

**University of Illinois Chicago
Department of Political Science
PSC 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Fall 2004

Instructor: Dr. Nitish Dutt

Office: 1179 BSB

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Lectures: T, Th.: 11-1:50

Discussion: BSB 367

T.A.: Anita Knotekova

Office hrs.: to be announced

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the basic theories, methods, and concepts in comparative politics. In doing so, it examines the various approaches to the study of comparative politics and their application to the study and understanding of developed and developing countries. This is a broad overview course meant to familiarize students with the basic vocabulary of comparative politics and ways of thinking and understanding the politics of selected countries around the globe.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with the basic concepts, frameworks, and analytic skills so that they may apply what they learn to new issues and questions in comparative politics. To that end, emphasis is given to classroom interaction and analysis so that students have an opportunity to act as political scientists in developing and testing explanations. Lectures, videos, independent reading and group discussions constitute the basic pedagogic tools to hopefully promote discussion and critical thinking. The purpose is to foster a learning environment in which students are active participants in the learning process. For this reason students are required to attend class, *complete all readings in accordance with the schedule outlined below*, and participate actively in class and group discussions and exercises. Attendance without active, quality participation will result in a low participation grade.

REQUIRED READINGS

Michael Curtis ed. *Introduction to Comparative Government 5th ed.*, New York: Longman, 2003.

Frank Wilson, *Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics: A Introduction to Comparative Politics*

Annual Editions 04/05: *Comparative Politics*, Dushkin Publishers 2004/5.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. One mid-term exam consisting of a combination of short Identifications and an essay question
2. A final exam (comprehensive) consisting of short identification questions and two essay questions.
3. A thoughtful, analytical, think paper (about 5 double spaced typed pages in length) with endnotes and a bibliography, the topic to be decided in consultation with the Teaching Assistant,.

GRADING

The course grade is based upon the following components and are all scored on the basis of 100 points. They are then multiplied by the appropriate weights mentioned below to determine the final score.

Midterm Exam	100 points	(30%)
Think paper	100 points	(20%)
Final Exam	100 points	(40%)
Discussion Participation	100 points	(10%)
Total	500	100%

If there are any special test-taking needs, please notify the instructor so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please note that **ALL CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, and other COMMUNICATION DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE ENTERING CLASS.** All students are bound by the honor code.

Your final grade will be determined based on the following scale: A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (below 59).

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism, defined as the “stealing and passing of the ideas or words of another as one’s own “(*Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*) and other forms of cheating will result in an ‘F’ for the course. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is mandatory. If however, compelling circumstances such as participation at University sanctioned events, illness, family related occurrences do require your absence from class, please notify the instructor ahead of time. Make-up examinations will be given only in exceptional circumstances. No make-ups are allowed for oral reports. Whereas 1 or 2 absences from class and discussion sections usually will not affect a student’s grade, more frequent and repeated absences will negatively affect the overall grade.

Neither the instructor, nor the TA will accept late assignments except in exceptional circumstances. Assignments must be handed in class on the specified due date.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have any kind of disabilities that may undermine your ability to carry out the assigned coursework, please inform me or your TA at the beginning of the quarter.

SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS*

Aug. 24-Sept. 16 Background of Comparative Politics
Read: Wilson, Chs. 1, 2, 3
CP, Articles, 14, 15, 17,

COUNTRY SURVEYS

Sept. 21-28 China: Background (pre-Mao years video and discussion)

Sept. 30-Oct. 14 China: Political development (post-Mao Years video and discussion)
Read: Curtis, pp. 452-464
CP, Article 33

******* Oct. 5, Mid-term Exam *******

Oct. 19-28 China: Political Institutions and Processes
Read: Curtis, pp. 466-486
CP, Article 34, 35
New York Times (International Section), "China's Communist Party, 'to survive', Opens its Doors to Capitalism", Nov. 4, 2002, p. A10 (library microfilm)
New York Times (International Section), "Chinese Leader Gives up a Job, but not Power", Nov. 16, 2002, p. A6

Nov. 2-11 India: Political development (2 videos)
Read: Curtis, pp. 540-551
CP, Article 36

Nov. 16-Dec. 2 India: Political Institutions and Process
Read: Curtis, pp. 553-580

******* Final Exam as scheduled *******

* This schedule is only meant to serve as an indicator as to where you should be in your readings during the semester