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| 150pictures | First-Year Seminar, POLS 197B:Doing Comparative Politics Fall 2011 MW 2:20-3:50 Asbury 112 Professor Sunil K. Sahu,  [Sahus@Depauw.edu](mailto:sahus@depauw.edu) | fessor Sunil K. Sahu,  [Sahus@Depauw.edu](mailto:sahus@depauw.edu) |

Office: Asbury 108A

Hours: Monday 3:50-4:45, Tuesday 10:00-12:00

Goals and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the comparative study of politics  
and government. Rather than attempt broad comparisons at a high level of   
abstraction, we shall study the political systems of the Western liberal democracies, the Communist and post-Communist states, and the developing nations. In particular, the course will examine political systems in three representative cases: Great Britain from the industrialized democracies, China from the communist and post-communist states, and India from the developing world. The political experience in each case will be studied in the context of its own cultural and historical settings. Such an approach will allow us   
to see the differences within a particular type of regime. We shall inquire, for   
example, why Chinese communism is different from communism in the former   
Soviet Union; why democratic institutions have survived in India but not in most   
other Third World countries; why Great Britain, the mother of parliamentary   
democracy, has had a stable political system in modern time even though it   
does not have a written constitution. The answers to these questions, and many   
others, will invariably be found in the history, tradition, and political culture   
of a nation.

Our study of politics in three countries will focus on a comparison of their   
institutions, political parties, the role of ideology and leadership, varying   
developmental experience, and the performance of their governments.   
We shall also examine the domestic responses to global challenges in the   
post-9/11 era. Furthermore, the study of major approaches and   
theories of comparative politics, as applicable to liberal democratic, communist   
and post-communist, and developing Third World systems, will constitute   
an important part of the course. It will allow us to make the comparisons of   
the political institutions and processes in a systematic and more meaningful   
way. An understanding of theories and approaches of comparative politics   
will enable us to make broad generalizations about the countries to be   
studied and provide tools of analysis for further enquiry into other political   
systems.

Required Texts and Other Readings

The two texts required for this course can be purchased at the DePauw University   
Bookstore.

1. Howard Wiarda, Comparative Politics: Approaches and Issues, Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

2. Charles Hauss, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global   
Challenge, 7th edition, Wadsworth, 2011.

3. Other required readings--chapters from various books and articles   
published in scholarly journals--are available on Moodle.

4. You are expected to keep yourself informed about developments in the   
three worlds. I will assign articles from The New York Times on a regular basis; therefore I recommend that you take a semester subscription. The student subscription (Monday through Friday) through Bloomington News will cost you $38.50. You will also benefit from the TV network or CNN Evening News programs and from National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" (Daily on 103.7 FM, at 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., respectively).

Teaching Method

This is a seminar, not a lecture class. You are expected to come to each class prepared, i.e., having finished all the required readings and collected your critical thoughts on them for class discussion. Our effort will be to understand, analyze, and evaluate the readings. You are expected to attend all class meetings during the semester. Your absence from class–even two or three times–will affect your grade unless there is an emergency.

The Seminar is designed to achieve the following goals:  
  
• Create an intellectual community for the students;  
• Use discussion as the primary basis for classroom learning;  
• Emphasize critical thinking and critical reading;  
• Encourage academic growth and development of individual students; and  
• Use a variety of writing, research or problem-solving assignments designed to give students the skills and modes of analysis that will serve them well in other courses at DePauw.

