Spring 2006
MW 12-1:15
Alpine 212

Dr. Lapp
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Hours: MW 1:20-2:20; F 11-12
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Course Description: As the title implies, this course is a survey of the field of comparative government and politics. After answering the question, "What is comparative politics?" and discussing methods of comparison, we will go on to examine and compare different forms of government and political systems in most parts of the world. GOVT 140 is an elective for Government majors and a required course for students in the International Relations Concentration.

The CSUS catalog describes this course as a survey of the field of comparative government and politics including a review of historic uses of comparison in political science research but with emphasis on the methods of study and analytical means of research currently employed. The subject matter of study: national political systems of all types and the component parts of political systems will be an integral feature. The prerequisite is Government 1 or its equivalent.

Texts: The following are required and available for purchase at the Hornet bookstore:


Required readings posted on LOCUS

Requirements: Midterm (2 in-class): 200 points (100 points each)
Quizzes (take-home and in-class, including one in-class the last week of the semester): 100 points
Final Exam (take-home): 100 points

The exams and quizzes will consist of short-answer and essay questions.

Grades: A = 94%+; A- = 90%; B+ = 88%; B = 84%; B- = 80%; C+ = 78%, and so on.

Other Important Information: Internet access will be a necessity for this class; if you do not have access at home, familiarize yourself with the computer labs on the CSUS campus as soon as possible. You will need to use LOCUS to access readings and course materials. A password will be provided on the first day of class.
Academic Honesty. Be careful to avoid plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism is the "act of stealing and using as one's own the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another," according to *The Scribner-Bantam English Dictionary*. The ideas and words of others as well as facts which are not common knowledge must be properly attributed to the source. Plagiarism and/or cheating could result in your expulsion from the university; for this class, you will receive a "0" on any work that has any plagiarism or cheating, with no opportunity to redo. More than one instance of plagiarism or cheating will lead to an F in the course. All instances of plagiarism and cheating will be reported to Student Affairs.

Incompletes. Only under the most unusual circumstances will incompletes be given in this class. Under no circumstances will incompletes be granted for students who are not earning at least a "C-" in the class at the time the incomplete request is made. If you suspect you are having problems or are falling behind in class, see me as soon as possible so that you can avoid unpleasant consequences at the end of the semester.

**Course Outline:**
The following schedule includes the readings that will need to be done before class meetings the week that they are assigned. Although unlikely, this schedule may be subject to change. Also highly recommended: reading the "International" section of the *New York Times*, available online free at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com). Lexis-Nexis has older articles that you can access for free.

**Week 1** January 23, 25  
What is "Comparative Politics"? How can we compare?  
Readings:  
O'Neil and Rogowski, *Readings*:  
- Preface and Introduction to Chapter 1 (ix, 1-2)  
- Macridis, 2-10

**Week 2**: January 30, February 1  
What do we compare, how and why?  
Readings:  
O'Neil and Rogowski, *Readings*:  
- Lave and March, 10-31  
- Skocpol, "France, Russia, China," 464-481  

**Week 3**: February 6, 8  
State and Society  
O'Neil and Rogowski, *Readings*:  
- Introduction to chapter 2, "The State" (32-34)  
- Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," 34-40  
- Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back In," 40-47  
- North, "Institutions," 129-140  
- Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," 48-62  
- Introduction to chapter 3, "Nations and Society" (70-1)  
- Almond, "Comparative Political Systems," 106-113
Week 4: February 13, 15
Authoritarian Governments
Readings:

O'Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
- Introduction to Chapter 5 (152-53)
- Linz and Stepan, "Modern Nondemocratic Regimes," 154-65
- Diamond, "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes," 166-177
- Snyder and Ballentine, "Nationalism and the Marketplace of Ideas," 177-97
- Kalathil, "Dot Com for Dictators," 197-202

Week 5: February 20, 22
Democracy
Readings:

