

Political Science 103: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Syllabus – Winter 2007

Class meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9:30-12:55 in Chemistry 124

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-4 and by appointment.

About this course:

- This course is designed to introduce students to key concepts in political science and to important characteristics of some of the world's major political systems.
- POL 103 satisfies Category F (Social and Behavioral Sciences) in the Diversified Educational Curriculum (DEC).

Required Text:

(available in the Campus Bookstore in the Melville Library Building and at Stony Books bookstore on Route 25A, across from the railroad station):

Kesselman, M., Krieger, J., and Joseph, W. A. (Eds.) *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (Houghton Mifflin, 5th Edition).

* In addition to the assigned text, it is highly recommended that every student reads *The New York Times* on a daily basis (also available on the web at www.nytimes.com). Discussion of selected stories from the *Times* as well as the textbook will occur on a regular basis throughout the semester. Students will be expected to participate knowledgeably in these discussions.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. This course will have about four *unannounced* quizzes. The best three grades achieved on these quizzes will count toward your grade in the course (total of 12% of the final grade).
2. There will be one online assignment (22% of the final grade). You will be able to work on the assignment in your free time. You will also get some extra 3.5 hours to work on the assignment during class time on Thursday, January 4. The assignment is due in the last class (Thursday, January 18).
2. There will be two online mid-term tests, one in the first week of classes and the other in the second week (18% of the final grade each).
3. There will be a final examination on Friday, January 19, 2007 from 9:30 to 12:55. This will be a cumulative examination covering all the material in the course. (30% of the final grade)
4. Opportunities to earn extra credit by participating in political science research projects will probably be available during the semester.

[Note: If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability that may affect your ability to carry out assigned course work, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 ECC Building, (631) 632-6748. They will determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation are confidential. Students requiring emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information see: <http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu/fire/disabilities.asp>]

COURSE OUTLINE

(Note: Supplementary readings are listed in the required textbook. You should take a look at these lists and pick books to read on topics that might interest you.)

Week 1 (January 2, 3, 4, 5): **Introduction to Basic Concepts**
Introduction to course theme – Aspects of Democracy
Established Democracies - Great Britain
Reading: Kesselman et al., Chapter 1, 2

ONLINE ASSIGNMENT (Thursday, January 4)
FIRST MID-TERM TEST (Friday, January 5)

Week 2 (January 9, 10, 11, 12): **Established Democracies - Great Britain**
Established Democracies - France
Established Democracies - Germany and Japan
Middle East - Israel and Palestine
Reading: Kesselman et al., Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5

SECOND MID-TERM TEST (Friday, January 12)

Week 3 (January 16, 17, 18, 19): **Middle East - Israel and Palestine**
Non-Democracies, Middle East - Iran
Developing Democracies - Nigeria
Non-Democracies – China (?)
Review and Conclusions
Reading: Kesselman et al., Chapters 11, 12, 13

ONLINE ASSIGNMENT DUE (Thursday, January 18)
FINAL EXAMINATION (Friday, January 19)