

Political Science 11D

Professor Kaare W. Strøm

Office: 384 Social Science Bldg.

Office Hours: Wed 10-12 and by appointment

E-mail: kstrom@ucsd.edu**Winter Quarter 2017**

MW 9:00 - 9:50, plus sections

Pepper Canyon Hall 120

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INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Objectives and Approach

Comparative politics includes the study of politics in other countries as well as cross-national comparisons. This introductory course will examine issues of democracy and political development globally and has two major objectives: (1) to help you think about politics in systematic and comparative ways, and (2) to give you knowledge and understanding of contemporary politics in three countries: Great Britain, Russia, and Nigeria. The readings, lectures, and sections will in large part focus on these countries and examine their societies and political history, the behavior of citizens and groups, the impact of political institutions, and public policy challenges. The course will be supported by a TritonEd (Blackboard) account, where lecture files and assignments will be uploaded. There will be no podcasts or i-clicker assignments.

Course Assignments and Grading

Written assignments include an in-class midterm, a relatively short paper (in both electronic and hard copy) on a topic given by the instructor (you will have some choice), and a comprehensive (cumulative) final examination. You are required to attend class and weekly discussion sections, and you will be responsible for all lecture materials. Grading will be based on written assignments (90% of your course grade) and participation (10% of your course grade). In-class tests will include both objective and essay questions. Your written assignment grade will be based on all three written assignments, and you will need to complete all of these to pass the course. If your final exam grade is better than the average of your midterm grade and your paper grade, the final will count 50% and each of the other two assignments 25%, before adjustment for participation. In the opposite case, each written assignment will count one-third. Note that in most cases your participation grade can change your written assignment grade by at most one-third of a grade (for example, from a B+ to an A-, or vice versa). If you do not get a passing participation grade, however, the downward impact on your course grade could be larger. There will be no make-up midterm. Late papers will be penalized. Incompletes or special exams will be given only in situations of *emergency* or *recognized disability* in accordance with UCSD policy. Petitions for any special accommodation must be *timely* and *properly documented*.

Academic Integrity

Fair and effective education requires academic integrity. UCSD rules concerning academic integrity can be found in the General Catalog. Note that plagiarism - submitting as your own or without proper attribution work done wholly or in part by another person – is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on assignments as well as using unattributed sources (including work you may have done for other courses). Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course will be *individual*, and no collaboration with any other person permitted. In-class tests will be *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced, and we will report any case of suspected academic dishonesty to the Academic Integrity Office. If you are in doubt about the rules of academic integrity, please ask a member of the teaching staff.

Books and Materials

The following books have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore. All readings below are required and will be placed on Library reserve. Please avoid old editions of Powell.

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare W. Strøm, eds., *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 11th edition. New York: Pearson, 2015 (hereafter: Powell).

Claire Berlinski, *There is No Alternative: Why Margaret Thatcher Matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008.

Steven Lee Myers, *The New Tsar: The Rise and Reign of Vladimir Putin*. New York: Vintage Books, 2015.

Peter Cunliffe-Jones, *My Nigeria: Five Decades of Independence*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Sections

The discussion sections will be led by the teaching assistants. John Porten (john.porten@gmail.com) will teach the Friday sections. Office hours: M 11-12 and by app't in SSB 326. John Kuk (jskuk@ucsd.edu) will teach the Wednesday and Thursday sections. Office hours: Th 2-4 and by app't in SSB 328. **Please make sure to attend the section for which you are registered and contact your TA immediately if you have an unavoidable conflict.**

Calendar

Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled February 6, and the paper will be due on March 2. The **final exam will be given between 8:00 and 10:59am on Wednesday, March 22**, at a location to be announced. All dates and assignments are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 9 - 25: THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings: Powell, chaps. 1-7.

Class Schedule:

January 9: Comparative Politics: What and Why? (Powell, chaps. 1-2)

January 11: States and Nations (Powell, chaps. 1 and 3)

January 18: The Ideal Government? Constitutions and Political Institutions (Powell, chap. 6)

January 23: Why governments, or why not? (Powell, chap. 7)

January 25: Elections, Political Parties, and Interest Groups (Powell, chaps. 4-5)

January 30 – February 13: THE UNITED KINGDOM

Readings: Powell, chap. 8; Berlinski, chaps. 1,3,5,7,9-10, and Conclusion.

Class Schedule:

January 30: Britain and the Old-Fashioned British (Powell, pp. 148-61; Berlinski, chap. 1)

February 1: The Westminster Model: Winner Takes All (Powell, pp. 161-70, 183-86)

February 6: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

February 8: Class Politics and Beyond (Powell, pp. 170-83; Berlinski, chaps. 3, 5, and 7)

February 13: Britain from Thatcher to May (Powell, pp. 186-93; Berlinski, chaps. 9-10 and Conclusion)

February 15 – March 1: RUSSIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 12; Myers, chaps. 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-12, 15, 17, 21 and 23-25.

Class Schedule:

February 15: Russia and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 336-43; Myers, chaps. 1-2)

February 22: How Soviet Communism Died (Powell, pp. 341-44; Myers, chaps. 4-5)

February 27: Yeltsin: Reforms and Crises (Powell, pp. 343-54 and 372-77; Myers, chaps. 7, 9-12)

March 1: Putin: Nationalism and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 354-83; Myers, chaps. 15, 17, 21, 23-25)

March 2: PAPER DUE (in electronic as well as hard copy)

March 6 - 15: NIGERIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 18; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue and chaps.1-14.

Class Schedule:

March 6: Nigeria: An African Giant (Powell, pp. 630-36; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue, chaps.1,3-5)

March 8: Social Fractures and Resources (Powell, pp. 636-50; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 6-7,10,12)

March 13: A Fragile Democracy (Powell, pp. 650-65; Cunliffe-Jones, chap.13)

March 15: The Trouble with Nigeria (Powell, pp. 666-77; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 2,8-9,11,14)

March 22: FINAL EXAMINATION