Summer 2013

POL 305: Global Politics/Comparative

Course Period: June 4th to August 11th, 2013

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Office: N/A
Online Office Hours (available Gmail Chat): Tuesdays 1pm to 2pm, Thursdays 5pm to 6pm, and by appointment

Course Overview:
This course will offer an introduction to Comparative Politics, which is a subfield of Political Science. Comparative Politics is a field of study that examines various political issues in states and societies around the world. We will look at some of the theoretical components of Comparative Politics using a number of case studies, and we will also study the broader global context. We will examine various regime types, using case studies to further illuminate the variety.

In looking at Comparative Politics we will examine issues like regimes, ideology, societies, political economy (both domestic and international), and globalization. You will encounter these concepts through both traditional political science texts like journal articles and book chapters, but we will also examine them through popular culture texts like short stories, TV shows, and movies.

Course Objectives: This course is designed as a survey of the field of Comparative Politics. The key course objectives are:
1. Mastery of key concepts in Comparative Politics
2. Ability to apply these concepts to real world examples
3. An improved knowledge of countries from around the world
4. Ability to form and present arguments of your own in a variety of formats, including popular online formats.

Information you need to know:

Office Hours. As this is an online course I will not be holding in-person office hours, but I will still be making myself available regularly. I will be online and signed into Gmail Chat using my Hawaii email address on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2pm and Thursdays from 5pm to 6pm. If those hours do not work for you or you are not comfortable using Gmail Chat, please email me directly (kpjb@hawaii.edu). I would be happy to answer yours questions by email, Gmail Chat, and Skype.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is a very straightforward and simple concept: if you present someone else's words or ideas as your own then you are plagiarizing them. Plagiarism is a form of theft and academic dishonesty. Some examples include doing any of the following...
without proper citation: cutting and pasting text from a website, paraphrasing another person’s ideas, directly copying words from any source (book, journal, script), etc. Doing any of the above is cheating and will result in serious consequences. Any work that is deemed to include plagiarized material will be failed.

I understand that generally people resort to plagiarism when they are under pressure for various reasons: work, family, relationships, or simply not understanding the material. Please talk to me if you are having trouble with the work. We will work something out together that will be much better than cheating and failing.

If you have any questions about the plagiarism policy of the school please see the UHM Student Conduct Code: www.hawaii.edu/ail/students/plagiarism.html. For all UHM policies on academic integrity please see this page: http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html.

**Services to students with disabilities.** If you have any kind of disability and you are concerned about access to the course or completing the required work, I encourage you to contact KOKUA. The KOKUA program is located on the ground floor of the Student Services Center, online (http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/), and can also be reached by phone at 956-7511.

**Computer Labs.** Computer labs are available in both the Sinclair and Hamilton libraries for all students. The College of Social Sciences has additional computer labs in Saunders and Crawford Halls. You can find the exact locations and hours on their websites:

- www.hawaii.edu/itslab/index.htm
- www.sociaisciences.hawaii.edu/pages/tech/lab/labschedules.html

**Writing Center.** If you are concerned with the level of your writing or you are looking for additional assistance the English Department has a writing center. It is really important to plan in advance if you want to use the writing center because their available appointments can fill up quickly. For more information you can check out their website:

- www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/

**Required Reading:**
All required readings will be available on Laulima, and are listed by class meeting.

**Assignments:**
All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, with proper grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. For assignments turned in electronically please make sure that your files are word documents (the file ending should be .doc or .docx).

1. **You are required to do the assigned reading every week.** When reading material for class you should be reading actively, which means underlining or highlighting passages that seem important, writing notes in the margin, marking passages that you have questions about, and so on. Reading assigned texts before watching podcast lectures will make the lectures much more useful for you.
2. **Everyone is expected to keep up with the readings and the podcast lectures.** I have already posted all of the readings for the semester in the Resources folder on Laulima. I made a separate subfolder for each week to make it easier for you to locate the appropriate readings. I will post podcast lectures for each week by Sunday at 5pm (HPS). Throughout the semester there will also be optional TV episodes and movies that you can watch to enrich the lecture podcasts.

3. **You will take a short quiz each week on Laulima by Friday at 5pm.** These quizzes will focus on material from the lecture podcasts and your readings. *(These quizzes comprise 15% of your final grade)*

4. **You will be working on a single project throughout the semester.** This project encompasses both your final report and a wiki that you will develop throughout the semester. Each of you will choose a different country to research. You cannot choose a country that we are using as a case study (UK, China, Germany, Iran, Mexico) or the US. You will choose your country in the first week of class by June 6th.
   a. **You will be developing a wiki throughout the semester using the Wiki tool on Laulima.** Each week you must post on and link to an article that covers a current event or issue in the country of your choosing. You must do these weekly postings from week 2 through week 9, and they should be posted by **Thursday at 5pm** each week. These weekly postings should be at least 250 words, and should focus on your analysis of the current event. You will also need to work on gathering background information on your country, describing its current regime and where it came from, etc. The point of the wiki is to help you develop a broad knowledge of your chosen country throughout the semester, which will prepare you to write your final report. *(The wiki is worth 20% of your final grade)*
   b. **Your final report is due by Midnight on August 9th.** You need to turn the paper in electronically via the drop box on Laulima. The report should be 10 to 15 pages in length. I will give you more information about the structure and what material to include later in the semester. *(The final report makes up 35% of your grade)*

