

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Branislav Seslija	<b>OFFICE:</b>	BSB 1113
<b>CLASS MEETINGS:</b>	BSB 1171; M-W-F 12:00pm – 1:40pm	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	bsesli1@uic.edu
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mondays 2-3pm; or by appointment	<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	312-996-4485

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this first course in Comparative Politics we shall study the socio-economic, legal-institutional, and cultural-psychological dimensions of political life of a variety of countries across the globe. Although the course is elementary in the level of literature and in the comparative methodology covered, it will provide you with both an understanding of the main ideas of comparative politics and some crucial skills for understanding the socio-economic, legal-institutional, and cultural-psychological dimensions of political life in different parts of the world. Understanding these dimensions in a variety of countries will enable you to gain new perspectives and understand the real world outside the US boundaries. We will compare 6 different countries, covering one topic per week.

Patience, enthusiasm, and a sense of humor are strongly encouraged in this course. I hope you come to class with an open and curious mind. It is of greatest importance to inform me as soon as you start feeling lost. Feel free to stop our lectures any time you do not understand what is being presented to you.

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**REQUIRED TEXTS & RELATED MATERIALS**

The required text for the course is:

*Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Seven Countries (4th Edition)* by Rolf H.W. Theen, Frank L. Wilson. – (check UIC book store)

You are also required to find an access to weekly editions of *The Economist* for the duration of this course. It is advised to have your own copy of The Economist - although you will not be penalized if you decide to differently access the readings.

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**GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

The grade you earn in this course is a function of your ability to work hard and to persevere. Three elements combine to create your grade – a set of short memos, a group project, and a final paper.

- All students will be required to write three short (2-3 double-spaced typed) papers on the readings found in The Economist about a certain country covered in this course. These papers contribute 25 percent of your grade. I do not care which countries do you want to cover in your short papers, but I will not accept more than one paper a week. This means no turning in all 3 papers in the last week of the class.
- Group presentation contributes 25 percent toward your course grade. Each Friday one group will prepare a presentation (current's week topic) on the differences and similarities between the 6 countries covered in this course. It is advised that your presentation lasts at least 20 minutes; also, you need to come up with questions that will provoke interesting discussions.
- Final project contributes 40 percent of your grade. Final paper should be 8-12 pages long (double spaced); it should discuss similarities and differences between 3 or more different countries; it should also focus on the current developments in those same countries. (We will talk more about this project)
- Class and discussion section participation will be graded and will count for 10% of your course grade.

\* Note: No points are awarded for class attendance since I assume you will not absent without giving me prior notice of both the cause and date(s) of your absence(s). Failure to follow this convention will result in a penalty against your grade.

**TENATIVE SCHEDULE****Week 1 - Introduction**

- Syllabus & Introduction to Comparative Political Analysis

**Week 2 - History and Political Culture**

- British History Enshrined 6
- Historical Background to Contemporary French Politics 80
- German History and Political Culture 156
- Russian History and Political Culture 247
- Japan's History and Political Culture 323
- China's History and Political Culture 398

**Week 3 – Social Settings**

- The Social Setting of British Politics 16
- The Social Basis of French Politics 90
- The Social Setting of German Politics 172
- The Social Setting of Russian Politics 259
- The Social Setting of Japanese Politics 336
- The Social Setting of Politics in China 413

**Week 4 – Political Frameworks**

- The British Political Framework 27
- The French Political Framework 101
- The Political Framework of Germany 185
- The Political Framework of the Russian Federation 271
- The Japanese Political Framework 347
- China's Political Framework 427

**Week 5 – Political Leaders**

- Political Leaders in Britain 60
- Political Leaders in France 136
- Political Leadership in Germany 218
- Political Leadership in the Russian Federation 296
- Political Leadership in Japan 378
- China's Political Leadership 448

**Week 6 – Political Participation**

- British Political Participation: The Citizen and Politics 43
- Political Participation: The French Citizen and Politics 116
- Political Participation: The German Citizen in Politics 205
- Russian Political Participation: The Citizen in Politics 287
- Japanese Political Participation: The Citizen and Politics 362
- Mass Participation and Political Socialization in China 440

**Week 7 – Political Performance**

- Britain's Political Performance 68
- French Political Performance 145
- German Socioeconomic and Political Performance 232
- Russian Political Performance 309
- Japanese Political Performance 386
- China's Political Performance 462

**Week 8 – Conclusion & finishing your final projects**

\* I will try to complete my lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays. We should use Fridays for class discussions and group presentations.

**\*\*\* FINAL PROJECT DUE FRIDAY, JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> \***