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 cultural foundations of politics, the persistence of ethnicity, 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 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 or paper will be reevaluated, and may result in a higher or lower 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 include a quiz of the weekly readings. The midterm is tentatively scheduled for July 20th. The final will be August 5th. This 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: Jaikun Jack Zhang [jjz007@ucsd.edu] Office Hours: TH 2-3, location TBD.
July 6: What is Democracy? What is Authoritarianism?


July 11: Where Does Democracy Come From?


July 13: Authoritarian Resilience in China (Guest Lecture Jiakun Jack Zhang)


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


**July 18: Democratization in South Africa**

Sparks, Alistair. *Tomorrow is Another Country*


**July 20: Midterm. Begin Presidential and Parliamentary Democracy**

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


**July 27: Presidential and Parliamentary Democracy (continued)**


**August 1: Electoral Rules and Party Systems**


“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.facebook.com/cbcnews/videos/10153739225939604/)
August 3: Ethnicity and Politics/Rwanda


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

Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda,* Introduction, Chapter 1.

August 5: FINAL