

Political Science 130
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2009

Sangha Padhy
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Class: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:30-11:20

Office: Chambers 2009
Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:30
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-11:00

This course is an introduction to the comparative study of politics in political systems throughout the world. It involves learning key concepts of politics and taking this theoretical knowledge to study political phenomena in specific countries. We will learn the tools of comparative political analysis, including concepts such as political institutions, culture and socialization, theories of democratization and public policy. The questions addressed in this class include:

How can we compare politics in a variety of countries?

How can we determine the differences and similarities in the politics of different countries and what can we learn from comparing them?

How do political institutions influence political conflict, processes, outcomes and the quality of democracy?

What is Globalization and how does it influence public policy?

The framework adopted in this class builds on the concept of democratization and development to analyze politics and government in eight different countries, including western industrialized democracies such as Great Britain and France, post Soviet Russia, market socialist state of China, developing democracies such as Brazil and India, an Islamic state Iran and a post colonial state Nigeria.

The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with political systems in the world and to nurture her or his analytical capabilities based on empirical observation and rigorous thinking. Although we cannot hope to develop a thorough understanding of politics in these countries in one semester, by the end of the semester you should be able to analyze political events in a variety of settings.

Reading:

The required reading for this class is *Comparative Politics Today* by Almond, Powell et al. It is available in the college book store. Supplementary readings will be on Blackboard. Additionally, students are required to follow the New York Times or International Herald Tribune and the Economist on a regular basis. There may be occasional changes to the syllabus - always check for updates and pay attention to announcements in the class.

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance is a must for this class. I will be taking note of attendance in class and you will have only two unexcused absences in class. More than two unexcused absences will result in 3 points deduction (per absence) in the final grade.
Excused absence will be granted only for serious personal illness or injury, family emergency or authorized college activity: excused absences generally require documentation from college officials.
2. Class participation is important to the learning process. I expect you to consider the readings carefully and thoughtfully before we meet in class. I will expect you to participate in discussions and this will add towards your class participation points.
3. Deadlines are to be strictly observed.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Full accommodations are the legal right of students with all kinds of disabilities, whether learning disabilities or physical disabilities. I am happy to provide these accommodations. If you are a student with a learning disability documented by Davidson College, please identify yourself to me so I can learn from you as early as possible how to work best with your learning style. Students with other disabilities are also encouraged to self-identify if there is any way in which accommodations can be made so as to enhance your learning experience. All such discussions will be fully confidential unless you otherwise stipulate.

Assignments and Grading:

Each student's performance will be evaluated in the following respects.

Class Attendance and Participation - 10%

Review I - 20%

Review II-20%

Research paper - 20%

Final - 30%

There will be two in class reviews covering the materials, a research paper and a final exam at the end. Dates for the various assignments are mentioned in the schedule. If for some reason you are unable to take the review or submit your work on the assigned date, you must see me to reschedule your exam ASAP.

If you receive a C or lower in a review, you must come and see me before your next review. Others are also welcome to come in to discuss their work and research projects.

The research paper is to be well written, grammatically correct, and correctly footnoted.

It should also include a bibliography. All research proposals need prior approval before the assigned date. You will receive a detailed handout on how to write your research paper in the second week of class. Papers must be typed, double spaced, with proper margins and in 12 point font.

Papers are due on the relevant date and late papers will be marked down by a third of a letter grade for every day that the assignment is late.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense that will get you in trouble. The Honor Code is one of Davidson's most cherished institutions. Let's keep it that way!

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| Week 1 August 24th | Introduction to Comparative Politics |
| August 26th | The Comparative Approach in Social Sciences Read: Almond and Powell, pp. 1-28. |
| August 28th | Read: Almond and Powell, pp. 28-42. |
| Week 2 August 31st | The Comparative Method Lichbach, Mark and Alan Zuckerman. <u>Comparing Nations: Rationality, Culture and Structure</u> . New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. 1-16. |
| September 2nd | Political Culture Almond and Powell, Chapter 3. Pp. 43-58. Putnam, Robert. <u>Making Democracies Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy</u> , 1992, pp. 86-91, 109-115. |
| September 4th | Political Institutions and Development Samuel Huntington. <u>Political Order in Changing Societies</u> , New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968, pp. 8-24. Diamond, Larry. <u>Developing Democracy- Towards Consolidation</u> . Baltimore: John Hopkins University, 1999, pp. 93-99. Guideline for Research Paper is handed out. |
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| Week 3 September 7th | Civil Society Diamond, Larry. <u>Developing Democracy- Towards Consolidation</u> . Baltimore: John Hopkins University, 1999, pp. 218- 250 |
| September 9th | Library Session Class meets in the library. |
| September 11th | Interest Articulation: Interest Groups Almond and Powell, Chapter 4. |
| Week 4 September 14th | Interest Articulation: Political Parties Almond and Powell, Chapter 5. |
| September 16th | Electoral Systems Read Horowitz, Donald L. “Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u> , 14 October 2003, pp.115-127. Lijphart, Arend. “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies.” In Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner Eds. <u>Electoral Systems and Democracy</u> . Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press, 2006, pp. 73-85. Diamond, Larry. <u>Developing Democracy- Towards Consolidation</u> . Baltimore: John Hopkins University, 1999, pp. 99-111. |
| September 18th | Government and Policy Making Read Almond and Powell, chapter 6. Research Topic due in class. |
| Week 5 September 21st | Public Policy Read Almond and Powell, Chapter 7. |
| September 23rd | Liberal Democracies The British Political System: Historical Legacy and Governmental Structure Read Almond and Powell, pp. 152- 179. |
| September 25th | Film on British Parliament Order! Order! |
| Week 6 September | Political Participation and Public Policy in Britain |

