

Political Science 11D

Professor Kaare W. Strøm
Office: 384 Social Science Bldg.
Office Hours: Mondays 1-3 and by appointment
E-mail: kstrom@ucsd.edu

Winter Quarter 2020

MW 10:00 - 10:50, plus sections
Warren Lecture Hall 2005
Phone: (858) 534-0793

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: The United Kingdom (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 paper on one out of a set of topics given by the instructor (you will have some choice), and a comprehensive (cumulative) in-class final examination. You are required to attend class and weekly discussion sections, and you will be responsible for all lecture and section materials. Grades will be based on written assignments (90% of your course grade) and participation (10%). 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 them all 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 adjustments for participation. Otherwise, each written assignment will count one-third. Participation grades will be based mainly on well-prepared and constructive participation in section discussions and assignments but you are also encouraged to participate in class. Note that in most cases your participation grade can change your course grade by at most one-third of a grade (e.g., 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 incur late penalties. Incompletes or special exams will be given only for *emergencies* or *recognized disability* in accordance with UC San Diego 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 work or without proper attribution something 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 consult the Academic Integrity Office or ask a member of the teaching staff.

Books and Materials

The following readings are required and will be ordered by the UCSD Bookstore and placed on Library reserve:

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare W. Strøm, Melanie Manion, and Russell J. Dalton, eds., *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 12th edition. New York: Pearson, 2018 (hereafter: Powell).

Hans Rosling et al., *Factfulness*. New York: Flatiron Books, 2018 (hereafter: Rosling).

Roger Bootle, *Making a Success of Brexit*. London: Brealey, 2017.

Arkady Ostrovsky, *The Invention of Russia*. New York: Penguin, 2017.

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

Please note that the Powell book is available in electronic form only, provided by the UC San Diego Bookstore through TritonEd. You will need to opt in to the Inclusive Access program by **Saturday, January 18th 2020** to access the materials at a special reduced price. For any questions about billing please contact textbooks@ucsd.edu. For any questions about using your eBook please reference RedShelf Solve. You have until **Saturday, January 18th 2020** to complete this process. If you decide not to opt in, you will be responsible for sourcing the materials elsewhere. Please avoid old editions of Powell, which will be obsolete. The other books have been ordered in print copy by the UCSD Bookstore.

Sections

The discussion sections will be led by the Teaching Assistants. Brian Engelsma (bengelsm@ucsd.edu; SSB 345) will teach the Friday sections. Office hours: W 11-12 and F 1-2. Gregoire Phillips (g1philli@ucsd.edu; SSB 351) will teach the Wednesday 1pm section. Office hours: Tue 10-12. Michael Seese (mseese@ucsd.edu; SSB 443) will teach the Wednesday 11 and 12 sections. Office hours: M 3-5. Section participation will be graded, and this grade will be the main basis of your course participation grade. You will be allowed one section meeting absence, but any further unexcused section absence will count against your grade. If you attend fewer than half of your section meetings, you should not expect a passing participation grade. **Please make sure to attend the section for which you are registered and contact your TA at your earliest opportunity if you have an unavoidable conflict.**

Calendar

Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for **February 5**, and the paper will be due on **February 28**. The **final exam will be given between 8:00 and 10:59am on Friday, March 20**, at a location to be announced. All dates and assignments are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 6 - 22: THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings: Powell, chaps. 1-6; Rosling, Intro and chaps. 1-4.

Class Schedule:

January 6: Comparative Politics: What and Why? (Powell, chaps. 1-2)
January 8: States and Nations (Powell, chap. 3; Rosling, Intro and chap. 1)
January 13: The Ideal Government? Constitutions and Political Institutions (Powell, chap. 5)
January 15: Citizens, Elections and Political Parties (Powell, chap. 4)
January 22: What Can and Should Governments Do? (Powell, chap. 6; Rosling, chaps. 2-4)

January 27 – February 10: THE UNITED KINGDOM

Readings: Powell, chap. 7; Bootle, chaps. 1-3 and 7-8.

Class Schedule:

January 27: A United and Disunited Kingdom (Powell, pp. 132-42 and 153-57)
January 29: Westminster's World: Winner Takes All (Powell, pp. 143-53 and 164-68)
February 3: Class Politics and Beyond (Powell, pp. 153-64; Bootle, chap. 1)
February 5: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
February 10: Britain, Europe, and the World (Powell, pp. 168-72; Bootle, chaps. 2-3 and 7-8)

February 12 – 26: RUSSIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 11; Ostrovsky, pp. 1-120, 140-64, 174-204, 263-80, and 304-31.

Class Schedule:

February 12: Russia and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 298-302; Ostrovsky, pp. 1-8)
February 19: Leninism, Stalinism, and Decline (Powell, pp. 302-04; Ostrovsky, pp. 11-53)
February 24: Transition, Reform, and Crisis (Powell, pp. 302-14; Ostrovsky, pp. 54-120, 140-64, and 174-204)
February 26: Putin: Nationalism and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 314-39; Ostrovsky, pp. 263-80 and 304-31)

February 28: PAPER DUE

March 2 - 11: NIGERIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 17; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue and chaps.1-14.

Class Schedule:

March 2: Nigeria: An African Giant (Powell, pp. 554-64; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue, chaps.1 and 3-5)
March 4: Social Resources and Fractures (Powell, pp. 564-73; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 6-7, 10, and 12)
March 9: A Fragile Democracy (Powell, pp. 573-86; Cunliffe-Jones, chap.13)
March 11: The Trouble with Nigeria (Powell, pp. 587-97; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 2, 8-9, 11, and 14)

March 20: FINAL EXAMINATION