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PSC 120S.01: Introduction to Comparative Politics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

PSc 120 Introduction to
Comparative Politics
Autumn 1998

Dr. Laslovich
Office: LA 415
Hrs: MTWTR 11:00-12:00,
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.

Text

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

Magstadt, Thomas M. Nations and Governments, Comparative Politics in Regional Perspective. 3rd ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam 1 (Sept. 18) Topic I	25%
Exam 2 (Oct. 14) Topics II-III	25%
Exam 3 (Nov. 9) Topics IV-V	25%
Final Exam (Thurs., Dec. 17, 10:10-12:10) Topics VI-VI	25%

Drop/Add Deadlines

Sept. 21 - Last day to drop and add courses by Dial Bear.
Oct. 12 - Last day to drop (no refund) and add classes and change grading option.

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
 Magstadt, chapters 1-3.
- II Western Europe
 Magstadt, chapters 4-6.
- III Russia and Slavic Europe
 Magstadt, chapters 7-9.
- IV Middle East
 Magstadt, chapters 10-12.
- V Asia
 Magstadt, chapters 13-15.
- VI Sub-Saharan Africa
 Magstadt, chapters 16-18.
- VII Latin America
 Magstadt, chapters 19-21.