Political Science 11
Winter Quarter 2013

Instructor: Emily Matthews Luxon
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Offc. Hrs: Mondays 10-11am, location TBA and by appointment.

Political Science 11:
Introduction to Comparative Politics

Course Overview:
How can we understand political current events? How do politics in the US differ from politics in other countries? Why are some countries democratic and others not? Does it matter? In this course, we will look at politics from a comparative perspective, considering both the variation in political structures around the world and what might explain those differences. You will learn to identify and evaluate political choices and structures through a deep introduction to the methods and core theories of comparative politics. These will give you the tools to scientifically evaluate politics in the world around you.

Student Responsibilities:
In order to achieve the course goals, you will need to read and digest the course texts, think through and complete the assignments, and participate fully in course and section activities and discussions. These are all necessary for the completion of the various assignments (paper, exams) which will give you the opportunity to apply the knowledge, understanding, and skills you will gain in the course. Any changes to the syllabus (including exams/due dates and required readings) will be posted to the TED page for this course, which you should check regularly {ted.ucsd.edu}.

Required Texts:
The course text will be available on reserve at Geisel Library {reserves.ucsd.edu}. Additional course materials may be posted on the course TED page {ted.ucsd.edu}. Help accessing TED can be found here: {acms.ucsd.edu/units/iwdc/password.shtml}. The course text is available for purchase in the bookstore. The course text is: Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadnichek Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd Edition. CQ Press and Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.

Student Evaluation:
Your grade in this course will be based on: one in-class midterm exam, one paper, one in-class final exam, and participation in section assignments, discussions, and activities. These four items will be weighted as either: 1) Section - 15%; Midterm Exam - 25%; Paper - 25%; and Final Exam - 35% or 2) Section - 15%; Midterm Exam - 15%; Paper - 30%; and Final Exam - 40%. Your final course grade will be based on the higher calculation of the two options. Exams will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Any student who fails to complete one or more of the exams/paper will not pass the course.

The in-class midterm is tentatively scheduled for: Wednesday, February 6, in class. The paper due date is tentatively scheduled for: Wednesday, March 6, in class. The final exam is scheduled for: Wednesday, March 20th, 8am-10:59am, location TBA. Please double check with the course instructor and teaching assistants for any and all dates/times, as they are subject to change (with plenty of forewarning).

Incompletes or special exams will be given only in pressing and properly documented cases and in accordance with UCSD policy; petitions for these must be timely. If, for any reason, you are having difficulty with the course or an assignment, you should seek help from the instructor or TAs in a timely manner and before the deadline. The instructor has office hours at the time/place listed above, and by appointment, specifically to help you with the course materials and assignments.

Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities who may need accommodations are encouraged to notify, as soon as possible, both the instructor and the Office for Students with Disabilities [http://osd.ucsd.edu] in order to work out the particulars. Note: both the instructor and the Office for Students with Disabilities must be notified well in advance of any course exams, deadlines, or due dates.

Academic Honesty:
Your instructor takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Any student violating UCSD’s Academic Dishonesty or UCSD’s Student Conduct policies will earn an ‘F’ in the course and will be reported to their college Dean for
investigation. Committing acts that violate Student Conduct policies, and which result in course disruptions, are cause for suspension from UCSD. See {http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14} for more information.

Students also agree that by taking this course all take-home assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such assignments. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Explanations for using Turnitin.com will be provided in class.

Helpful Contact Information:
Instructor, Emily Matthews Luxon: eomathew@ucsd.edu or eoluxon@gmail.com
Teaching Assistant, Dimitar Gueorguiev: dgueorguiev@ucsd.edu
Teaching Assistant, Nicole Bonoff: nbonoff@ucsd.edu

*Tentative* Course Calendar:
Note: CGG refers to the course text by Clark, Golder, and Golder, *Principles of Comparative Politics*

**Week 1:**
Edwards 2008: How to Read a Book
CGG: Preface [pp xxix-xxxiv]
CGG: Chapter 1 - “Introduction” [pp 1-18]
CGG: Chapter 2 - “What is Science?” [pp 19-44]

**Week 2:**
CGG: Chapter 3 - “What is Politics?” [pp 49-79]

**Week 3:**
CGG: Chapter 4 - “Origins of the Modern State” [pp 87-124]

**Week 4:**

**Week 5:**
CGG: Chapter 6 - “The Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship” [pp. 213-259]

**Midterm Exam: Wednesday, February 6, in class.**

**Week 6:**
CGG: Chapter 8 - “Democratic Transitions” [pp 266-307]
CGG: Chapter 9 - “Democracy or Dictatorship: Does It Make a Difference?” [pp 325-346]

**Week 7:**
CGG: Chapter 12 - “Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Democracies” [pp 457-525]

**Week 8:**
CGG: Chapter 13 - “Elections and Electoral Systems” [pp 537-597]

**Week 9:**

**Paper Due: Wednesday, March 6th, in class.**

**Week 10:**
CGG: Chapter 16 - “Consequences of Democratic Institutions” [pp 741-825]

**Final Exam: Wednesday, March 20th, 8am-10:59am, location TBA.**

Last updated: 1/6/2013