

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Spring 2014

Discipline: Political Science

PLCP 1010-501 and 502: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Division: Lower

Faculty Name: Fred R. Mabbutt

Pre-requisites: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the nature and scope of comparative political analysis, the structure of political systems, and theories which explain their function or dysfunction. Selected regional and national studies (including the U.S. and U.K, Japan, China, India, Vietnam, South Africa, and Ghana) will focus on major concepts in comparative political theory, such as: the impact of the past, the nature of political change and the forms of political legitimacy, political culture and political socialization, and the structure of governments and the politics of modernization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understanding the basic methodologies of comparative politics.
2. Comprehending the basic principles of comparative politics.
3. Understanding the causes of political conflict and methods of conflict resolution within a given country.
4. Understanding the political institutions of a country and how social and geographic factors shape them.
5. Understanding the relationship between the domestic politics and policies of a nation in terms of how they affect the international community.
6. Understanding the importance of European countries, particularly the UK and France, in terms of the legacy their empires left in terms of shaping the political ideas and institutions of the developing countries we will visit.
7. Understanding the political issues that divide a country and region.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Thomas Magstadt

TITLE: *Nations and Governments: Comparative Politics in a Regional Perspective*

PUBLISHER: Thomas Wadsworth

ISBN #: 978-0-4959-1528-7 (paperback)

DATE/EDITION: (2010) 6th edition

AUTHOR: James Danziger

TITLE: *Understanding the Political System*

PUBLISHER: Longman

ISBN# 0-205-85492-3

DATE/EDITION: (2012) 11th edition

AUTHOR: Barbara Victor
TITLE: *The Lady: Aung San Suu Kyi*
PUBLISHER: Faber and Faber
ISBN#: 0-571-21177-1
DATE/EDITION: 2002

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Course Schedule (Subject to revision as necessitated by voyage)

- 1. Topic:** Introduction to the course: An explanation of globalization and the regional approach. This session will focus on various terms, including state, nation, government, politics, society, and republic.
Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, ch. 1; *Understanding the Political World*, chap. 6
- 2. Topic:** Understanding the basic methodologies of comparative politics. The focus will be on classifications, typologies, continua, and rankings.
Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, pp. 42-78; *Understanding the Political World*, pp. 3-24; 129-158

Hilo, Hawaii—A

- 3. Topic:** Regions and Types of Regimes: Typologies. In addition to explaining the characteristics of the regions we will visit, this session will focus on types of democratic government, including presidential and parliamentary systems, and explain the concept of “mixed” government, types of representation, and the advantages and disadvantages of organizing power into federal and unitary systems.
Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, chap. 3; Owen, “Dangerous Democracies”

Hilo, Hawaii—B

- 4. QUIZ**
Topic: The British Parliamentary System and the American Presidential System. As these two systems of government are widely used as models for other countries, they will be compared and contrasted domestically, as well as how each deals with crises (war or economic emergency). Strengths and weaknesses of each will be assessed.
Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, chap. 4; *Understanding the Political World*, chap. 7
- 5. Topic:** Japan: Impact of the past. After examining Japan’s physical geography, this session will examine the impact of the past (a long feudal history, Perry’s “opening” of Japan, the Meiji Restoration, defeat in the Pacific theater of World War II, and its postwar economic “miracle”).
Reading Assignment: *Nations and Government*, ch. 7 (Japan section)
- 6. Topic:** Japan: Japan’s key political institutions. After discussing elements of its political culture (including the importance of the group and the concept of *on*), this session will focus on the monarchy, the “MacArthur” Constitution, the *Diet*, the Prime Minister, its major political parties, and the issues which divide them.
Reading Assignment: *Understanding the Political World*, ch. 2; Goldstone’s “The New Population Bomb”; Kurlantzick’s “The Asian Century? Not Quite Yet”

