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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

27th—Hand out Syllabus and Discuss Overview of the Course

29th—No Class

31st—No Class

September

3rd—No Class (Labor Day)

5th—**What is Comparative Politics?**

-O Ch. 1-Introduction

-OR Ch. 1-what is Comparative Politics

-OFS Ch. 1-Introduction

7th—**What is Comparative Politics?-Continued**

-OFS Ch. 3-United States

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

10th—**States, Nations and Society**

-O Ch. 2-States

12th—**States, Nations and Society-Continued**

-OR Ch. 2-States

14th—**States, Nations and Society-Continued**

-O Ch. 3-Nations and Society

17th—**States, Nations and Society-Continued**

-OR Ch.3-Nations and Society

19th—**Political Economy**

-O Ch. 4-Political Economy

21st—**Political Economy-Continued**

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

24th—**Review for First Test**

26th –Test #1 *Bring two #2 Pencils*****

28th –Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism

-O Ch. 5

October

1st –Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism-Continued

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

3rd –Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism-Continued

-OFS Ch. 9-Iran

5th –Democracy

-O Ch. 6-Democracy

8th –Democracy-Continued

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

10th – Democracy-Continued

-OFS Ch. 8-India

12th – Advanced Democracies

-O Ch. 7-Advanced Democracy

15th – Advanced Democracies-Continued

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

17th – Advanced Democracies-Continued

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

19th –Review for Second Test

22nd –Test #2 *Bring two #2 Pencils*****

24th –Communism and Post-Communism

-O Ch. 8-Communism and Post Communism

26th –Communism and Post-Communism-Continued

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

29th –Communism and Post-Communism-Continued

-OR Ch. 8-Bunce and Pye

31st –Communism and Post-Communism-Continued

-OFS Ch. 6-Russia

November

2nd –Developing Nations

-O Ch. 9-Developing Nations

5th –Developing Nations-Continued

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

7th –Developing Nations-Continued

-OFS Ch. 13-Nigeria

9th –Review for Third Test

12th –No Class-Veterans Day

14th – Test #3 *Bring two #2 Pencils*****

16th –Globalization

-O Ch. 10-Globalization

19th –Globalization-Continued

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

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

21st –No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

23rd –No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

26th –Globalization-Continued

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

28th –Globalization-Continued

-OFS Ch. 7-China

30th –Political Violence

-O Ch. 11

December

3rd –Political Violence-Continued

-OR Ch. 11-Intro and Skocpol

5th –Political Violence-Continued

-OR Ch. 11-Crenshaw, and Goldstone

7th – Review for Final Exam

Final Exam:

December 11th

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

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