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Fall 9-1-2007

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

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**Course Title:** PSC 120 – Introduction to Comparative Government  
**Semester:** Fall 2007  
**Course Hours:** Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday from 11:10 am until 12:00pm  
**Course Room:** McGill Hall 210  
**Instructor:** Jeffrey Doyle  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 2pm-3:25pm or by appointment  
**E-mail:** Jeffrey.Doyle@mso.umt.edu  
**Course TA:** Autumn Thompson  
**TA E-mail:** TBA  
**Course Web-Site:** TBA

**Course Description:**

Introduction to the basic political concepts, themes, values and dilemmas as they apply to the world's diverse societies and cultures. Comparative politics will be explored first conducting a general overview of the topic. This is followed by a review of the essential readings that have been written on these topics. Finally, the topic will be reviewed via a real world case of the topic. The three prong approach to each of the areas within comparative politics will assist cognition of the material.

**Teaching Methods:**

This course is a mixture of lecture and discussion. Be sure to complete the assigned reading before each class; otherwise, you will be unable to take effective notes and to join in on the discussions. While lectures will cover the overall topics, lectures and the reading material will complement each other rather than repeat each other; thus, attendance is critical.

**Required Course Materials**

**Assigned Textbooks:**

*Essentials of Comparative Politics*

Patrick O'Neil

*Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*

O'Neil and Rogowski

*Cases in Comparative Politics*

O'Neil, Fields, and Share

**Expectations, Assignments and Grading**

**Grading:**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Three Tests           20% each for 60% of total course grade
2. Country Paper       15%
3. Final Exam           25%

**Grading scale:**

A	100 -93.0%
A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%
B	86.9-83.0%
B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%
C	76.9-73.0%
C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%
D	66.9-63.0%
D-	62.9-60.0%
F	59% and below

**Country Paper:**

Everyone will be required to complete a writing assignment to allow you to further reflect upon selected topics. This assignment will be to write paper comparing your assigned country to a country discussed in the Cases in Comparative Politics textbook. This paper should be approximately 5-6 pages in length in a typed, double-spaced format with standard margins. The requirements for this paper will be discussed during week two of the course. *Keep in mind that your grade on this paper will be penalized if there are grammatical or spelling errors in the completed paper.*

**Tests and Final Exam:**

There will be three tests and a final exam in this course. All of these will be closed book and will be multiple choice. Each of these exams will cover the course material since the previous exam. The final exam will be cumulative and thus will cover material from the entire course.

**Make-Up Policy:**

Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible. A make-up for the three tests will be scheduled as soon as possible after the missed exam date. Exams not made up within a week of the original exam date will be graded a zero. The country paper will not be accepted late, no exceptions, as you have an entire semester to complete it.

**Tardiness:**

I plan to start class on time and expect that you will be there. Occasionally you may find it necessary to be late. In that case, I would certainly prefer that you come to class late rather than miss the entire lecture. However, tardiness should never develop into a troublesome pattern.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

All students in this course are expected to follow the University of Montana's Student Conduct Code. The code can be located here:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

Those found in violation of the code will face academic penalties from the course instructor, the department or the university.

## **Course Calendar and Assigned Reading**

### **Textbook Abbreviations**

**O**-Essentials of Comparative Politics

**OR**-Essential Readings in Comparative Politics

**OFS**-Cases in Comparative Politics

### **August**

**27<sup>th</sup>**—Hand out Syllabus and Discuss Overview of the Course

**29<sup>th</sup>** —**No Class**

**31<sup>st</sup>**—**No Class**

### **September**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** —**No Class (Labor Day)**

**5<sup>th</sup>** —**What is Comparative Politics?**

-O Ch. 1-Introduction

-OR Ch. 1-what is Comparative Politics

-OFS Ch. 1-Introduction

**7<sup>th</sup>** — **What is Comparative Politics?-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 3-United States

