

POLITICS 230:

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2006

Instructor:

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office hours: Tuesdays 1-2:15, 3:30-4:15, Thursdays 1:30-2:15 (sign up in advance at www.princeton.edu/oh).

Preceptor:

Valeria Palanza (ypalanza@Princeton.edu)

Readings:

The journal articles 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* (referred as “KKJ” in this syllabus).

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*.

Nicholas van de Walle, *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis*.

Requirements (components of final grade):

- 1). Precept participation (20%).
- 2). Essay assignment (20%). 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 (20%).

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 3/14, and will be due in class on 3/16. The in-class exam will be during the regular lecture time on 3/16.

- 4). Two-hour in-class final exam (50%) during the exam period: time and place tba.

week 1

9/14 Introduction

ADVANCED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

week 2

9/19 Parliamentary government

9/21 Electoral rules

Read: "Britain" in KKJ [ca. 40 pp]

week 3

9/26 Parties and electoral politics

2/28 Bureaucracy and policy implementation

Read: "France" in KKJ [50]

week 4

10/3 Interest groups

10/5 Varieties of capitalism

Read: "Germany" in KKJ [50]

Jonas Pontusson, "Whither Social Europe? Which Social Europe?" (unpublished ms, posted on Blackboard)

week 5

10/10 European welfare states

10/12 Why is the American welfare state so small?

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

SOCIALIST AND POST-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

Week 6

10/17 The historical experience of state socialism

10/19 Divergent paths out of state socialism

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

week 7

10/24 Review for mid-term (take-home essay passed out).

10/26 In-class mid-term (essay due).

week 8

11/7 Building capitalism in the post-socialist world

11/9 The new Russian political system

Read: "Russia" in KKJ [55]

Marshall Goldman, "Putin and the Oligarchs," *Foreign Affairs*, v. 83, no. 6 (November-December 2004).

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

week 9

11/14 Brazil as a developmental state

11/16 The politics of democratization in Latin America

Read: "Brazil" in KKJ [45]

Wendy Hunter and Timothy Power, "Lula's Brazil at Midterm," *Journal of Democracy*, v. 16, no. 3 (July 2005), 127-139.

week 10

11/21 The Indian political system

Read: "India" in KKJ [45]

week 11

11/28 India in comparative perspective

11/30 Within-India comparisons

Read: Myron Weiner, *The Child and the State in India*, selections tba.
Patrick Heller, "Degrees of Democracy," *World Politics*, v. 52 (July 2000), 484-519.

week 12

12/5 Post-independence Nigeria

12/7 Corruption and economic management in Africa

Read: "Nigeria" in KKJ [60]
Nicholas van de Walle, *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis*, TBA.

Week 14

12/12 Aid and democratization

12/14 Summation

Read: van de Walle, TBA
Kurt Weyland, "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America," *Latin American Politics and Society*, v. 46. No. 1 (2004), 135-157.