

Political Science 11D

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Fall Quarter 2015

MW 9:00 - 9:50, plus sections
Ledden Auditorium
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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 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, Nigeria, and Russia. Readings, lectures, and sections will in large part focus on these countries. We shall examine each country's social background and political history, the behavior of citizens and groups, the impact of political institutions, and policy challenges. The course will be supported by a Ted (Blackboard) account, which you can access at ted.ucsd.edu.

Course Assignments and Grading

Written assignments include an in-class midterm, a paper on a topic given by the instructor (you will have some choice), and a comprehensive (cumulative) final examination. Class and section attendance is required, and you will be responsible for all lecture materials. Grading will be based on written assignments (90% of your course grade) and section participation (10% of your course grade). In-class tests will include both objective and essay questions. You will need to complete all the written assignments to pass the course. If you grade on your final exam is better than the average of your two previous written assignment grades, your final will count for 50% of your written assignment grade and the other two assignments 25% each. Otherwise, all your written assignments will count equally. Note that your section participation grade will in most cases be able to change your written assignment grade by at most one-third of a grade (for example, from a B+ to an A- or to a B). If you do not get a passing section grade, however, the downward impact on your course grade could be larger. 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 the strict prohibition against plagiarism: submitting as your own or without proper attribution work done wholly or in part by another person. Plagiarism on course assignments includes unauthorized collaboration as well as the use of 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 any case of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. If you are in doubt about the rules concerning academic integrity, please contact the teaching staff or the Office of Academic Integrity.

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 Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000*. Updated edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

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

Teaching Assistants and Sections

You will be expected to attend two lectures per week and one section, led by one of the teaching assistants. Section attendance is mandatory and you will be graded on your participation (not simply attendance). **Make sure to attend the section for which you are registered and contact your TA promptly if you have any unavoidable conflict.**

Julia Clark (jmc003@ucsd.edu) will lead the Wed sections. Office hrs: M 11-12 and by app't in SSB 326.

Matthew Nanes (mnanes@ucsd.edu) will lead the Th sections. Office hrs: W 10:30–11:30 and by app't in SSB 348.

Brian Tsay (brtsay@ucsd.edu) will lead the Fri sections. Office hrs: Tue 10-11 and by app't in SSB 350.
Note that there will be no sections during Thanksgiving week (November 25-27), though there will be lectures on November 23 and 25.

Calendar

Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for **October 21** and the paper will be due on **November 20**. The final exam will be given between 8:00 and 10:59 on Wednesday, December 9, at a location to be announced. All dates and assignments are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE

September 28 - October 12: THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings: Powell, chaps. 1-7.

Class Schedule:

September 28: Comparative Politics: What and Why? (Powell, chaps. 1-2)

September 30: States and Nations (Powell, chaps. 1 and 3)

October 5: Why governments, or why not to have them (Powell, chap. 7)

October 7: The Ideal Government? Constitutions and Political Institutions (Powell, chap. 6)

October 12: Elections, Political Parties, and Interest Groups (Powell, chaps. 4-5)

October 14 – November 2: THE UNITED KINGDOM

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

Class Schedule:

October 14: The United Kingdom: Introduction (Powell, pp. 148-61; Berlinski, chap. 1)

October 19: The Westminster Model: Winner Takes All (Powell, pp. 161-70, 183-86)

October 21: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

October 26: Class Politics and Beyond (Powell, pp. 170-83; Berlinski, chaps. 3,5, and 7)

October 28: Britain from Thatcher to Cameron (Powell, pp. 186-93; Berlinski, chap. 10 and Conclusion)

November 2 - 16: NIGERIA

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

Class Schedule:

November 2: Nigeria: An African Giant (Powell, pp. 630-36; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue, chaps.1, and 3-5)

November 4: Social Fractures and Resources (Powell, pp. 636-50; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 6-7, 10, and 12)

November 9: A Fragile Democracy (Powell, pp. 650-65; Cunliffe-Jones, chap.13)

November 16: The Trouble with Nigeria (Powell, pp. 666-77; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 2, 8-9, 11, and 14)

November 18 - December 2: RUSSIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 12; Kotkin, entire; Berlinski, chap. 9.

Class Schedule:

November 18: Russia and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 336-43; Kotkin, Introduction and chap. 1)

November 20: PAPER DUE

November 23: How Soviet Communism Died (Powell, pp. 341-44; Kotkin, chaps.2-4; Berlinski, chap. 9)

November 25: Difficult Years of Reform (Powell, pp. 343-54 and 372-77; Kotkin, chaps.5-7)

December 2: Putin: Nationalism and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 354-83; Kotkin, Epilogue)

December 9:

FINAL EXAMINATION