina University Honor Code, violations of academic integrity include the following:

- *Cheating.* Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- *Plagiarism.* Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as one's own original work.
- *Falsification.* Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.
- *Attempts.* Attempting any act that if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

For more information about university policies concerning academic integrity, please visit the web at <http://www.ecu.edu/studenthandbook/III.htm>. If you violate the Honor Code, I will report the matter to the Academic Integrity Board for disciplinary action. The penalties for violating the university code of academic integrity range from failure in the course to expulsion from the university.

Email Communication. I do not use my university email address. Please use "jodyb@jodyb.net" (listed on page 1 of the syllabus). I will not respond to email sent to my university email address.

Because of federal confidentiality laws, I cannot, do not, and will not respond to any email inquiries about grades.

Finally, with respect to email, please be aware that you will find me to be much more expansive and responsive to in-person consultations than I am with email consultations.

Special Needs. East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252.737.1016. East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252.737.1016.

RESEARCH PAPER

In this course you are asked to write an 18-20 page research paper comparing and contrasting one aspect of politics in two different countries. Select two (2) countries one (1) topic from the lists below.

Countries (Select any Two)

Great Britain
France
Germany
Italy
Spain
Sweden
Denmark
Canada
Australia
Japan
Israel
Brazil
Mexico
Costa Rica
Nigeria
India
Russia
Poland
Bulgaria
Hungary
Austria

Topics (Select One)

Political Culture & Ideology
Legislative Politics
Executive Politics
Citizen Participation
Electoral Systems & Political Parties,
Political Parties & Elections
The Judiciary
Interest Group Politics
Regional Politics
Identity Politics
Social Movements

If you would like to use a country or a topic that is not on the list, you must first see me with your idea. There are, for example, no non-democracies on this list, so if that is your preferred focus, again, please see me.

Some Important Guidelines

- This is a research paper, so, you will naturally be expected to cite all information, ideas, statistics, etc., that you use from other sources in your paper. In this regard you may use any citation style you wish, so long as you are consistent.
- You must source at least one non-Internet source (book, or academic journal article) for each country.
- You may NOT cite Wikipedia, or any other online encyclopedia source in your paper.
- You may not use class notes or either textbook as a source.

IMPORTANT: You may NOT use quotations of ANY kind: Neither direct nor "indirect." Your entire paper must be written in your own words.

Formatting Guidelines

- Your paper should be word processed only - with no pen, pencil, etc., marks whatever on the paper;
- Use 12 point font only;
- Number the pages;
- Double space the paper;
- Set one-inch margins all around.

Deadlines

<i>Country and Topic Selection.</i> Word-processed page identifying the countries and topic you have selected	Mon., 2/15
<i>Identification of Sources:</i> Word-processed page identifying the non-Internet sources (at least 1 for each country) you will use in preparing your paper	Mon., 3/1
<i>1st Draft of Paper Due</i>	Mon, 4/5
<i>Pass Out 1st Draft of Paper for Peer Edit</i>	Wed., 4/7
<i>Peer Edit of Draft Due</i>	Wed, 4/14

Due

Your final paper is due at the BEGINNING of the class period on Wednesday, April 21. The paper must be turned in directly to me – No electronic copies will be accepted.

A one-half letter grade late penalty will be assessed for each day an assignment is late, starting with the first day.

I reserve the right to request an electronic version of your paper at any time.