7. **Topic:** China: Impact of the past. After discussing the importance of China's boundaries (shared with more than a dozen other countries), this session will look at the impact of the past on its politics (the early elimination of feudalism and its replacement with a long-standing Mandarin or bureaucratic empire, its "century of humiliation," the creation of a republic (1911), the Pacific War against Japan and civil war which resulted in the triumph of Communism in 1949, Maoism, the impact of Deng Xia Ping and the re-annexation of Hong Kong and Macau.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Government* ch. 7 (China); Kaplan's "Geography of Chinese Power"

Yokohama/Kobe, Japan

8. **Topic:** China's key political institutions: After discussing elements of China's political culture (including Confucianism), this session will examine the structure of the Communist Party and its relationship to the government, the Army, and the role of technocrats in China's economic growth. The political conflict within the Communist party will be explained, as well as the economic and political challenges it faces.

Reading Assignment: *Understanding the Political World*, ch. 16; Nathan's "How China Sees America"

Journal Review

Shanghai/Hong Kong, China

9. **First Midterm:** This examination will be based on readings and lectures 1-8.

Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam

10. **Topic:** Viet Nam: Impact of the past. We will examine Viet Nam's physical and cultural geography, and the impact of past conflicts on its current politics. In particular, World War II, the colonial war with France, U.S. involvement, as well as conflict with its neighbors (PRC and Cambodia) will be explained. Key institutions to be discussed include the Soviet model of the Communist Party and its relationship to the government and the Army, the liberalization of the economy (*moi doi*), and challenges confronted by the global recession.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Government*, ch. 8; Kaplan's "The Vietnam Solution"; Brown's "Vietnam and America: Parameters of the Possible"

Singapore

11. Hong Kong and Singapore: One Former "Little Dragon" (now part of the PRC) and One Current "Little Dragon." An examination of these two city-state models of economic and political development and an explanation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy of the PRC in respect to Hong Kong.

Reading Assignment: None

Rangoon, Burma

12. **Topic:** Postcolonial leaders: Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma) and Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam). The problems of obtaining independence and postcolonial development will be discussed through a study of these two important leaders and their ideas about independence and political and economic development.

Reading Assignment: *The Lady: Aung San Suu Kyi*

13. Topic: India: Impact of the past. A survey of India's geography will be followed by an examination of its major populations (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, et al.), regions, and problems related to demography. The legacies of the British Raj (positive and negative) will be assessed, and the patterns of the past that led to the leadership of Gandhi, Nehru, and Jinnah and the political partition of the subcontinent will be examined along with its wars with Pakistan. The problems of caste, language, and religion will be discussed, and India's Five Year Plans under the Nehru dynasty will be compared and contrasted with the government's more recent policies favoring a liberal-market approach to its economy.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, ch. 8 (India); Das "The India Model"

Cochin, India

14. Topic: India: India's key political institutions. This session will examine India's Constitution and the challenges it faced with the princely states (including Kashmir). As that Constitution created a secular federal republic based on the Westminster parliamentary model, the Indian federal system will be compared and contrasted to the American federal system with its two-party system. The political parties in the Lok Sabha will be surveyed and their beliefs explained in relation to current political issues and government coalitions.

Reading Assignment: *Understanding the Political World*, ch. 13-14

15. Topic: Political Economy. This session introduces a comparative approach that classifies and characterizes political systems in terms of their political economies and explores the linkages between politics and economics. We will examine three different ideal types of political economies (market, command, and mixed), and the ideologies that motivate these ideal types.

Reading Assignment: *Understanding the Political World*, ch. 9

Port Louis, Mauritius—A

16. Second Midterm: This examination will be based on readings and lectures 9-15.

Port Louis, Mauritius—B

17. Topic: Colonialism and Decolonization: Political Patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa. America was not the only "New World" two centuries ago. Sub-Saharan Africa also fell into that category from a European perspective—even though these civilizations were among the oldest in the world. This session will involve a comparison of the colonial and decolonization experiences of three former British colonies: the United States, India, and South Africa.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, ch.13; Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations"