5. **You are required to complete a blog post each week by 5pm on Thursday.** The point of these blog posts is for you to engage with the readings beyond the classroom. Each week I will post 2 to 3 questions by Sunday at 5pm, and you will then choose 1 question to answer. Your answers should be 1 to 2 paragraphs in length, and must include at least 1 quote from the primary texts we covered that week. You can also bring in external material (current events, popular culture texts, etc.) if it helps you answer the question. Your first blog post is due on June 13th by 5pm, and your last regular blog post is due on August 1st by 5pm. You will also be required to post a reflective blog post during the last week of class. *(Your blog grade is worth 20% of your grade)*

6. **You will also be required to comment on your peers’ work throughout the semester.** You must comment on at least one person’s blog post and at least one person’s wiki each week. You will begin commenting on each other’s posts and wikis in Week 3. Your comments should be in response to posts and wiki additions from the previous week. For example, your first comments on blog posts and wikis
are due during Week 3, and these comments should cover posts completed by June 13th (Week 2). You will have to comment from Week 3 through Week 10. (Your comments on blog posts and wikis are worth 10% of your final grade).

Summary of assignments and grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quizzes</th>
<th>Wikis</th>
<th>Blog</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Final Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly, due Fridays by 5pm</td>
<td>Weekly, due Thursdays by 5pm</td>
<td>Weekly, due Thursdays by 5pm</td>
<td>Weekly, due Thursdays by 5pm</td>
<td>8/9</td>
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Bonus Opportunity:

You have the option to complete an additional blog post (at least 250 words) explaining how a popular culture piece of your choosing (TV show, movie, short story, etc.) made you think differently about Comparative Politics. You can neither post on something that someone else has already posted about, nor something that you read or watched for an assignment in this class. The deadline will be the last day of class (8/9).
**Tentative Class Schedule** (Subject to alteration with notice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (6/4-6/7)</td>
<td>Introduction, Regime Types and Ideologies</td>
<td>Weber, O’Neil ch. 1, Ball p. 3-10, MJS Ch. 12</td>
<td>Pick countries, set up wikis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (6/10-6/14)</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Schmitter, MJS Ch. 7, VB ch. 10, Weldes</td>
<td>Begin blogs, wikis, and quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (6/17-6/21)</td>
<td>Case Study: UK</td>
<td>O’Neil ch. 2, Newspaper articles</td>
<td>Begin commenting on each other’s blogs and wikis</td>
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<td>4 (6/24-6/28)</td>
<td>Marxism</td>
<td>Communist Manifesto, Choose any 3 excerpts from Ball ch. 5 and ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 (7/1-7/5)</td>
<td>Case Study: China</td>
<td>O’Neil ch. 7, Harvey ch. 5, Chiang (story)</td>
<td>Because the Thursday is July 4th, I will extend the normal Thursday deadlines to Friday at 5pm for this week only</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 (7/8-7/12)</td>
<td>Authoritarianism</td>
<td>Diamond, Zoline (story), Ball Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 (7/15-7/19)</td>
<td>Case Study: Germany (WWII) and Iran</td>
<td>MJS p. 437-451, Rupert and Solomon</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 (7/22-7/26)</td>
<td>International Political Economy (IPE)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Final regular blog post, comments on blogs and wikis, and quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 (7/29-8/2)</td>
<td>Case Study: Mexico</td>
<td>O’Neil ch. 10, Newspaper articles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 (8/5-8/9)</td>
<td>Course Wrap-Up</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Final Paper Due, complete your wiki, and a reflective blog post</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I have structured the course to pair key theoretical concepts and categories with country-based case studies. We will examine common aspects in each case study (political institutions, important historical events, and so on). Following each key topic with a case study is useful for undergraduate students as it demonstrates how the concepts work in the real world. In particular the case studies show how messy the concepts become when applied, which makes the course more obviously useful to the students.**
Full Citations for Class Readings {Please see the end of the page for notes}


**Notes**

1. MJS on the syllabus refers to the Michael J. Sodaro text
2. Most of the readings from the “Ball” text are excerpts from other things, and so the citations are a bit more involved than the generic one that I have listed here. For example, if you want to cite “Utopia” by Thomas More, which can be found in Ball chapter 5 (class meetings Week 4), then your citation should look something like this:
   So you have to add the author and title of the excerpt, as well as the page numbers that you can see in the PDF version on Laulima.
3. I’ve used the MLA format here, but you can use other citation systems as long as they are consistent. For information on citation systems (including everything you need to know to use them properly) you can visit the OWL Purdue website: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/)
4. I will add citation information for new readings that I add to the syllabus. I will let you know if I add or take away readings.