

## **POLITICS 230:**

### **Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Spring 2009

#### **Instructor:**

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office hours: Tuesdays 1:45-3:00 (sign up in advance at <https://wass.princeton.edu>).

#### **Preceptor:**

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#### **Readings:**

The journal articles and book chapters listed below are available through E-Reserve. The following books are available for purchase at the Campus Store, also on reserve in Firestone (one copy each):

Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger and William Joseph, eds., *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, **4<sup>th</sup> edition** (referred as “KKJ” below).

Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe*.

Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions*.

Myron Weiner, *The Child and the State in India*.

#### **Requirements** (components of final grade):

- 1). Precept participation (20%).
- 2). Essay assignment (25%). Write an essay comparing two countries that you have read about in this course. The essay should identify some outcome that differs in the two countries and explain this outcome in terms of some feature(s) of the political system. Maximum length: 5 double-spaced pages. Due at the end of Reading Period.
- 3). Mid-term (15%).

The mid-term will have a take-home and an in-class component. The take-home component will be an essay: the essay question will be distributed after the review session 3/10, and will be due in class on 3/12. The in-class exam will be during the regular lecture time on 3/12.

- 4). Two-hour in-class final exam (40%) during Exam Period: date, time and place tba.

week 1

2/3 Introduction

2/5 Parliamentary vs. presidential government

week 2

2/10 Electoral rules

2/12 Political parties

Readings for precept:

“Britain” and “Germany” in KKJ [80 pp.]

week 3

2/17 Interest groups and social movements

2/19 Federalism and bureaucracy

Readings for precept:

“France” in KKJ [50]

Arendt Lijphart, “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies” in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, 162-174.

week 4

2/24 European welfare states

2/26 American exceptionalism

Readings for precept:

Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe*, entire [220]

week 5

3/3 State socialism

3/5 Divergent paths out of state socialism

Readings for precept:

Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions*, entire [165]

week 6

3/10 Review (take-home essay handed out)

3/12 In-class mid-term

WEEK 7: SPRING BREAK

week 8

3/24 Building capitalism in the post-socialist world

3/26 Russia under Putin

Readings for precept:

“Russia” in KKJ [55]

Michael McFaul and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "The Myth of the Authoritarian Model," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2008, vol. 87, no. 1.

week 9

3/31 The developing world

4/2 India as a case of democratic governance in the developing world

Readings for precept:

“India” in KKJ [45]

week 10

4/7 Indian education in comparative perspective

4/10 NO LECTURE

Readings for precept:

Myron Weiner, *The Child and the State in India*, entire [207]

Atul Kohli, *Poverty and the State in India*, introduction and conclusion (pp. 1-14 and 223-236).

week 11

4/14 Brazil as a case of developmental statism

4/16 The politics of democratization in Latin America

Readings for precept:

“Brazil” in KKJ [45]

Kurt Weyland, “Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America,” *Latin American Politics and Society*, v. 46. No. 1 (2004), 135-157.

Matthew Cleary, “Explaining the Left's Resurgence,” *Journal of Democracy* 17, no. 4 (2006), 35-49.

### week 12

4/21 Nigeria as a case of the parasitic statism

4/23 Obstacles to development in sub-Saharan Africa

Readings for precept:

“Nigeria” in KKJ [60]

Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, “Why has Africa Grown Slowly?,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, v. 13, no. 3 (Summer 1999), 3-22.

Jeffrey Herbst, “War and the State in Africa,” *International Security*, v. 14, no. 4 (Spring 1990), 117-139

### week 13

4/28 The politics of taxation in Brazil and South Africa

4/30 Wrap-up lecture

Readings for precept:

Evan Lieberman, “National Political Community and the Politics of Income Taxation,” *Politics and Society*, v. 29, no. 4 (Dec 2001), 515-555.

Lieberman, *Race and Regionalism in the Politics of Taxation*, ch. 6.

### Study period

5/5 Review session