INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

790: 103
SUMMER 2014
ONLINE FORMAT

Instructor: Gulbahor Saraeva
Department of Political science
Rutgers University
Dates: Online July 7- August 13, 2014
Office hours: By Appointment, via Sakai chat room or email
Course Website: http://sakai.rutgers.edu
Comparative politics
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INTRODUCTION

The course combines country-cases and theories/concepts providing in-depth structured analysis in a comparative context.

REQUIRED READINGS

Orvis, Stephen and Drogus, Carol; Introducing Comparative Politics: concepts and cases in context. Sage Publication 2015

The Required textbook should be available in NJ Books and Barnes and Nobles Bookstores, or you can purchase it online on Amazon. Please check the Sakai website for any additional readings and updates.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

15% Reading Quizzes
30% Blog Posts
30% Midterm Exam
25% Final Case Analytic Paper

CLASS ORGANIZATION: The classes are divided by week. We won’t meet together face-to-face as a class, but you are expected to have the readings done and posted lecture watched by the end of day on Thursdays, in order to post a response, write your blog posts and read your peers’ blogs posts. It will be difficult for you to keep up with the rest of the week’s assignments, if you fall behind on the readings. The necessary materials will be posted under the “Lessons” tab for each week. Each week will consist of two lectures and reading assignments. Lectures will be recorder in
Prezi and posted under the “Lessons” tab too. The following you will find under the tab for the week: i) the week’s required readings; ii) Prezi lecture; iii) blog post assignment (you will be responsible for a blog post and response each week)

In addition, student is responsible for a weekly reading quiz to make sure that understands the readings’ main ideas. Those will be posted under Quizzes on Sakai.

READINGS: All readings will be posted in pdf format online. Each week’s readings can be found under the “Lessons” tab for the appropriate week. For example, Week 1 reading on a ‘Framework for understanding comparative politics’ – Introduction and The Modern State can be found under Week 1, Lesson tab.

LECTURES: The instructor will post Prezi presentation as lectures. The video recorded presentations of the instructor will be embedded in them. Prezi presentation are not exhaustive, require active readings of the students and all the comments, questions and clarifications on the lecture are welcome, which can be placed by the students under Forum tab titled “Lecture Q&A”.

CLASS WORK SUBMITION:

ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS COMPONENTS AND GRADING:

READING QUIZZES

INTERACTIVE BLOGS

EXAM

FINAL CASE ANALYTIC PAPER

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1 July 7 – July 10

1. Introduction
Syllabus overview

Class format, expectations, exams, essay

Lectures and Readings
Lecture 1:
Introduction: What is comparative politics? How do comparativists study politics? The big issues and the key questions in comparative politics

Lecture 2: The Modern State Characteristics of the Modern state. Case studies of the state formation: Germany, Uk, US, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, India, China, Iran, Nigeria

Assignments
Reading Quiz 1
Weekly Blog Post 1
Weekly Blog Response 1
Due: by 8 pm Thursday, July 10

Blog Response 1 due by 8 pm Monday July 14

WEEK 2 July 14 – July 17

Lectures and Readings
Lecture 1: States, Citizens and Regimes: Liberal Democracy: case study UK; Communism: case study Russia; Fascism: case study Germany; Modernizing Authoritarianism: Brazil; Semi-Authoritarianism: Mexico; Theocracy: The Islamic Republic of Iran
Lecture 2: States and Identity
Identity based political mobilization
Nations and nationalism
Ethnicity and religion: case study Germany and Nigeria
Race: case study: racial politics in the United States and Brazil

Assignments
Reading Quiz 2
Weekly Blog Post 2
Weekly Blog Response 2
Due: by 8 pm Thursday, July 17

Blog Response 1 due by 8 pm Monday July 21

WEEK 3 July 21 – July 24

Lectures and Readings
Lecture 1: States and Markets
The market, capitalism and the state
Key economic debates
Case studies:
The free market model: the United States
The social market model: Germany
The developmental state: Japan
From protectionism to neoliberalism: Mexico
Weak state, oil and corruption: Nigeria
Lecture 2: Political Systems and how they work
Governing Institutions in democracies: executives and legislatures
Case studies:
Parliamentarism: UK, India
Presidentialism: US and Brazil
Semipresidentialism: Russia
Comparing executive- legislative institutions: accountability, policymaking, stability
Judiciary: Judicial review, Judicial independence
Case study: Brazil
Bureaucracy: case study: bureaucratic control and corruption – Japan
Federalism: accountability, minority rights, recent trends
Case study: Brazil, India and Russia

Assignments
Reading Quiz 3
Weekly Blog Post 3
Weekly Blog Response 3
Midterm Examination opens 6 pm Monday, July 21 and is due at 6 pm Thursday, July 24
Due: by 8 pm Thursday, July 24
Blog Response 3 due by 8 pm Monday July 28

WEEK 4 July 28 – July 31

Lectures and Readings
Lecture 1: Institutions of Participation and Representation in democracies
Formal Institutions: the electoral system, political parties and party systems, civil society
Case studies: UK – SMD/ FPTP, two parties and pluralism
  Germany – two-and-half party system
  Japan – from dominant to two party system
  India – from dominant party to multiparty democracy
  Brazil – parties and civil society in a young democracy
Lecture 2: Authoritarian Institutions
Governing institutions in authoritarian regimes
Case studies: China, Iran, Nigeria
Elections, Parties, Civil society in authoritarian regimes
Case study: China, Iran, Nigeria

Assignments
Reading Quiz 4
Weekly Blog Post 4
Weekly Blog Response 4
Due: by 8 pm Thursday, July 31

Blog Response 1 due by 8 pm Monday August 4

WEEK 5 August 4 – August 7

Lectures and Readings
Lecture 1: Regime Change
The military in politics: Coups d’état
Case study: Brazil and Nigeria comparison of the coups
Revolution: why revolutions happen and what are their results?
Case study: China and Iran
Democratization: transition, consolidation and quality of democracy
Case study: Mexico, Russia, Nigeria

Lecture 2: Globalization, economic sovereignty, and development (P III - Issues and Policies)
Wealthy countries: globalization and economic sovereignty
Case study: UK, Germany
Development and globalization: the role of the state
Case study: China, India, Brazil, Iran

Assignments
Reading Quiz 5
Weekly Blog Post 5
Weekly Blog Response 5
Due: by 8 pm Thursday, August 7

Blog Response 1 due by 8 pm Monday August 11

WEEK 6 August 11- August 13

Lectures and Readings
Lecture 1: Public Policies when markets fail: welfare, health, and the environment
Welfare: Social policy in comparative perspective  
Case study: Germany, US, Brazil
Health care and health policy: Germany, UK, US
Migration Policy: Germany, UK, US
Lecture 2: Policies and politics of inclusion
Debate over inclusion and group rights
Modern state and politics of inclusion
Religion - recognition, autonomy and secular state
Case study: UK, India, Mexico
Gender: the continuing struggle for equal social status, representation and participation; feminist agendas, objectives and outcomes
Case study: Russia, Iran
Sexual orientation: assimilation or liberation?
State responses to the LGBT movement
Case study: US, Brazil

**Assignments**
Reading Quiz 6
Weekly Blog Post 6

Due: by 8 pm Wednesday August 13

Critical Essay will be based on the readings and lectures during weeks 5 and 6
(Chapters 9 Regime change and chapters 10-12 on Issues and Policies)