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PSCI 220S.01: Comparative Government

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Introduction to

Comparative Government

Instructor: Eric H. Hines**Office:** LA 354**Office Hours:** T 3-4, Th 9-10 or by Appt.**Email:** eric.hines@umontana.edu**Phone:** 406.359.1660 (Cell/Voicemail)**Course Number:** PSCI 220S**Class Location:** Social Sciences 356**Meeting Time:** MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m.**Website:** Moodle (<http://umonline.umt.edu>)**CRN (Add/Drop):** 31230

You may schedule an appointment with the instructor online at <http://tungle.me/erichines>

TA: Kelsey Stamm **Email:** kelsey.stamm@umontana.edu **Office:** Corbin 347 **OH:** M 8-9:30, W 2-3:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comparative government, or comparative politics, is the comparison of politics — who gets what, when, and how — across different states. The purpose of the course is to develop your ability to describe, explain, and predict political behavior through meaningful comparison. The course focuses on five areas of interest in comparative politics: political development, regimes, participation and representation, policymaking, and political economy. As we examine these issues, we will see how comparing these issues across states helps provide answers to major questions in political science including why individuals, groups, and governments behave in certain ways, who really governs, and why certain political behaviors are seen in certain places at certain times.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will be able to:	This will be assessed by:
Describe the nature, structure, and development of key individual and group political behaviors and political regimes.	Clicker Questions, Exams and Research Paper.
Explain political behavior at the individual, group, and organizational level using different theoretical approaches.	Clicker Questions, Exams and Research Paper.
Evaluate how well conclusions and generalizations about political behavior are justified based on the available data.	Clicker Questions, Exams and Research Paper.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

There is one *required* textbook for this course:

Drogus, Carl Ann and Stephen Orvis. 2012. *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, 2nd Edition. Washington, D.C: CQ Press.

You must also purchase an **i-clicker student remote** (ISBN: 0716779390) and register it at <http://www.iclicker.com/registration> if it is not already registered for another class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following paragraphs outline the basic requirements for this course. More detailed information on specific assignments can be found on Moodle.

Clicker Questions (50 points and Extra Credit)

A variety of clicker questions will be used to assess learning. A clicker participation score worth 50 points will be calculated at the end of the semester using the formula: $\frac{\text{Total Responses}}{0.9 * \text{Total Questions Asked}} * 50$

For some questions, answering correctly will earn you extra credit that will replace up to 50 points on the five celebrations of knowledge. You must bring a properly working clicker to class to earn credit for participation or to receive extra credit (No exceptions)!

Research Paper (150 points)

You will choose an economic, social, or political issue and produce a 5-6 page paper comparing different countries with respect to this issue. You may choose the issue and countries you wish to compare. You will submit via Moodle a topic, case selection, and annotated bibliography on dates note below to ensure timely completion of this project.

Celebrations of Knowledge and Final Exam (800 points total)

The main mode of assessment in this course is five "celebrations of knowledge" and a final exam. The first two celebrations of knowledge will be worth 100 points each. The remaining celebrations and the final exam are worth 150 points each. Each celebration and the final exam may feature a mixture of questions types including multiple choice and short answer. Some portion of the celebrations may be given as a group exam.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Complete assigned readings before class.
3. Complete assignments by their deadlines.
4. Inform the instructor beforehand of any reasons why they are unable to do this.
5. Complete all requirements within the time frame of the semester. University policy on incompletes will be strictly enforced.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online at: <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES:

I encourage students with documented disabilities to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, please present me with a letter from Disability Services for Students (DSS), Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

GRADING

Final grades are based on a 1000-pt scale with points distributed between clicker participation (50), the research paper (150), celebrations of knowledge (550), and the final exam (150).

Scale: A = 1000-930, A- = 929-900, B+ = 870-899, B = 830-869, B- = 800-829, C+ = 770-799, C = 730-769, C- = 700-729, D+ = 670-699, D = 630-669, D- = 600-639, F = < 600.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to make changes to this course schedule. Any changes will be posted to Moodle and distributed to students via email. All assigned readings are from the textbook (D&O) or available for download on Moodle (M).

