

**IAS/PSC 2603
Governments Around the World
Fall 2007**

Professor Robert Cox
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Hours: Mon and Wed 10:30-12:00
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Class Meets: Dale Hall 125
MWF 9:30-10:20

**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:

Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger and William A. Joseph, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Houghton Mifflin, 4th ed. 2007. ISBN 9780618604470.

Soe, Christian, ed. Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 07/08, Dushkin Publishing, 25th ed. 2007. ISBN 0073516287.

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:

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

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.
Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 1-35.
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
Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 147-200.
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.
Annual Editions, pp. 187-194.

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 Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 415-470. Annual Editions, pp. 169-174.
7 NOV	<u>THIRD EXAM</u>
9 NOV	Authoritarian Regimes Readings: Annual Editions, pp. 212-221.
12-19 NOV	Politics in Russia Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 352-414. 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 Readings: Kesselman and Krieger, pp. 625-680. Annual Editions, pp. 180-186.
7 DEC	Concepts in Comparative Politics Readings: none
10 DEC	FINAL EXAM 8:00 AM