 COURSE SYLLABUS

REVISED

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the governments and politics of countries around the world. The class is approved for Western civilization, general education credit. As a “Gen-ed” class, its purpose is to foster knowledge on a subject all reasonably educated people should know. When you read a newspaper, you often confront phrases that indicate different or unfamiliar forms of government. For example, stories about European governments might refer to the head of state as a “prime minister,” who leads a “coalition government.” Articles about Nigeria or Pakistan might mention “military juntas.” Or, articles about Cuba or Venezuela might mention “charismatic, populist leaders.” The newspaper you are reading assumes you are familiar with such concepts. The objective in this course is to acquaint students with the basic terminology of government and to examine the variety of political systems to be found in the world and thereby be a more informed citizen of the world.

Our method will be simple. First we will develop a working knowledge of how politics operates in a few foreign countries. Towards this end we will focus in greater detail on the political systems of seven countries located around the globe. For each country we shall begin by discussing the history of the political institutions and how they function. Then we will focus on recent political developments and how these interact with the institutions and traditions to form the present political situation.

The second concern is to compare the way politics works in these different countries. For example, we will explore the variety of forms of democratic government and will learn that each has strengths and weaknesses. We will also contrast democratic with non-democratic forms of government and will consider whether other countries could or should become democratic.

TEXT AND READINGS:

There are three required texts for this course. They are available at the bookstore:


Students will also be required to subscribe to The Economist magazine. Details will be provided in class.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING

The final course grade will be based on four in-class examinations and weekly quizzes. The first three exams will be worth 50 points each. The final exam will be worth 70 points. The quizzes will be based on the weekly Economist magazine. There will be at least ten quizzes worth three points each.

The calculation of the final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Exams, 50 pts each</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>A = 225-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>B = 200-224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C = 175-199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>D = 150-174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F = 0-149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POLICY ON PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunity.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

EXAM ONE 19 SEP
EXAM TWO 10 OCT
EXAM THREE 7 NOV
FINAL EXAM 10 DEC
SUMMARY OF READING ASSIGNMENTS

20-24 AUG  Introduction to the Comparative Study of Politics.
            Annual Editions, pp. 15-25.

27 -29AUG  Comparing Politics in Industrialized Democracies
            Readings:  Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 301-351.
            Annual Editions, pp. 109-123.

31 AUG     No Class

3 SEP      Comparing Politics in Industrialized Democracies (cont)

7-17 SEP   Politics in Britain
            Readings:  Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 36-90
            Annual Editions, pp. 26-38.

10 SEP     German Political History
            Guest lecture by Professor James Sheehan

19 SEP     FIRST EXAM

21-28 SEP  Politics in Germany
            Annual Editions, pp. 46-58.

1-8 OCT    Politics in Japan
            Readings:  Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 201-250.
            Annual Editions, pp. 59-63.

10 OCT     SECOND EXAM

12-15 OCT  Developing Democracies
            Readings:  Annual Editions, pp. 196-211 and 222-227.

17-22 OCT  Politics in India
            Readings:  Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 251-300.
24-29 OCT  Politics in Mexico  
Readings:  Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 471-518  
Annual Editions, pp. 164-168.

31 OCT-5 NOV  Politics in Brazil  

7 NOV  THIRD EXAM

9 NOV  Authoritarian Regimes  
Readings:  Annual Editions, pp. 212-221.

12-19 NOV  Politics in Russia  
Annual Editions, pp. 142-159.

16 NOV  Oklahoma Statehood Day – No Class

26-30 NOV  Politics in Nigeria  
Readings:  Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 519-575.  
Annual Editions, pp. 175-179.

3-5 DEC  Politics in China  
Annual Editions, pp. 180-186.

7 DEC  Concepts in Comparative Politics  
Readings:  none

10 DEC  FINAL EXAM  8:00 AM