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| Course Requirements  **Requirements**   1. Quizes (2) 10% 2. Journals (two, 500 words each) 10% 3. Mid-term Exam 20% 4. Short Paper (outline/argument, 750 words) 10% 5. Group Project (PP Presentation) 15% 6. Seminar Paper (3,000 words) 25% 7. Class Participation 10%   ----------------------------------------------------  Total: 100%  **Quizes (10%).** Two pop quizes will be given before the mid-term exam; no make-up quizes will be allowed.  **Mid-term Examination** (20%). The October 5 mid-term exam will carry 20% toward the final grade. It will consist of essay, short answer, and definition questions and will test your knowledge and understanding of the lectures, required readings, current affairs, and Web material discussed in class.  **Papers** (35%). You will write a 12-page research paper in which you are expected to explore a topic of your own choosing in greater depth than is possible in the weekly readings. You will select a topic, which must be approved by September 26. The short paper is due in class on October 12 and the seminar paper on December 7.  The paper will be judged by its organization, clarity, logic, and sense of evidence, as well as imagination and original thinking. It will require extensive library and Internet research. (There is near-instantaneous access to a mind-boggling array of information on the Internet, which is growing by several billion pages everyday. In July 2008 Google announced that it had indexed more than 1 trillion unique Web page URLs.)   Instructions for writing the paper will be distributed in class. They are also accessible at the following Internet address: [http://www.sfu.ca/politics/essays.html.](http://www.sfu.ca/politics/essays.html)  You should pay close attention to the *selection of topic* and *construction* of a research paper sections. This Web site also provides a useful link to *Guide to Citations of Electronic Source Materials*.  **Group Project (15%), Class Participation (10%) and Journals (10%)**  You are expected to give one PowerPoint presentation during the semester. The presentation assignment will be decided on a short notice, usually in 2-3 days. I would encourage you to seek the assistance of the "S" center to better prepare you for your presentation. As presenter you will post on Moodle a few study questions on the readings at least 24 hours before the class. The PowerPoint presentation will count 15% toward your final grade.  Your overall class participation will count 10% toward final grade.  In addition, there will be an assigned recorder for each class session who will carefully record class discussion, lecture, and other activities. The recorder will bring a typed journal (at least 500 words) for distribution in the following class and make a five-minute presentation at the beginning of the class recapitulating the discussion, lecture and activities in the previous class. The journal will be graded toward the end of the semester. (I will talk to you individually if you are not performing well in journal writing.) Journals will count 10% of your final grade. For guidelines on how to write a journal visit:  <http://www.und.edu/instruct/weinstei/writejournal.htm>  **ADA Compliance**. In compliance with the American Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibit discrimination based on disability, DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Questions regarding the University’s policy for students with disabilities, documentation of the disability and requests for modifications should be directed to the Coordinator of Student Disabilities Services, DiAnna Washington, 765-658-6267, Harrison Hall 302.  General Rule: Failure to appear for an exam will result in a zero for the assignment. The only exception to this rule will be documented legitimate excuses such as family, legal, and medical emergencies.  Grading Policy: Grades will be given solely based on performance, not according to a "curve" or any predetermined distribution. In principle, all students can receive A's or any other grade. The grading scale is as follows:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | PERCENTAGE | LETTER GRADE | EXPLANATION | | 92-100 | A | Exceptional and outstanding work. | | 90-91 | A- | Excellent work of an unusually strong quality. | | 87-89 | B+ | Excellent performance. | | 84-86 | B | Very good work | | 80-83 | B- | Good work | | 77-79 | C+ | Slightly better than average work. | | 74-76 | C | Average work | | 70-73 | C- | Worse than average | | 67-69 | D+ | Poor work | | 64-66 | D | Very poor work | | 60-63 | D- | Very close to failing | | 59 or below | F | Failing | |
