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Spring 2-1-2011

### PSCI 220S.01: Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics

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PSci 220 (3cr)      *Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics*      Spring 2011  
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### 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 (including Central Asia), Africa, and Latin America.

### Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should understand patterns of governance and political diversity/complexity 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, experience in intercultural and transnational analysis and understanding, and the basis for life-long learning about different political systems and key human concerns and aspirations.

### Required Texts

- (1) Charles Hauss. *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*. [H] Sixth edition, 2009.  
(2) Fiona Yap (ed.). *Comparative Politics 10/11*. [CP]  
All other required readings are on e-res. Password: psci220

### 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 debates) = **10%**  
*Journal Observation #1* (due **23 March**) = **10%**  
*Journal Observation #2* (due **25 April**) = **10%**  
*Essay quiz* (**29 April**) = **10%**  
*First examination* (**16 Feb.**) = **20%**  
*Second examination* (**11 March**) = **20%**  
*Third examination* (**15 April**) = **20%**  
*Fourth examination* (**12 May**) = **20%**

The highest 3 of the 4 examination grades will be counted in determining final grades for the course. Make-up exams are only possible for documented medical reasons.

Reported final grades will reflect pluses and minuses. For credit/no-credit grading, students must attain an overall grade of D- to receive a "CR." Students must follow the *Catalog's* policy on incompletes, disability accommodations, and plagiarism. The instructor will deny late-drop petitions (after the 45<sup>th</sup> day of instruction).

## Course Outline and Reading Assignments

### Part I: *Overview*

- 24,26 Jan      A. Comparing political systems  
                   \*H, Chpt. 1  
                   \*Lustig and Koester, "What Do You Call Someone from the United States of America? (1996) **e-res**
- 28 Jan            B. Types of political systems and political actors  
                   \*Sodaro, "Parliamentary Government," pp. 196-204 (2008)
- 31 Jan            C. Development, underdevelopment, and overdevelopment  
                   \*Saletan, "Global Gluttony" (2006) **e-res**
- 2 Feb             *Affluenza* DVD3403 (56 minutes)
- 4 Feb             D. The global/local vortex  
                   \*Nye, "Globalization Is about Blending, Not Homogenization" (2002) **e-res**

### Part II: *Western Europe*

- 7,9 Feb          A. Great Britain  
                   \*H, Chpt. 4  
                   \*Lyall, "Britain's Unpopular Leader is Ripe Target" (2009) **e-res**
- 11,14 Feb        B. France  
                   \*H, Chpt. 5
- 16 Feb            First examination**
- 18,23 Feb        C. Germany  
                   \*H, Chpt. 6 **e-res**  
                   \*CP, #13
- 25 Feb            Debates 1, 2  
                   \*CP, #20
- 28 Feb,  
 2 March          D. EU and the New Europe  
                   \*H, Chpt. 7  
                   \*CP, #40  
                   \*Erlanger, "Seeking a Sea Change, Green Coalition Gathers Strength" ('09) **e-res**
- 4 March          Debate 3

### Part III: *Russia and Central Asia*

- 4,7 March        A. Russia  
                   \*H, pp. 201-214; Chpt. 9  
                   \*CP, #15

9 March B. Post-Soviet States  
 \*H, pp. 214-219  
 \*CP, #12

**11 March Second examination**

14 March Debate 4

**Part IV: *The Global South***

14 March A. Colonial legacy; inequalities  
 \*H, Chpt. 11  
 \*Payne and Nassar, “Global & Domestic Inequalities” (2003), pp. 88-95 **e-res**  
 \*Sengupta, “Inside gate, India’s Good Life; Outside, Servants’ Slums” (’08) **e-res**

16 March B. Ethnic politics  
 \*Payne & Nassar, “Ethnicity, Ethnic Conflict, & Conflict Resolution” (’03) **e-res**  
 \*Chua, “An Explosive Combination” (’03) **e-res**

16 March Debate 5

18,21 March C. Semi-authoritarian states  
 \*Levitsky & Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism*, pp. 3-31 **e-res**  
 \*CP, #5  
 \*Kagan, “Free Elections Come First” (2007) **e-res**

23 March Debate 6

23 March D. Democratic Transitions and Regressions  
 \*CP, #6, 7  
 \*Diamond, “Democratic Rollback: Resurgence of the Predatory State” (’08) **e-res**  
 \*Graham, “Morocco” (2007) **e-res**

25,28 March E. Iran  
 \*H, Chpt. 13  
 \*Sodaro, “Power in Iran” (2008) **e-res**  
 \*CP, #18  
 \*Slackman, “Iran’s Powerful Top Cleric” (2006) **e-res**  
 \*Slackman, “Iran’s Rigged 2009 Election” (2009) **e-res**  
 \*Slackman, “Hard-Line Force Extends Control of Iran’s Society” (2009) **e-res**  
 \*Worth, “Iran Expanding Effort to Stifle Opposition” (2009) **e-res**  
 \*Worth, “Opposition in Iran Meets a Crossroads in Strategy” (2010) **e-res**

30 March F. Mexico  
 \*H, Chpt. 16  
 \*CP, #15

1 April G. *Hugo Chavez* DVD01879 (54 minutes)  
 \*Romero, “Chavez Scores Victory in Bid To Lift Term Limits” (2009) **e-res**

11 April H. South Africa  
 \*Sodaro, "Democracy in South Africa" pp. 792-795 (2008) **e-res**  
 \*CP, #34  
*An Irresistible Vision: Mandella* (DVD00825)

13 April Debates 7, 8  
 \*Friedman, "Democracy's Root: Diversity" (2007) **e-res**

**15 April Third examination**

**Part V: China**

18-22 Ap A. China's political system  
 \*H, Chpt. 10  
 \*CP, #29, 36  
 \*Wines, "In China, No Plans to Emulate West's Way" (2009) **e-res**  
 \*Lee, "China to Join Top 3 Economies" (2007) **e-res**

25 April *The New Leap Forward: CCP in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* DVD00844 (52 minutes)

27 April *Democracy in China: A Billion Small Voices* video VT09008 (30 minutes)

27 April B. Democracy in comparative perspective  
 \*CP, #1, 3, 4, 8, 37  
 \*Ottaway, "Tyranny's Full Tank" (2005) **e-res**  
 \*Weinthal & Luong, "Combating the Resource Curse" (2008) **e-res**

**29 April Essay Quiz**

**Part VI: Nigeria**

2,4 May Nigeria  
 \*H, Chpt 15

4 May Debate 9

**Part VII: Big questions of contemporary comparative politics**

6 May A. Gender and politics  
 \*CP, #23, 24  
 \*Hunt, "Women in Peacemaking" (2002) **e-res**  
 Debate 10

Debate 11

**12 May (3:20-4:20) Fourth Examination**

This syllabus is presented as a general guide to the course that is subject to amendment or deviation.  
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