

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARTIVE POLITICS

Fall 2011

OFF: 447 CLARK HALL

OFF. HRS MW 9:00-10:15, 3:00-4:15

Prof.Ck Harris

924 -5568

Contents:

Course description

Texts

Assessment of student learning

1) Course Description

Comparison is the cornerstone of knowledge because without it we cannot determine what is good, bad, normal or abnormal!

For example, students would be responsible for answering following questions in Comparative Politics:

- **Why is the US hated more than France even though both countries are imperial powers?**
- **Why are some countries attacked by terrorism and others are not?**
- **What countries will benefit from global warming and what countries will be harmed?**
- **Why are AIDS infections rising faster in Asia than in the US?**

Comparative Politics uses countries as the point of entry to analyze the essential patterns that all political and socio-economic systems must create to assure the persistence of their regimes. Talcott Parsons identified the basic patterns and types of behavior for the survival for all socio-economic political systems are the following:

- **Pattern Maintenance –Stability/ Institutions**
- **Goal Attainment – The capacity of the system to achieve goals**
- **Adaptation- Societies must choose between competing goals**

- **Integration requires constant adjustment to interest groups and like political sub-systems.**

We translate the preceding theoretical ideas by using the Comparative Politics tool box of political concepts!

- 1. The political system is based on the authoritative allocation of values and goods and services**
- 2. Political Actors: Elites, Interest Groups, Classes, staff the government and the institutions that conduct the business of government.**
- 3. The environmental context or level of analysis is where the legislative and political mandates are imposed or negotiated, from the city, to the state, international level.**

We also examine the conflict and competition between agents of social change as elites, political parties, groups, and their interaction. In addition to institutions and political actors many have expanded their analysis to include global issues such as free and fair trade between the southern and northern regions!

Political Scientists also use different modes of analysis to explain political behavior. For example, advocates of a cultural analysis argue that culture explains political behavior more than economics. On the other hand the Marxist paradigm is based on materialism! Others cite race or religion as the most important variables to explain political behavior for example in the Middle East. Nonetheless there is very little science in politics because our discipline has developed any laws that can predict or explain human behavior!

- 2) What requirements does this course fulfill?**

This course satisfies the "Comparative System, Culture and Environments" Subcategory of the Social Science Core GE/D2 comparative Political System. It is also a core course for all Political Science majors.

3) Required Reading:

Charles Hauss: Comparative Politics Domestic Responses To Global Challenges

Comparative Politics

Johnson Chalmers, Blowback

Grades: Mid-Term Based on The Assigned Reading In The Text: 40 PTS,

Country Papers; Compare and Contrast two Countries not in our book 30 Pts.

Compare and Contrast How Two Different Countries Not In Our Text Book Try To Address And Resolve Their Problems 30 PTS 7-9 Pages.

C. Johnson, Blowback: Explain And Discuss The Impact Of Blowback On Our Foreign Policy?

Take A Pro Or Con Position 3-5 Pages!

Reading: Part 1-5 Test 1- 30 PTS.

Johnson, Blowback: Critical Review 20 PTS

Reading: Chapter: 1, 2, And 3,4,5,6,8,10

Grade: Test 1 Based On The Palmer Text 50 PT.

1. BOOK REVIEW: BLOWBACK: EXPLAIN AND DISCUSS HOW BLOWBACK CAN EXPLAIN WHY MAJOR REGIONS OF THE WORLD WANT KILL US CITIZENS AROUND THE WORLD 20 PTS.

2. PICK TWO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND COMPARE AND CONTRAST THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEMS 7-10 & PAGES PRESENTATION 30 pts.

POLITICS, GEOGRAPHY, CULTURE

WEEK ONE INTRODUCTION CHAPTS:

REQUIRED READING: WEEKS: 1-6. BRITAIN, FRANCE AND GERMANY. EXPLAIN AND DISCUSS WHY FRANCE AND GERMANY HAS BEEN MORE UNSTABLE THAN BRITIAN?

REQUIRED READING: CHAPTS: 2, 4, 5, 6, And 7

WEEKS: 6--9 RUSSIA AND CHINA

COMPARE AND CONTRAST WHY CHINA WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL THEN RUSSIA HAS BEEN IN BULDING A MODERN CAPITALISM CAPITALIST STATE?

REQUIRED READING: CHAPTS9, 10

WEEKS: 9&10 THE RISE OF THIRD WORLD: COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE SIMILARITES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIA, CHINA,

REQUIRED READING 11, 12, 13

NIGERIA VS INDIA MID-TERM

WEEKS: 11&12 SORROWS OF EMPIRE: ANALYZE AND

IDENTIFY WHAT YOU THINK ARE THREE THE MAJOR SORROWS TO YOU AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT.

REQUIRED READING: BLOW BACK, C.JOHNSON

WEEKS: 13 &14 DEFINE BLOWBACK AND THE UNINTEDED EFECTS OF BLOWBACK

TOOL-BOX

WORLD POLITICS: INTERESTS, INTERACTIONS, INSTITUTIONS

A: WHO ARE THE ACTORS AND WHAT ARE THEIR INTERESTS?

B WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THEIR INTERACTIONS?

C. WHAT STRATEGIES WILL THEY PURSUE?

D. HOW DO INSTITUTIONS CONSTRAIN OR IMPACT INTERACTIONS?

WHEN AND HOW DO INSTITUTIONS FAVOR DIFFERENT ACTORS AND

INTEREST?

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PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTOR 9703 REQUIRES THAT STUDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE DRC TO ESTABLISH A RECORD OF THEIR DISABILITY.