-Country Paper Requirements Handed Out and Discussed at the End of Class

**10<sup>th</sup>** —**States, Nations and Society**

-O Ch. 2-States

**12<sup>th</sup>** —**States, Nations and Society-Continued**

-OR Ch. 2-States

**14<sup>th</sup>** —**States, Nations and Society-Continued**

-O Ch. 3-Nations and Society

**17<sup>th</sup>** —**States, Nations and Society-Continued**

-OR Ch.3-Nations and Society

**19<sup>th</sup>** —**Political Economy**

-O Ch. 4-Political Economy

**21<sup>st</sup>** —**Political Economy-Continued**

-OR Ch. 4-Intro, Smith and Alesina et. al.

**24<sup>th</sup>** —**Review for First Test**

**26<sup>th</sup> –Test #1 \*\*\*Bring two #2 Pencils\*\*\***

**28<sup>th</sup> –Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism**

-O Ch. 5

**October**

**1<sup>st</sup> –Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism-Continued**

-OR Ch. 5-Intro, Linz, and Fish

**3<sup>rd</sup> –Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 9-Iran

**5<sup>th</sup> –Democracy**

-O Ch. 6-Democracy

**8<sup>th</sup> –Democracy-Continued**

-OR Ch. 6-Intro, Putnam, and Berman

**10<sup>th</sup> – Democracy-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 8-India

**12<sup>th</sup> – Advanced Democracies**

-O Ch. 7-Advanced Democracy

**15<sup>th</sup> – Advanced Democracies-Continued**

-OR Ch. 7-Intro, de Tocqueville, Duverger, and Economist

**17<sup>th</sup> – Advanced Democracies-Continued**

-OFS Select one of the following-Ch. 2, 3, 4 or 5-UK, US, France, or Japan

**19<sup>th</sup> –Review for Second Test**

**22<sup>nd</sup> –Test #2 \*\*\*Bring two #2 Pencils\*\*\***

**24<sup>th</sup> –Communism and Post-Communism**

-O Ch. 8-Communism and Post Communism

**26<sup>th</sup> –Communism and Post-Communism-Continued**

-OR Ch. 8-Intro, Marx, and Prezeworski

**29<sup>th</sup> –Communism and Post-Communism-Continued**

-OR Ch. 8-Bunce and Pye

**31<sup>st</sup> –Communism and Post-Communism-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 6-Russia

## **November**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> –Developing Nations**

-O Ch. 9-Developing Nations

### **5<sup>th</sup> –Developing Nations-Continued**

-OR Ch.9-Intro, Collier, Varro, and Przeworski

### **7<sup>th</sup> –Developing Nations-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 13-Nigeria

### **9<sup>th</sup> –Review for Third Test**

### **12<sup>th</sup> –No Class-Veterans Day**

### **14<sup>th</sup> – Test #3 \*\*\*Bring two #2 Pencils\*\*\***

### **16<sup>th</sup> –Globalization**

-O Ch. 10-Globalization

### **19<sup>th</sup> –Globalization-Continued**

-OR Ch. 10- Intro, Fukuyama, Hoffman,

**\*\*\*Country Papers Due at the beginning of Class\*\*\***

### **21<sup>st</sup> –No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> –No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

### **26<sup>th</sup> –Globalization-Continued**

-OR Ch. 10-Galbraith, Nye, Jr. and The Economist

### **28<sup>th</sup> –Globalization-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 7-China

### **30<sup>th</sup> –Political Violence**

-O Ch. 11

## **December**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> –Political Violence-Continued**

-OR Ch. 11-Intro and Skocpol

### **5<sup>th</sup> –Political Violence-Continued**

-OR Ch. 11-Crenshaw, and Goldstone

### **7<sup>th</sup> – Review for Final Exam**

**Final Exam:**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

-Final exam from 8:00 to 10:00 am in the normal classroom

**\*\*\*Bring two #2 Pencils\*\*\***