| **Important Dates:**  September 26: Paper Topic Approval Deadline  October 5: Mid-term Exam  October 12: Short Paper due in class  December 7: Seminar Paper due in class |
| SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS    Introduction  Part I: Concepts and Theories  1. Comparative Politics--Why, What and How, History and Methodology  \*Howard Wiarda, Comparative Politics: Approaches and Issues, Ch. 1 and  2. \*Sahu, "Political Science," Survey of Social Science: Government and  Politics Series, 1996. \*Mattei Dogan and Dominique Pelassy, How to Compare Nations:  Strategies in Comparative Politics, 2nd ed., Chatham House, 1990, Ch.  1, pp. 5-13.  2. Key Concepts and Systems Theory   \*Hauss, Ch. 1     \*David Easton, "Systems Analysis," in Approaches to the Study of Politics.  3.  Political Culture   \*Wiarda, Chapter 4  \*Hauss, pp. 32-33 "Cultural Explanations: The Man in Baghdad Cafe," Art. 46 in Annual Editions. Benjamin Barber, "Jihad versus McWorld," Art. 49 in Annual Editions.  4. Modernization and Development  Wiarda, Ch. 3 Arturo Valenzuela, "Modernization and Dependency," pp. 416-420.  5.  Dependency Theory  \*Wiarda, pp. 79-84 \*Arturo Valenzuela, "Modernization and Dependency," pp. 420-427. \*Tony Smith, "The Dependency Approach"                                                   \*Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Under-development"    6. Democracy and Democratization \*Wiarda, Ch. 6 \*Hauss, pp. 23-32. \*Sahu, "Democracy and Democratic Governments"                                      \*Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is...and  Is Not,"  Art. 22 in Annual Editions. \*Robert Dahl, What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?,  Art. 21 in Annual Editions.  Midterm Exam: October 5  Part II: Government and Politics In Great Britain  7.  British Tradition and Political Culture \*Hauss, Ch. 4, pp. 69-82 \*Philip Norton, The British Polity, 3rd ed., Longman, 1994, Ch. 2.  8. Political Institutions and Constitutional Reforms  \*Hauss, pp. 82-95 \*"The Queen's Power: The Struggle to be Ancient and Modern," The  Economist, Dec. 12, 1987. \*Donley T. Studlar, "A Constitutional Revolution in Britain?," in Annual Editions,  Art. 1. Video: "Britain's Parliament at Work: Order, Order!" JN 508.063 1994   9. Party Politics: Thatcherism and Blarism \*Hauss, pp. 95-101 \*Donley Studler, "The British general Election of 2005," Art. 3 in Annual Editions. \*"The Thatcher Legacy," Economist, October 2, 1993 \*The Strange Tail of Tony Blair," Art. 4 in Annual Editions \*"Weighing the Votes: Why the Electoral System  Favors Labor," Art. 2 in Annual  Editions. Film: Will There Always Be An England?  Web sites: <http://www.britain-info.org/>This site of the British Information Service leads you to reams of material  on Tony Blair and the Labor Party, the European Union, relations with  Northern Ireland, and many other topics in the study of the British  political system.   <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/maps/atlas/europe/unkingf.html>flag of the U.K.  h[ttp://www.number10.gov.uk/](http://www.number10.gov.uk/) The official Web site of the British prime minister. There is a wealth of  information on this site  <http://www.pm.gov.uk/>The UK Prime Minister's home page, providing information about the  activities of the Government.   This Web site has a wealth of information about the British government. <http://www.royal.gov.uk/palaces/bp.htm>  [http://www.labour.org.uk/](http://www.labour.org.uk) (official Web site of the Labor Party)  <http://www.ge97.co.uk/> (General election 1997 Web site. You will find party manifestos on this site.)  <http://www.conservative-party.org.uk/>(official Web site of the Conservative Party)  <http://www.thatcherweb.com/home/>This unofficial Margaret Thatcher Site is the net's largest and most extensive  site dedicated to Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first woman Prime Minister.  At this site you would be able to find out about the woman who came to  power as Europe's first ever female Premier, the woman who was the first  Prime Minister in over one hundred years to win three consecutive terms in  office, the woman who reversed the whole British economy and drove  Britain out of decline, the woman who won the Falklands War, who  defeated the power of the trade unions, and yet the woman who was  forced out of Office by her own party.    