POLITICAL SCIENCE 11: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Objectives and Approach: This course will explore questions and concepts in contemporary comparative politics. Themes include democracy and democratization, political institutions, the persistence of ethnicity as a political force, and the causes of civil conflict. Cases will be drawn from different regions and historical periods to ground students in the tools of comparative analysis. The major objective of the course is to teach students to think about politics in systematic and comparative terms.

Course Assignments and Grading: Assignments include regular quizzes, an in-class midterm, and a comprehensive final examination. Class attendance is required. You are expected to do the reading for each week and be prepared to discuss it in class. Your grade will be composed as follows: class participation, 10%; quizzes, 10%; midterm, 30%; and final, 50%. **Students must complete the midterm and final examination to pass the course.** Extensions, incompletes, or make-up exams will be given only in exceptionally pressing cases and in accordance with UCSD policy. Petitions must be timely, properly documented, and submitted in writing. All requests for grade changes must be made formally in writing to the TA. The entire exam will be reevaluated, and may result in a higher or lower grade. I will drop the lowest quiz grade.

Academic Honesty: Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation is a very serious matter. UCSD rules concerning academic dishonesty are spelled out in the General Catalog. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own or without proper attribution work done wholly or in part by another person. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are individual, and no collaboration with any other person is permitted. In-class tests are closed-book, with no aids allowed. Any academic dishonesty will without exception be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

Books: The following book is available from Amazon or other on-line retailers. Other reading assignments are available on the TED course website.


Schedule: There will be two lectures per week. Most days, the end of each class is devoted to discussion and students should come prepared to talk. **Most sessions will begin with a quiz of the readings and prior lecture.** The midterm is tentatively scheduled for July 20th. The final will be August 3rd. The schedule is provisional and may be adjusted to reflect the course timeline.

Disclaimer: *This syllabus is intended to provide an overview over the course. You cannot claim rights from it. In particular, scheduling and dates may change. Although the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, official announcements are always those made in class.*

TA: Kathryn Baragwanath-Vogel
Office Hours: Th. 11a-1p, SSB 324.
July 2: What is Democracy? What is Authoritarianism?


July 4: Holiday, no class.

July 9: The Origins of Democracy

QUIZ 1


July 11: China and India

QUIZ 2


Deng Xiaoping, "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership," August 18, 1980, 


The Economist. “225m reasons for China’s leaders to worry.” July 9th, 2016.


**July 16: South Africa**

**QUIZ 3**

Sparks, Alistair. *Tomorrow is Another Country*.

**July 18: Midterm. Begin Presidential and Parliamentary Democracy**

**July 23: Presidential and Parliamentary Democracy (continued)**


**July 25: Presidential and Parliamentary Democracy (continued)**

**QUIZ 4**


**July 30: Electoral Rules and Party Systems**

**QUIZ 5**


“With different rules, some big elections in 2015 would have had very different outcomes.” *The Economist*, 12/30/2015.

Watch these videos:
https://www.facebook.com/cbcnews/videos/10153739225939604/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSUKMa1cYHk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFt0k6n_HKc

**August 1: Ethnicity and Politics/Rwanda**

**QUIZ 6**


Martin Meredith, “The Graves Are Not Yet Full,” in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), ch. 27.


**August 3: FINAL**