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### PSC 120.01: Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

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PSc 120 (3cr)  
*Introduction to Comparative Govt & Politics*  
Spring 2002

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Office: LA 416 x5294  
M 2-4; W 12-12:30, 2-3:30;  
and by appointment

### **Course Description**

Introduction to the cross-national and comparative study of contemporary political systems. Focus on structural/behavioral similarities and differences, common and diverse aspirations/struggles, globalization and local responses, and domestic-foreign linkages. Reference to major illustrative countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should understand patterns of governance and political trends around the world, be able to explain similarities and differences among key political institutions and the role of political culture, be familiar with different theoretical and analytical approaches to the comparative study of political systems, and be capable of interpreting current events based on sound conceptual understanding and empirical grounding. This course also is intended to provide the basic grounding for advanced study of comparative politics at the upper-division level.

### **Required Texts**

Monte Palmer, *Comparative Politics: Political Economy, Political Culture, and Political Independence*. [P] Second edition. 2001

Christian Soe (ed.). *Comparative Politics 01/02*. [CP] Guilford: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2001.

Fac Pac [FP] available at UC Bookstore.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to complete readings on schedule, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussions and debates. Assessment will be based on the following:

*Class participation* – including group discussions/debate = **20%**

*First examination* = **20%**

*Second examination* = **20%**

*Final examination* = **40%**

## Course Outline and Reading Assignments

### Part I: *Overview*

- 28, 30 Jan      A. Comparing political systems  
                      \*P, pp. 3-12, 35-36  
                      \*Lustig and Koester, "What Do You Call Someone from the United States of America?" (1996) [FP]
- 1 Feb            B. Forms of government; legislative and executive structures; political actors  
                      \*P., pp. 13-27
- 4 Feb            C. Political economy; development and underdevelopment  
                      \*P, pp. 27-32, 44-45
- 6 Feb            D. Global/local tensions  
                      \*P, pp. 36-39  
                      \*CP, #53, 40  
                      \*Ibrahim Negm, "Distorting Islam" (2001) [FP]

### Part II: *Western Europe*

- 11, 13 Feb      A. Britain  
                      \*P, pp. 51-52, 57-89  
                      \*CP, pp. 9-18, #1,3,5
- 15 Feb           B. France  
                      \*P, pp. 93-94, 101-132  
                      \*CP #10,11,12,21  
                      \*S. Daley, "French See a Hero in War on McDomination" (1999) [FP]
- 20 Feb           C. Germany  
                      \*P, pp. 137-138, 144-174  
                      \*CP, #6,7,9
- 22 Feb           D. EU, Euro, and the New Europe  
                      \*P, pp. 39-44  
                      \*C. Whitney, "All Commissioners of EU Give Resignations" (1999) [FP]  
                      \*R. Cohen, "A European Identity" [FP]  
                      \*CP, #22,31,32,33,35
- 25, 27 Feb      E. Debates 1-3  
                      \*CP, #27,18,8

**Part III: Russia and East/Central Europe**

27 Feb, 1 Mar A. Russia  
 \*P, pp. 223-224, 231-264  
 \*CP, #36,37,38,39

4 March B. Ukraine and Tajikistan

6 March C. Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Part IV: The Middle East**

6 March A. The Palestinian Question  
 \*Pipes and Kelman, "Should Israel Take a Hard Line with the  
 Palestinians?" (2002) [FP]  
 \*\*"Peace Group Faults Barak" (2001) [FP]

8 March B. Debate 4

8 March C. Iran  
 \*\*"Iran's President Wins a New Mandate to Promote Reform" (2001) [FP]

**11 March First examination**

**Part V: Asia**

13 March A. Overview

15 March B. Indonesia (*Silk & Steel* video, VT09783, 56 min)

25, 27 March C. Laos & Thailand (*The Mekong in Laos & Thailand*, VT10842, 1996;  
*Behind the Smile*, VT09782)

29 March D. Debate 5

29 Mar, 3 Ap E. China  
 \*P, pp. 269-307  
 \*E. Eckholm, "In China's Boom, Rural Poor ..." (1999) [FP]  
 \*CP, #45,46,47  
*Democracy in China: A Billion Small Voices* video  
 \*R. Scalapino, "Will China Democratize?" [FP]

5 April F. All-class debate: *The size and educational level of its population preclude the possibility of democracy in the China mainland in the foreseeable future.*  
 \*\*"Web Sites Bloom in China, and Are Weeded" (1999) [FP]

5 April G. Hong Kong  
 \*P. Koehn, "One Government, Multiple Systems: Hong Kong Public Administration in Transition" (2001) [FP]

8 April E. Japan  
 \*P, pp. 179-180, 186-217

10-12 April F. India  
*Of Snakes & Software: India at Crossroads of Change* video (60 min)  
 \*P, pp. 313-355  
 \*G. Adhikari, "India: A New Test Begins" (1997) [FP]

12 April G. Fiji

**15 April Second examination**

**Part VI: Sub-Saharan Africa**

17 April A. Colonialism and post-colonial political patterns

19 April B. South Africa and Namibia  
 \*CP, #44  
 \*S. Daley, "South African Names Cabinet" (1999) [FP]  
 \*R. Swarns, "South African Leader Fights a Fraying Image" (2001) [FP]  
 \*P. Mwaura, "Namibia: Making Democracy Work" (1999) [FP]

22 April C. Horn of Africa

24 April D. Nigeria  
 \*P, pp. 441-474

26 April *Poverty Complex* video (24 min)  
 \*"U.N. Report: Globalization Leaving Many Folks Behind" (1999) [FP]  
 \*K. Richburg, "Why is Africa Eating Asia's Dust?" [FP]  
 \*"International Lenders' New Image: A Human Face" (2000) [FP]

29 April E. Debates 6, 7  
 \*CP, #30

**Part VII: Latin America**

1 May A. Mexico  
 \*P, pp. 359-361, 368-399  
 \*CP, # 41, 42  
 \*"The 'Sell-me' Politician the Mexicans Bought" (2000) [FP]  
 \*"Fox Follows Up on Pledge of Diverse Mexican Cabinet" (2000) [FP]

- 3 May            B. Free trade, debt, and domestic distress  
                     *Life and Debt* video (48 min)  
                     \*"Plight of World's Economy" (2001) [FP]  
                     \*"Protectionism in a Global Age" (2001) [FP]

**Part VIII:** *Comparative Conclusions: gender and politics, nonstate actors, culture, diversity, development, and transnationalism*

- 6 May            A. Debates 8, 9  
                     \*CP, #23,24,25,19,26,49,51  
                     \*A Third World Point of View on the Elections" (2000) [FP]  
                     \*"Protest Influenced Miami-Dade's Decision to Stop Recount" ('00) [FP]  
                     \*K. Back, "From Partisan Ranks, Electoral Referees" (2000) [FP]
- 8 May            B. Debates 10, 11  
                     \*M. Cusimano, "James Rosenau and Monica Lewinsky" [FP]  
                     \*M. Ottaway, "Strengthening Civil Society in Other Countries" ('01) [FP]  
                     \*CP, #53
- 10 May           C. All-class debates  
                     1. *South-North migration, diversity, and multiculturalism are undermining social solidarity and national unity*  
                     \*CP, #54, 52
2. *State sovereign will survive globalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*  
                     \*Krasner & Weir, "Will State Sovereignty Survive Globalism?" ('02) [FP]
- 10 May           Review

**13 May (3:20-5:20)    Final Examination**