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PSC 120.01: Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

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Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Part I: Overview

- 29, 31 Jan A. Comparing political systems
 *P, pp. 3-12, 35-36
 *Lustig and Koester, "What Do You Call Someone from the United States of America?" (1996)
- 3 Feb B. Forms of government; legislative and executive structures; political actors
 *P., pp. 13-27
- 5 Feb C. Political economy; development and underdevelopment
 *P, pp. 27-32, 44-45
- 7 Feb D. The global/local vortex
 *P, pp. 36-39
 *CP, #51, 35

Part II: Western Europe

- 10, 12 Feb A. Britain
 *P, pp. 51-52, 57-89
 *CP, pp. 2-5, #1,3,5
- 14, 19 Feb B. France
 *P, pp. 93-94, 101-132
 *CP, pp. 7-9, #10,11
 *S. Daley, "French See a Hero in War on McDomination" (1999)
- 21, 24 Feb C. Germany
 *P, pp. 137-138, 144-174
 *CP, pp. 5-7, #6,7,9
- 26 Feb First examination**
- 28 Feb Debates 1, 2
 *CP, #21, 13
- 3 March D. EU, Euro, and the New Europe
 *P, pp. 39-44
 *CP, #25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31
- 5 March Debates 3, 4

Part III: Russia and Central Asia

- 7, 10 Mar A. Russia
 *P, pp. 223-224, 231-264
 *CP, #36,37,38,39

12 March B. Tajikistan and Post-Soviet Central Asia

Part IV: The "South"

14, 17 Mar A. Colonial legacy; inequalities
 *Payne and Nassar, "Global & Domestic Inequalities" (2003)
Life and Debt video (48 min)
 **"Plight of World's Economy" (2001)
 **"Protectionism in a Global Age" (2001)
Poverty Complex video (24 min)
 **"U.N. Report: Globalization Leaving Many Folks Behind" (1999)
 *K. Richburg, "Why is Africa Eating Asia's Dust?"
 **"International Lenders' New Image: A Human Face" (2000)

19 March Second examination

21 March B. Ethnic conflicts
 *Payne and Nassar, "Ethnicity, Ethnic Conflict, and Conflict Resolution" ('03)

31 March Debate 5

31 March, C. Military rule
 2 April *Rashid, "Pakistan on the Edge" (2002)

4 April D. Personal dictatorship
 *Denoeux, "Iraq" (2000)

7 April E. Islam & Politics
 *CP, #45
Islamic Wave video (VT11289) 50 minutes
 *CP, #44
 **"Iran's President Wins a New Mandate to Promote Reform" (2001)

Debate 6

9 April F. Democratic transitions
 *CP, #37, 39, 46

11 April Ahmed Rashid, *The Resurgence of Islam*, Urey lecture hall 8 pm

14 April Debates 7, 8
 *CP, #24

16 April Third examination

Part V: China

18,21 Ap A. China's political system
 *P, pp. 269-307
 *CP, #41, 42, 43

23 April B. Democracy in China?
 *R. Scalapino, "Will China Democratize?"
Democracy in China: A Billion Small Voices video (30 minutes)
You decide: The size and educational level of its population preclude the possibility of democracy in the China mainland in the foreseeable future.

25 April C. Hong Kong
 *P. Koehn, "One Government, Multiple Systems: Hong Kong Public Administration in Transition" (2001)

Part VI: Mexico & Nigeria

28 April A. Mexico
 *P, pp. 359-361, 368-399
 *CP, # 38
 *"Fox Follows Up on Pledge of Diverse Mexican Cabinet" (2000)

30 April B. Nigeria
 *P, pp. 441-474
 *CP, #40

2 May Debate 9

Part VII: Big questions of contemporary comparative politics

5 May A. Gender and politics
 *CP, #16, 17, 18, ,19
 Debate 10
You decide: Responsibility for peace making in war-torn countries should be turned over exclusively to women
 *Hunt, "Women in Peacemaking" (2002)

7 May B. Democracy in comparative perspective
 *CP, #20, 48
 *A Third World Point of View on the [2000 U.S. Pres.] Election" (2000)
 Debate 11

9 May C. Global & comparative politics
You decide 1: South-North migration, diversity, and multiculturalism are undermining social solidarity and national unity
 *CP, #52
You decide 2: Globalism will trump localism/tribalism in the 21st Century
You decide 3: State sovereignty will survive globalization in the 21st Century
 *Koehn, "Cross-national Competence and U.S.-Asia Interdependence" (2001)

14 May (3:20-5:20) Final Examination