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| 150pictures | Doing Comparative Politics (First-Year Seminar, POLS 197A)  Fall 2012 TTR 10:00-11:30 Asbury 318 Mentor: Carroll Bible  Librarian: Tiffany Hebb 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 2:00-4:00, Tuesday 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

A Short Description

This seminar is designed to introduce you to the comparative study of politics and government. The course is divided into four units: the first unit will focus on concepts and theories of comparative politics, followed by three examples--Britain, China and India--which represent, respectively, the developed, the communist/post-communist, and 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 our time even though it does not have a written constitution. The answers to these questions and many others will invariably be found in history, tradition, and political culture.  Our study of politics in three countries will also focus on a comparison of their institutions, political parties, the role of ideology and leadership, varying developmental experience, and the performance of their governments.

Goals   
  
The goals of the seminar are to help you understand and appreciate the different political systems that exist in the world today.  In particular, it will help you answer the following broad questions:

Why are some countries democratic while others are dictatorships?

Why and how do authoritarian states make a transition toward democracy and what problems do new democracies usually face?

What accounts for the success of democracy in some developing countries but not in others?

Are one-party authoritarian states more efficient and stable than multi-party

democratic states?

Will China move toward Western-style democracy in the near future?

What factors lead to religious fundamentalism?  Is religious fundamentalism on  
 the rise?

Why are ethnic groups politicized in some countries but not in others?

Why do some countries have many parties whereas some have only a few?

How do governments form, and what determines the type of governments that

take office?

The seminar will also help you to develop the skills you will need to succeed in your four years at DePauw and throughout your life—writing and speaking skills, organizational and critical thinking skills, and interpersonal communication skills.  It seeks to achieve the broad goals set by the university for all First-Year seminars:

* To understand the uses of writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating;
* To possess flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing, and proof-reading;
* To understand how readers perceive and respond to different forms of writing;
* To understand a writing assignment as a series of tasks, including finding, evaluating, analyzing, synthesizing, and acknowledging appropriate primary and secondary sources;
* To understand the collaborative and social aspects of the writing processes.

Teaching Method

This is a seminar, not a lecture class. You are expected to come to each class prepared, 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.  I will lecture briefly when necessary. You are expected to give oral presentations in class, which may include a PowerPoint presentation.  The writing assignment will include journal writing, writing and revising short papers and the research paper, and reviewing and editing the work of your peers.  (I will provide further details in class.)

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 ittlefield, 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. 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 $40.85.   
  
**References:**

*A Pocket Style Manual (sixth edition)* by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

*Doing Honest Work in College* (second edition) by Charles Lipson

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| Course Requirements   1. Exams (3) 30% 2. Journals (two) 10% 3. Short Papers (2) 20% 4. Research Paper 20% 5. Group Project 10% 6. lass Participation 10%   ----------------------------------------------------  Total: 100%  **Exams (30%).** Three **exams/**quizzes in the form of paragraph response questions (about 5-8) will be given during the semester, on September 13, October 11, and December 4. Quizzes will be evaluated on the quality of your response in terms of both content **and** writing. The quizzes will count 30% (10% each) toward your final grade.  **Journals (10%).** You will write two journals based on the assigned New York Times articles; they are due on September 4 and September 18. In the journal, you would provide a summary of and a commentary on the assigned article(s). The first journal, in 250 words, is worth 4%, and the second journal, in 400 words, 6% toward your final grade. For guidelines on how to write a journal visit:  <http://www.und.edu/instruct/weinstei/writejournal.htm>  **Papers** (40%). You will write 2 short papers and a research paper. The short papers, approximately 750 words each, will be due on October 2 and November 6.  The research paper, 1,250-1300 words, will be due on December 6.  The research paper will build on one of your short papers.  You are expected to turn in a draft of each paper a week before the due date (September 25, October 30, and November 29) for peer review. The short papers will count 10% each and the research paper 20% toward your final grade. All papers should be typed, double spaced, with 1” margins all around. The title page and citations should appear on a separate page at the beginning and end of the paper and will not be part of the text word count.  Your paper should have an introduction, the body and a conclusion. (I would provide further details about the papers in class.) The papers will be judged by their introduction and thesis, clarity, organization, writing mechanics, citation, and sense of evidence.    **Group Project and Class Participation (20%)**  You are expected to give a class presentation that may take the form of a PowerPoint presentation. 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. Presentation will count 10% and overall class participation additional 10% toward your final grade.  **Laptop Computer and Cell Phone Policy.** You are allowed to bring and use your laptop in class; however, you are limited in its use for approved tasks. You are not allowed to read or write emails, go to FaceBook or any site not approved by your instructor. Each violation of the rule will result in the loss of 2% of the cumulative points earned during the semester. And please turn off and put away the cell phone in your backpack.  **Attendance and Arrival Time**.  You are expected to attend all classes; the only exception would be medical and family emergencies.  You would lose 2% of your earned score for each unexcused absence.  The class starts at 10:00 and ends at 11:30 a.m., so please arrive in class on time. Students habitually arriving late would be penalized at the discretion of the instructor.  **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 for Academic Success and Student Disabilities Services, Pamela Roberts, [765-658-6267](tel:765-658-6267), Harrison Hall 302A.  **General Rule:** Failure to appear for an exam or turn in a written assignment on time 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** |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Exam Dates** | **Paper Deadlines** | **Draft Deadlines** | **Journal Due Dates** | | September 13 | October 2 (short paper) | September 25 (short paper) | September 4 | | October 11 | November 6 (short paper) | October 30 (short paper) | September 18 | | December 4 | December 6 (research paper) | November 29 (research paper) |  |   September 4: Journal 1 due  September 13: Exam 1  September 18: Journal 2 due  September 25: Short Paper 1 draft due  October 2: Revised Short Paper 1 due  October 11: Exam 2  October 30: Short Paper 2 Draft due  November 6: Revised Short Paper 2 due  November 29: Research Paper Draft due  December 4: Exam 3  December 6: Research Paper due |
| Schedule and Assignment   |  | | --- | | Part 1: Concepts and Theories |   August 23 and 28   **1. Comparative Politics--Why, What and How, History and Methodology Plagiarism Discussion**  \*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. Lipson, Doing Honest Work in College, pp. 3-53  **Journal Assignment** will be given on August 28  August 30: No Class, APSA Meeting  September 4 and 6  **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.  September 11 and 13  **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"    Sept. 13: Exam 1  September 18 and 20   1. **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   September 25 and 27   |  | | --- | | **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  October 2: Library Research Day  October 4, 9 and 11  **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?  October 11: Second Exam.  Week of October 15: Fall Break   |  | | --- | | **Part III. Government and Politics in China** |   October 23 and 25  **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  October 30 and November 1  **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  November 6 and 8  **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   |  | | --- | | **Part IV. Government and Politics in India** |   November 13, 15 and 20  **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  November 22: Thanksgiving Recess  November 27 and 29  **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 4: Exam III  December 6: Research paper due in class |
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