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| 150pictures | POLS 150 B, Spring 2011Comparative Politics and Government Professor Sunil K. Sahu,  [Sahus@Depauw.edu](mailto:sahus@depauw.edu) |

Office: Asbury 108A

Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00, Th. 3:50-4:30 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: 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, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global   
Challenge, 7th edition, Wadsworth, 2010

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

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. 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 (65%). There will be two semester exams--on March 3 and April 14--and a final exam on May 16 at 1:00 p.m. Semester exams will count 40% (20% each) and the final exam 25% 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 and Attendance (10%).  3. Quizzes. (10%). Four pop quizzes will be given during the semester; no make-up quizzes will be allowed.  4. Group Project (15%)  **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 in 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 | |
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| SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS    February 1: Introduction  Part I: Concepts and Theories  January 31, February 3 and 8  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. 10, 15 and 17  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. 22  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"    Feb. 24 and March 1  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 3: Semester Exam 1  Part II: Government and Politics In Great Britain  March 8 and 10  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 15 and 17  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  March 29 and 31  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 5 and 7  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 12: Semester Exam II  April 14  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 Nationalism 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 19, 21 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.  April 28, May 3 and 5  **Politics in Nigeria**  Rudolphs article on Indian Democracy (Moodle)  Hauss, pp. 429-441  Hauss, pp. 441-460  Hints of a New Chapter (Moodle)  May 10 and 12  **Politics in Iran**  Hauss, pp. 363-378  Weiner, Legacy of Ashes (Moodle)  Hauss, pp. 378-392  May 16: Final Exam (1:00 p.m.) |
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