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### PSC 195.01: Introduction to Comparative Politics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
Department of Political Science

PSc 195 Introduction to  
Comparative Politics  
Autumn 1997

Dr. Laslovich  
Office: LA 415  
Hrs: MWF 11:30-12:00,  
TR 9-10:00, and by  
app't (4901)

Course Description

An introduction to the key concepts and values political scientists use to understand how different societies govern themselves in face of a wide variety of political, cultural, historical, and economic circumstances and dilemmas. Contrasting political cultures, ideologies and philosophies, constitutional frameworks, party and electoral systems, and interest groups among democratic and authoritarian states will be considered. The course will also address the politics of stability and change.

Texts

Students are required to read the following text which is available at the University Bookstore:

Curtis, Michael, ed. Introduction to Comparative Government. 4th edition. New York: Longman, 1997.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam 1 (Sept. 26) Topics I-II .....	25%
Exam 2 (Oct. 20) Topics III-V .....	25%
Exam 3 (Nov. 12) Topics VI-VII .....	25%
Final Exam (Tues., Dec. 16, 1:10-3:10) Topics VIII-X .....	25%

Drop/Add Deadlines

- Sept. 22 - Last day to drop and add courses by Dial Bear and receive refund.
- Oct. 13 - Last day to drop classes.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students who are excused from a scheduled exam may write a makeup. In fairness to all students, exam absences must be approved by the instructor.

The Classroom Learning Environment (authored by Dr. Ronald Perrin, Professor of Political Theory)

Wherever the learning process takes place (for example, in the library or the seclusion of one's study) it does so best when there are a minimum of distractions. This requirement poses special challenges for the learning that takes place in the lecture hall or the classroom, where the possibility of distractions is the greatest.

The Classroom Learning Environment (continued)

In order to establish and maintain a supportive learning environment for my students I will not tolerate the few individuals who might be prone to a) come to class late or leave early, b) carry on private conversations during class, or c) use the lecture hall/classroom as an opportunity to read material, such as the Kaimin, that is not relevant to the subject matter under consideration.

The only exception to these conditions concern students whose work schedules or unanticipated appointments require them to arrive for class late or leave early. In these instances I would appreciate knowing of the circumstance before it occurs and, in all such instances, request that students do so as unobtrusively as possible. Thank you.

Lecture Topics and Readings

- I     Introduction  
Curtis, chapter 1.
- II    The Modern State  
pp. 33-52; 105-116; 159-179; 228-242; 315-337; 397-410; 451-462;  
501-521; and 542-555.
- III   Democratic and Authoritarian Regimes
- IV    Political Culture and Socialization
- V     Ideology
- VI    Constitutions  
pp. 132-132; 356-373; 479-480; and 525-526.
- VII   Executives and Legislatures  
pp. 73-88; 132-146; 195-207; 255-264; 339-355; 417-419; 481-488;  
527-531; and 556-574.
- VIII   Parties and Interest Groups  
pp. 64-72; 117-127; 181-187; 243-255; 412-417; 463-477; 522-523;  
and 574-578.
- IX    Elections and Voting Behavior  
pp. 53-64; 188-195; and 524.
- X     Political Change  
pp. 281-313 and 420-432.  
chapter 12.