Fall 9-1-2002

PSC 520.01: Comparative Government

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This course has two elements. The first is a general introduction to the field of comparative politics from the perspective of theories and approaches. That is, how do students of the field study their subject? This will entail a review of selected articles and books. There will be two articles each week which should be read and summarized in a paper not to exceed or be less than three pages. These summaries are due on the dates indicated on the enclosed schedule. All articles are on reserve in the library from which you can make your own copy. Above all, DO NOT mark up the reserve copy. There will also be book review assignments of approximately five pages.

The second part is a research paper focusing on some aspect of public policy. This can be any subject from health care to law enforcement in any country other than the United States. This does not include foreign policy. The first step is to prepare a one-page prospectus indicating the nature of the topic and country. This should also include a title and an indication of the source material upon which the paper will be based. The prospectus is due September 19 but may be submitted earlier. The paper should be at least 5000 words in length exclusive of notes and bibliography. The paper is due no later than December 12 but may be submitted earlier.

Graduate studies presume seriousness of purpose and active participation in seminar discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Grades will be determined as follows:

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9/12 Comparative Government and Political Science

Robert A Dahl, "Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest, "AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW 1961 763-72

9/19 Systems Approach


Gabriel Almond and G. Bingham Powell, COMPARATIVE POLITICS: A DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH, Chapter II

9/26 Structural-functional Analysis


10/3 Political Legitimacy and Authority

Ruth Lane, The Art of Comparative Politics Ch. 5

Howard Wiarda, New Direction in Comparative Politics Ch. 3

10/10 Democratization


10/17 Political Parties and Groups

Gabriel Almond, et al. Comparative Politics Today Ch. 5


10/24 Corporatism


Alan Siaroff, “The Fate of Centrifugal Democracies,” Comparative Politics (April 2000), 43-60

10/31 Political Culture

Gabriel Almond, Civic Culture Revisited Chapter 1, 1-37

Ronald Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture”, American Political Science Review (December 1988) 1203-30

11/7 Political Development

Ruth Lane, The Art of Comparative Politics, Ch. 3

11/14 Dependency Theory

Tony Smith, "The Dependency Approach," (Wiarda, DIRECTIONS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS) 113-126


11/21 Civil Violence

Charles Tilly, "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?" COMPARATIVE POLITICS (April 1973) 425-7

Ian Lesser, et al. Countering the New Terrorism Ch. 2