Journal Review

18. Topic: South Africa: Impact of the past. This session will begin with an examination of the very artificial boundaries that were largely the creation of the Berlin Conference (1885). From here the focus will be on South Africa's historic turning points like the Great Trek, Dingaan's Kraal, and the Boer War, its political culture (Africans, Afrikaners, English-Speakers, and Indians/"Coloureds"), and the political patterns that led to the apartheid era and finally to the transition that led to democracy.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, ch. 14; *Understanding the Political World*, ch. 6; Kapstein's "Africa's Capitalist Revolution"; Meldrum's "South Africa on Trial"

Cape Town, South Africa [Field Lab Section I]

19. Topic: South Africa: South Africa's Key Political Institutions. We will examine South Africa's

previous model of British or “Westminster” parliamentary system and compare the changes in 1990 to a quasi-presidential system and current methods of representation. Its Cabinet, Constitutional Court, and political party system will be described with particular attention given to politics within the ANC (African National Congress), challenges from Inkatha, and the political issues South Africa faces.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Government*, chap. 12 (South Africa); Atuahene’s “South Africa’s Land Reform Crisis”; Johnson’s “Zuma’s First Year”

20. Topic: Political Patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa. Forty-seven of Africa’s fifty-five independent states and more than 70% of the continent’s population are located south of the Sahara desert. We will examine the diverse spectrum of political cultures and types of governments. Authoritarian regimes have dominated and may be military or civilian. Focus will be on the character and tactics of types of these systems with special attention to South Africa and Ghana.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Government*, chap. 14

21. Topic: Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah and an African Model of Development. The focus of this session will be to describe this model and its implementation in two of his projects: the great Volta River Dam and the port of Tema near the capital city of Accra. This will be followed by a discussion of the political state of Ghana as it strives for democracy in its 4th Republic after decades of military dictatorship.

Reading Assignment: *Understanding the Political World*, chap. 17; Heineman’s “The Long Road Against Corruption”; Joseph’s “Democracy and Reconfigured Power in Africa”

Tema/Takadori, Ghana [Field Lab Section II]

22. Topic: The “Other” Africa: Morocco and the Maghreb. Sub-Saharan—or “Black Africa”—shares the continent with a number of the predominantly Arab countries, including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Sudan. This class will focus on the so-called “Arab Spring” of 2011 and its consequences in the Maghreb region region, particularly on the Kingdom of Morocco.

Reading Assignment: *Nations and Governments*, chap. 11; Anderson’s Demystifying the Arab Spring”; Sherif’s “Islamism After the Arab Spring”; Muravchik’s “Bringing Democracy to the Arab World”

23. Topic: Globalization. Domestic politics have always been shaped by international forces such as trade, migration, war, and the spread of ideas. First, globalization erodes the distinction between international relations and domestic politics, making many aspects of domestic politics subject to global forces. Second, local events, even small ones, can have global impact. This session will undertake to describe this phenomenon and assess its significance.

Reading Assignment: Florida’s “The World Is Spiky”; Rodrik’s, “Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate”

24. Review

Casablanca, Morocco

25. Lens Course Final: This examination is based on lectures and readings 16-23.

FIELD WORK

The field component represents twenty percent of your grade. This will be facilitated through the requisite Field Lab and report, class journal and attendance at all Diplomatic Briefings.

Field Lab-Section One [3/28/14]: *Truth & Reconciliation in South Africa:* We will visit the Institute for Truth & Reconciliation for a presentation. After lunch we travel to District Six Museum and walking tour of the area relevant to South Africa's apartheid period and struggle to overcome racial segregation.

Field Lab-Section Two [4/10/14]: *Democratization in Ghana:* We will visit the Center for Democratic Development in Accra to engage with key staff for a briefing and discussion regarding the state of democracy in this country followed by a tour of significant political buildings and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park.

Students will provide a 2-3 page report summarizing what was learned during the lab.