Date	Topic	Assignment
1/23	Introduction; Distribution of Syllabus	
1/25	What is Comparative Politics?	D&O, Ch. 1
1/27	The Modern State	D&O, Ch. 2, pgs. 38-60
1/30	Case Studies in State Formation, Part I	D&O, Ch. 2: pgs. 60-74 (to Russia)
2/1	Case Studies in State Formation, Part II	D&O, Ch. 2, pgs. 74-93
2/3	Regimes: Democracy, Communism, and Fascism	D&O, Ch. 3, pgs. 94-118
2/6	Regimes: Modern and Semi-Authoritarianism	D&O, Ch. 3, pgs. 118-141
2/8	Celebration of Knowledge #1	Research Paper Topics Due
2/10	States and Identity: Nationalism and Ethnicity	D&O, Ch. 4, pgs. 141-162
2/13	States and Identity: Religion and Race	D&O, Ch. 4, pgs. 162-187
2/15	Issues in Comparative Politics #1: Rewriting History	CQGP, "Rewriting History" (M)
2/17	States and the Market: Capitalism and Globalization	D&O, Ch. 5, 188-208;
2/20	President's Day -- No Class	
2/22	States and the Market: Case Studies	D&O, Ch. 5, pgs. 208-241
2/24	Celebration of Knowledge #2	Research Paper Countries Due

Date	Topic	Assignment
2/27	Democratic Institutions: Executive-Legislative Relations	D&O, Ch. 6, pgs. 242-273
2/29	Democratic Institutions: Courts, Bureaucracies, & Federalism	D&O, Ch. 6, pgs. 273-307
3/2	Democratic Institutions: Elections	D&O, Ch. 7, pgs. 308-319,
3/5	Issues in Comparative Politics #2: New Democracies	Selected Readings (M)
3/7	Democratic Institutions: Political Parties & Party Systems	D&O, Ch. 7, pgs. 319-329
3/9	Democratic Institutions: Civil Society and Case Studies	D&O, Ch. 7, pgs. 329-367
3/12	Celebration of Knowledge #3	
3/14	Authoritarian Institutions: Governing	D&O, Ch. 8, pgs. 368-394
3/16	Authoritarian Institutions: Participation and Representation	D&O, Ch. 8, pgs. 394-421
3/19	Regime Change: Coups and Revolutions	D&O, Ch. 9, pgs. 422-444
3/21	Regime Change: Democratization	D&O, Ch. 9, pgs. 444-481
3/23	Issues in Comparative Politics #3: Arab Spring	CQGP, "Turmoil in the Arab World" (M)
3/26	Issues in Comparative Politics #4: African Democracy	CQGP, "Sub-Saharan Democracy" (M)
3/28	Issues in Comparative Politics #5: Southeast Asia	CQGP, "Democracy in Southeast Asia" (M)
3/30	Celebration of Knowledge #4	Annotated Bibliography Due
Spring Break		
4/9	Globalization and Economic Sovereignty	D&O, Ch. 10, pgs. 482-501
4/11	Issues in Comparative Politics #5: The Euro	CQGP, "Future of the Euro" (M)
4/13	Globalization and Development	D&O, Ch. 10, pgs. 501-537
4/16	Public Policy: Welfare	D&O, Ch. 11, pgs. 538-564
4/18	Public Policy: Health Care	D&O, Ch. 11, pgs. 564-581
4/20	Issues in Comparative Politics #6: Social Welfare	CQGP, "Social Welfare in Europe" (M)
4/23	Public Policy: Environment	D&O, Ch. 11, pgs. 581-603
4/25	Politics of Diversity: Religion	D&O, Ch. 12, pgs. 604-629
4/27	Politics of Diversity: Gender and Sexual Orientation	D&O, Ch. 12, pgs. 629-661
4/30	Issues in Comparative Politics #7: Women's Rights	CQGP, "Women's Rights" (M) Research Paper Due
5/2	Issues in Comparative Politics #8: Gay Rights	CQGP, "Gay Rights" (M)
5/4	Celebration of Knowledge #5	
5/8	FINAL EXAM 3:20-5:20 P.M.	