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Office: Social Sciences Building 444
Spring Quarter 2007
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 MW and by appointment
Lecture Time: 9:00-9:50 MW
Lecture Location: Price Theater
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POLI 11: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the study of comparative politics. The course is intended to introduce students to key concepts and ideas used when comparing political systems, while providing a base of knowledge of four political systems: the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and Nigeria. The course focuses on the role that democracy plays in each system, paying particular attention to the roles that political institutions, economic structure, and culture play in shaping political outcomes within each polity.

Course Assignments/Grading: The grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

First Paper: 25%
Second Paper: 30%
Final Examination: 30%
Section Attendance and Participation: 15%

Midterm and Final Examinations: Each examination will consist of a take home examination responding to a prompt given in lecture. Each paper will require students to make an argument in response to the prompt, substantiating the argument using materials from course readings, lecture, and section materials. Course examinations will also provide the opportunity to integrate course materials with current events. These papers will be 5-6 pages in length, and further guidelines for these papers will be announced in lecture or section. Barring documented emergencies, no late papers will be accepted. Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will not be accepted.

Section Attendance and Participation: Due to the way in which course materials are presented, attendance in section is mandatory. Students are expected to attend section prepared to participate in section discussions. Section provides students with the opportunity to interact with the material at a deeper level than what can be achieved in lecture. Section requirements will be discussed in greater detail in section. Please contact your teaching assistant for further information.

Current Events: Students are expected to follow current events, especially as they pertain to the four cases we will be examining in this course. The URL's listed below provide a partial listing of useful websites to keep track of political developments. Students are advised to set up e-mail alerts for all four of the cases early in the quarter. Materials accessed will be used as a basis for discussion in section, as well as a resource for course examinations.

New York Times Online (<http://www.nytimes.com>)
Los Angeles Times Online (<http://www.latimes.com>)
Economist Online (<http://www.economist.com>)

Books: Almond, Gabriel et al. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 8th Ed.
Fenby, Jonathan. *France on the Brink*.
Kotkin, Stephen. *Armageddon Averted*.
Riddell, Peter. *Unfulfilled Prime Minister*.

Reading Schedule: The following schedule is offered as an initial guide to course readings. Changes to the reading schedule or due dates for the papers will be announced in lecture. Course examinations will draw on lecture, assigned readings, and current events. Students should attend lecture and section prepared to actively engage in discussion of the topics/materials.

Week	Almond	Other Readings
1-M-Introduction States/Nations/Govn.	CH. 1	
1-W-Political Culture	CH. 3	
1-S-Course Logistics Reading Review		
2-M-Interest Articulation and Aggregation	CH 5	
2-W-Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism	CH 6	
2-S-Governments	CH 7	
3-M-UK Monarchy vs. Parliament I.	CH 8; 157-176 and 189-194	Riddell 1-4
3-W-UK Monarchy vs. Parliament II.		
3-S Parliament; Political Culture	CH 8; 177-189	
4-M Blairism and Thatcherism PAPER ONE DIST		Riddell 5-8.
4-W PMs Questions		
4-S Discussion of Riddell	CH 8 194-202	
5-M France History and Institutions I.	CH 9; 207-214 and 242-251	Fenby 1,2,4 and 7
5-W France History and Institutions II. PAPER ONE DUE		
5-S French Political Culture	CH 9; 214-228	
6-M French Political Parties/Elections	CH 9; 228-242	Fenby 8, 11, 14 and 15
6-W Prospects for France	CH 9; 251-256	
6-S Discuss Fenby		
7-M Russia to USSR PAPER TWO DIST	CH 12; 365-372	Kotkin 1-4
7-W Institutional Change	CH 12; 372-381	
7-S Russian Political Culture	CH 12; 381-392	
8-M Russian Political Parties and Elections	CH 12; 392-398	Kotkin 5-7
8-W Prospects for Russia PAPER TWO DUE	CH 12; 399-408	
8-S Discussion of Kotkin		
9-M MEMORIAL DAY		
9-W Nigeria History/Ethnicity	CH 18; 687-710	TBD
9-S Nigerian History/Ethnicity		
10-M Nigeria Parties and Institutions	CH 18; 710-725	
10-W Prospects for Nigeria	CH 18; 725-734	
10-S Conclusions		