Field Assignments:

Journal: Students are required to maintain a journal of their field experiences and political observations in each country visited as it pertains to the course. To provide some structure for field observations there will be pre-port presentations that help frame important questions to ponder while in port. Journal entries should be a record of the student's notes and a connection between readings and class lectures with field experience. Students are encouraged to engage locals in serious conversation and to take notes of relevant comments from this dialogue. (Given language barriers, this may not always be possible, and remember that politics—like religion—can be a sensitive issue. Be respectful.) Try to conduct at least one or two interviews with a local in each country to get some idea of their views on relevant subjects. The final journal entry should compare two of the countries visited during the voyage with a focus on one key concept. The key concepts from which the student may choose include: democratization, economic violence, issues of population growth, equality/inequality, political culture (parochial, subject, civic), urban/rural patterns, globalization, and social change.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

1. Three essay examinations will account for 65% of your total grade. Mid-terms are worth 20% and the final counts for 25%. Each exam will include short one- paragraph answers to several "Identify and give the Significance" questions as well as two or three broader essay questions. Answers to the broader essay questions will be evaluated in terms of the student's ability to grasp concepts, synthesize lectures and readings, and express an answer in a logical and organized essay.
2. The Field Component, comprised of the Field Lab report and journal, is worth 20% of your total grade. These will be evaluated in terms of the student's ability to connect concepts to observation and experience.
3. Announced quizzes will count for 10% of your final grade.
4. Class participation will account for 5% of your total grade. A significant expectation of this part of your grade depends on being prepared to discuss readings and lectures in class. Attendance to all classes is mandatory.

Grading

A = 90%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn

TITLE: *Half The Sky*

PUBLISHER: Faber & Faber

ISBN #978-0-571-19944-0

DATE/EDITION: 2002

AUTHOR: David Vine

TITLE: *Island of Shame*

PUBLISHER: First Vintage Books

ISBN# 978-0-307-38709-7

DATE/EDITION: 2009

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

Additional assigned readings:

Ajami, Fouad (2012). “The Arab Spring at One: A Year of Living Dangerously” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April): 56-63.

Atuahene, Bernadette (2011). “South Africa’s Land Reform Crisis” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August): 121-29.

Brown, Frederick (2010). “Vietnam and America: Parameters of the Possible” *Current History* (April): 162-169.

Bryant, Christa (2011). “The Rise of the Global Middle Class” *Christian Science Monitor* (May 23): 23-37.

Das, Gurcharan (2006). “The India Model” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August): 2-16.

De Santis, Hugh (2012). “The China Threat and the ‘Pivot’ to Asia (Sept.): 209-215.

Fallows, James (2011). “The Arab Spring, Chinese Winter” *The Atlantic* (September): 50-58.

Florida, Richard (2005) “The World Is Spiky” *Atlantic Monthly* (October): 48-51.

Goldstone, Jack (2010). “The New Population Bomb” *Foreign Affairs* (Jan./ Feb.): 31-44.

Heineman, Ben (2006). “The Long War Against Corruption” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June): 75-86.

Huntington, Samuel (1993). “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer): 22-32.

Johnson, R. W. ((2010) “Zuma’s First Year,” *Current History* (May): 200-204.

Joseph, Richard (2011) “Democracy and Reconfigured Power in Africa,” *Current History* (November): 324-330.

Kaplan, Robert (2010). “The Geography of Chinese Power” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June): 22-41.

Kaplan, Robert (2012). “The Vietnam Solution” *The Atlantic* (September): 50-58.

Kapstein, Ethan (2009). “Africa’s Capitalist Revolution” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August): 119-128.

Kurlantzick, Joshua. (2010) “The Asian Century? Not Quite Yet” *Current History* (January): 26-31.

Meldrum, Andrew (2006). "South Africa on Trial" *Current History* (May): 109-213.
Nathan, Andrew. (2012). "How China Sees America" *Foreign Affairs* (Sept./Oct.): 32-48.
Owen, John. (2005). "Dangerous Democracies" *Foreign Affairs* (October/November): 122-127.
"Phoney Democracies" (2000). *The Economist* (June 24): 17-18.
Rodrik, Dani (1997) "Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate," *Foreign Policy* (Summer): 19-37.

HONOR CODE

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."