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| 150pictures | POLS 150 B, Spring 2012Comparative Politics and Government Professor Sunil K. Sahu,  [Sahus@Depauw.edu](mailto:sahus@depauw.edu) |

Office: Asbury 108A

Hours: Monday 3:00-4:30, Tuesday 9:00-9:50 and by appointment

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 First World (Western   
liberal democracies), the Second World (the Communist and post-Communist   
states), and the Third World (the developing nations). In particular, the course   
will examine political systems in five representative cases from the three   
worlds: Great Britain from the industrialized democracies, China from the   
communist and post-communist states, and India, Iran and Nigeria 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 five 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 and Melissa Haussman, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenge, 8th edition, Wadsworth, 2012.

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 am therefore requiring that each one of you take a semester   
subscription to The New York Times. (If you want to share the Times   
with someone in this class, please let me know soon.)  The student   
subscription through Bloomington News will cost you $34.50 for the   
semester. 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

My expectations from each one of you are high! You are expected to come   
to class prepared every time, i.e. having done the assigned reading. A "free   
rider" tendency will be strictly discouraged. It will be a fair game for me to   
identify the students, in a random fashion, in each class meeting who will   
respond to my question(s). There will be an opportunity for everyone to participate in   
the class discussions. I want my students to be active learners who will develop a   
sense of ownership over the course and the materials covered in this class.

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| Course Requirements   1. Examinations (70%). There will be two semester exams--on March 6 and April 17--  and a final exam on May 15 at 1:00 p.m. Semester exams will count 40% (20% each) and the  final exam 30% toward the final grade. Exams will draw extensively on materials from lectures as well as  required readings. It is not possible to neglect either and perform adequately in the course.  All the exams will consist of essay questions, short-answer questions, definitions,  leader identification, and current affairs questions.   2. Class Participation, Attendance and Group Project (20%).  3. Quizzes. (10%). Four pop quizzes will be given during the semester; no make-up quizzes   will be allowed.  **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. You are  expected to come to every class meeting having done the assigned reading for the day. You will be penalized if you  miss more than two classes at the rate of 30 points for each unexcused absence.  **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 | |
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| SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS    January 31: Introduction  Part I: Concepts and Theories  February 2, 9 and 14  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.  Feb. 16, 21 and 23  **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.  Feb. 28  **5.  Sustainable Development. 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"    March 1 and 6  **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.  March 8: **Semester Exam 1**  **Part II: Government and Politics In Great Britain**  March 13 and 15  **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  March 20 and 22  **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**  April 3 and 5  **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  April 10 and 12  **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)  April 17: **Semester Exam II**  April 19  **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  April 24 and 26   **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.  May 1 and 3  **Politics in Nigeria**  Rudolphs article on Indian Democracy (Moodle) Hauss, pp. 429-441  Hauss, pp. 441-460 Hints of a New Chapter (Moodle)  May 8 and 10  **Politics in Iran**  Hauss, pp. 363-378 Weiner, Legacy of Ashes (Moodle)  Hauss, pp. 378-392  May 15: **Final Exam,** 1:00 p.m. |
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