O'Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
- Introduction to Chapter 6 (203-4)
- Zakaria, 205-220
- Schmitter and Karl, 220-229
- Putnam, "Tuning In, Tuning Out," 239-66
- Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimer Republic," 266-77

LOCUS (Readings): Thomas Carothers, "Zakaria's Complaint," National Interest 72 (Summer 2003): 137-144

Week 6: February 27, March 1
Democracy, continued
Readings:

O'Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
- Introduction to Chapter 7 (278-79)
- Tocqueville, 280-87
- Lipset, "Economic Development and Democracy," 287-300


Week 7: March 6, 8
Review

Midterm #1: Wednesday, March 8

Spring Break
Week 8: March 20, 22

**Choices and Consequences: Parliamentary v. Presidential Democracy**

Examples of the Parliamentary System: UK, Japan

Readings:

O'Neil and Rogowski, *Readings*:
- Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," 230-238 (focus on his discussion of presidential v. parliamentary forms of government


LOCUS (links): read about the United Kingdom at [http://www.parliament.uk/](http://www.parliament.uk/);
links and interesting information also available through [http://www.britain-info.org/](http://www.britain-info.org/).

LOCUS: Countrywatch on Japan

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Week 9: March 27, 29

Examples of the Presidential System: US, Brazil

Readings:

LOCUS: U.S. Constitution (any copy will do)

O'Neil and Rogowski, *Readings*:

LOCUS: Countrywatch on Brazil

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Week 10: April 3, 5

**Choices and Consequences: Electoral Systems**

Readings:

O'Neil and Rogowski, *Readings*:
- Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies," 230-238 (reread: this time focus on his discussion of plurality v. PR elections
- Duverger, "The Number of Parties," 301-305


LOCUS (Links): Review Prof. Doug Amy's (Mount Holyoke College) website: [http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/polit/damy/prlib.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/polit/damy/prlib.htm); and "ACE project" (Administration and Cost of Elections Project) website, [http://www.aceproject.org/](http://www.aceproject.org/)
Week 11: April 10, 12
Electoral Systems and "Divided Societies"
Readings:
O’Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
  • *The Economist*, "The Global Menace of Local Strife," 80-84
  • Collier, "Ethnic Diversity: An Economic Analysis," 84-105

**Midterm #2: April 10**

Week 12: April 17, 19
Communism and Postcommunism
Readings:
O’Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
  • Introduction to Chapter 8 (322-23)
  • Marx and Engels, 323-335
LOCUS: Countrywatch on Russia AND China

Week 13: April 24, 26
Communism and Postcommunism
Readings:
O’Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
  • Przeworski, 336-340
  • Gallagher, 341-352
  • Buruma, 353-59
Week 14: May 1, 3
Democracy Revisited: Dilemmas of the Developing World
Readings:

O’Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
• Introduction to Chapter 4 (114-16)
• Mandeville, "Fable of the Bees," 116-21
• Ricardo, "On Foreign Trade," 121-22
• The Economist "Trade Winds," 122-26
• Introduction to Chapter 9 (360-61)
• Easterly, "To Help the Poor," 362-69
• Pritchett, "Divergence, Big Time," 370-81
• The Economist, "Liberty’s Great Advance," 382-86
• Collier and Gunning, "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" 387-403


Week 15: May 8, 10
Democracy and Development
Readings:

O’Neil and Rogowski, Readings:
• Barro, "Democracy: A Recipe for Growth?" 404-406
• Przeworski et al., "Political Regimes and Economic Growth," 406-14
• Lake and Baum, "The Invisible Hand of Democracy," 415-32
• chapter 10, "Globalization"
• Hoffman, "Clash of Globalizations," 435
• Galbraith, "A Perfect Crime," 441
• Nye, "Globalization’s Democratic Deficit," 452
• Economist, "Grinding the Poor," 456

In-class quiz

Finals Week
Final Exam: Take-home exam due Wednesday, May 17 by 5 p.m.