Part III: Government and Politics in China  10. Historical and Cultural Setting, the Chinese Communist Party \*Hauss, Ch. 10, pp. 265-281 \*"People's Republic of China: Tensions Between Modernization and  Ideology," in China, 3rd edition, pp.5-30. \*Maurice Meisner, "China's Communist Revolution: A Half Century  Perspective," Current History, Sept. 1999. Video Clip: The Two Coasts of China available at   [http://acad.depauw.edu/%7Esahus/150web/mao2\_final.mov](http://acad.depauw.edu/~sahus/150web/mao2_final.mov) Video: Mao By Mao  11. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, The Party State  \*Hauss, pp. 285-289 \*Edwin Moise, "The Great Leap and the Great Split," and "The Cultural Revolution,"  in Modern China, Chapters 7 and 8.  \*Mingzheng Shi, "Cultural Revolution," Video Clip [http://acad.depauw.edu/%7Esahus/150web/mao2\_final.mov](http://acad.depauw.edu/~sahus/150web/mao2_final.mov)  Film: Leaders of the Revolution  12. Economic Reform and Democracy Movement  \*Hauss, pp. 289-296. \*Doug Guthrie, "China the Quiet Revolution," Art. 37 in Annual Editions \*Joseph Kahn, "China's Leader, Ex-Rival at Side, Solidifies Power," Art. 38  in Annual  Editions. Bueno de Mesquita, Downs and George, "Development and Democracy," Foreign Affairs,  September/October 2005. Film:China After Tiananmen  Web sites  <http://www.sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/index.html><http://www.virtuallibrary.china> <http://www.pnclassroom.com>Part of the European Internet Network, this site leads to information on  China, including recent news, government, and related sites pertaining  to China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.  <http://www.cnd.org>  <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/leaders/jzm/jzmhome.htm> People's Daily Online site has lots of information about President Jiang  Zemin--biographical information, speeches, latest news, and photographs.  <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gate/index.html>[www.cnt.org/china89](http://www.cnt.org/china89)  Part IV: Government and Politics in India   13. Historical and Cultural Setting, Religion and Politics  \*Hauss, Ch. 12, pp. 3330-347. \*Sunil K. Sahu, "Hinduism," and "Mohandas K. Gandhi," in Asian  American Encyclopedia, 1995. \*Sahu, "Religion and Politics in India: The Emergence of Hindu National- ism and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," in Jelen and Wilcox Eds.),  The One and the Many: Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective,  Cambridge University Press, 2002. \*P.B. Mehta, "India: The Nuclear Politics of Self-Esteem," Current  History, December 1998. \*Ramesh Thakur, "Ayodhya and the Politics of India's Secularism: A  Double-Standards Discourse," Asian Survey, July 1993. Film: Road to India's Independence  14. Political Institutions, Parties and Politics  \*Hauss, 347-358. \*Craig Baxter et. al., Government and Politics in South Asia, Ch. 6. "Sonia: And Yet So Far," Art. 39 in Annual Editions Rajan Menon, "India's Democracy Provides Lessons," Art. 40 in Annual  Edition.  \*"Advantage Sonia," India Today, August 29, 2005.  Video: Life and Death of a Dynasty  <http://www.indiana.edu/~isp/cd_rom/><http://www.bjp.org/>The official Web site of the Bharatiya Janata Party which has been in  power since March 1998.  <http://www.pmindia.nic.in/home.htm/> Official Web site of the Indian Prime Minister <http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/Market/7952/sonia1.html>Web site of Sonia Gandhi, the Opposition leader in Parliament <http://www.soniagandhionline.com>  15. Democracy and Development in India \*Hauss, pp. 358-367 \*Susanne Rudolph and Lloyd Rudolph, "New Dimensions of Indian  Democracy," Journal of Democracy, January 2002 in Comparative  Politics, Art. 39. \*Shalendra D. Sharma, "India's Economic Liberalization: The Elephant  Comes of Age," Current History, December 1996. \*Rajan Menon, "India's Democracy Provodes Lessons," Art. 35 in Annual Editions \*Prabhu Chawla, "Elections 2004," India Today, January 26, 2004,  pp. 8-9. **\*Amy Waldman, "India's Soybean Farmers Join the Global Village," NY Times,**   January 1, 2004.    December 7: Seminar Paper Due in Class |
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