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| 28 th | Read Almond and Powell, pp. 179-201. |
| September 30 th | E.U and Britain: Public Policy Challenges facing Britain Vivien Schimidt. "Adapting to Europe: IS it Harder for Britain?" <u>British Journal of Politics and International Relations</u> , 8, No.1, 2006 15-33. |
| October 2 nd | Review I |
| Week 7 October 5 th | Politics in France Read: Martin Schain in Almond and Powell, Chapter 9, pp. 202-238 |
| October 7 th | Policy Issues in France Martin Schain in Almond and Powell, Chapter 9, pp. 239-253. |
| October 9 th | A Socialist Market State: China Read Almond and Powell, Chapter 13, pp. 406-436. |
| Week 8 October 14 th | Documentary on Cultural Revolution. |
| October 16 th | Gilboy, George J. and Benjamin L. Read. "Political and Social Reform in China: Alive and Walking." <u>The Washington Quarterly</u> , pp. 143-164. Richard Kraus. "China in 2003: From Sars to Spaceships." <u>Asian Survey</u> , January/February 2004, pp. 147-157. |
| Week 9 October 19 th | Policy Issues in China Read Almond and Powell, pp. 436-450. |
| October 21 st | Russia: From Socialism to Democracy Read Thomas F Remington in Almond and Powell, Chapter 12, pp. 359-386. |
| October 23 rd | Constitutional Order and Post Soviet Politics Read Hassner, Pierre. "Russia's Transition to Autocracy". <u>Journal of Democracy</u> , Volume 19, No.2, April 2008. Almond and Powell, pp. 393-403. |
| Week 10 October 26 th | Politics of India Read Subrat Mitra in Almond and Powell chapter 17, pp. 608- 645 Ramachandra Guha: <u>India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy</u> , Harper Collins: New York, pp. 1-15. |
| October 28 th | Read Ramachandra Guha: <u>India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy</u> , Harper Collins: New York, pp. 519-568, 733-760. |

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| October 30th | <p>Parties and the Party System MV Rajeev Gowda and E. Sridharan. "Parties and the Party System, 1947-2006." In Sumit Ganguly et al. <u>The State of India's Democracy</u>. John Hopkins University Press, 2007, pp. 3-25. Bibliography due.</p> |
| Week 11 November 2nd | <p>Public Policy Debates in India Read Almond, pp. 647-656. Aseema Sinha. "Economic Growth and Political Accommodation" In Sumit Ganguly et al. <u>The State of India's Democracy</u>. John Hopkins University Press, 2007, pp.195-208.</p> |
| November 4th | <p>Democracy in the developing world Politics in Brazil Read Frances Hagopian in Almond and Powell, Chapter 15, pp. 506-545.</p> |
| November 6th | Review II |
| Week 12 November 9th | <p>Policy Issues in Brazil Read Frances Hagopian in Almond and Powell, Chapter 15, pp. 545-559.</p> |
| November 11th | <p>Democracy in the Islamic World Elie Kedourie <u>Democracy and Arab Culture</u>, Washington: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 1992, pp. 1-11. Amaney Jamal and Mark Tessler. "The Democracy Barometers: Attitudes in the Arab World." <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 19 January 2008, 97-110.</p> |
| November 12th | <p>Politics of Iran Read Almond and Powell, Chapter 16. Rough draft of Research Paper is due.</p> |
| Week 13 November 16th | <p>Politics of Nigeria Read Almond and Powell, Chapter 18.</p> |
| November 18th | <p>Constitutional Design: Presidential versus Parliamentary Government Debate in class. Read: Juan Linz. "The Perils of Presidentialism." <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 1. January 1990, pp. 51-70. Donald Horowitz, Juan Linz and S.M Lipset. Debate "Presidential versus Parliaments." <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 1 October 1990</p> |

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| November 20th | <p>Why the Rule of Law matters</p> <p>Donlad Horowitz “Constitutional Courts A Primer for Decision Makers.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u>, 17 October 2006, pp. 125-137.</p> <p>H Kwasi Prempeh “A New Jurisprudence for Africa.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u>, 10 July 1999, pp. 135-149.</p> <p>Guillermo O’ Donell. “The Quality of Democracy: Why the Rule of Law Matters.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 15 October 2004, pp. 32-46.</p> |
| Week14 November 23rd | <p>Natural Resource and Linkages with Democracy</p> <p>Sachs D., Jefferey and Andrew M. Warner, 2001. “The Curse of Natural Resources, <u>European Economic Review</u>, 45 (4-60, pp. 827-838</p> <p>Michael Ross, “Does oil Hinder Democracy?” <u>World Politics</u> 53 (3), 2001, pp. 325-361.</p> |
| WEEK 15 November 30th | <p>Ethnic Heterogenity and the Politics of Identity</p> <p>Timothy D Sisk and Andrew Reynolds. <u>Elections and Conflict Management in Africa</u>, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Institute of Peace, 1998, pp. 11-18, 28-34.</p> <p>Ian S. Spears, “Africa: The Limits of Power-Sharing,” <u>Journal of Democracy</u>, vol. 13, no. 3, 2002, pp. 123-136.</p> <p>Donald Horowitz. <u>Ethnic Groups in Conflict</u>, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1985. 563-576, 681-684.</p> <p>Final Research Paper due</p> |
| December 2nd | <p>Assessing Democratization</p> <p>Guillermo O’Donell, “Delegative Democracy.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 5(1994), pp. 55-69.</p> <p>Larry Diamond, “Elections without Democracy: Thinking about Hybrid Regimes.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 13 April 2002.</p> <p>Nicolas vann de walle, “Africa’s Range of Regimes.” <u>Journal of Democracy</u> 13 April 2002.</p> |
| December 4th | <p>Final Thoughts and Course Evaluations</p> |
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Final Exams

