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Political Science 102B:  
Intro to Comparative Politics

Purpose:

One of the primary goals of a course in comparative politics is to familiarize students with a broad array of political systems. The approach taken in this course can best be characterized as the active acquisition and use of a set of tools for looking at the political world. In other words, instead of putting emphasis on what textbook writers think political scientists know, in this course the emphasis is on "how we know what we know" and on building knowledge. We put less emphasis on fact as "facts" that someone else "gives" you are easily forgotten. Instead we focus on introducing to key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and analytical methods commonly used today in comparative politics. Our goal is to look at theories that allow us to generalize beyond particular people and countries to causal relationships. The theoretical focus we will adopt in this course is a focus on "institutions". The course, then, will examine the functions and implications of the main institutions and political organizations (for example: the state, electoral systems, parties or regime types).

This approach equips students with a set of tools to use long after the course is over. These comparative tools are focused on historical, recent, and current events, and students are provided the opportunity to delve more deeply into a study of the parts of the world they find most interesting.

Readings:

Our main text book is:

Hague, Rod, and Martin Harrop. 2007. *Political Science: A Comparative Introduction*. 5th ed. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. (hereafter: HH)

Please obtain a copy of this text (available at the Student Book Store) and bring it to class on the days for which a chapter from it has been assigned. Hague and Harrop will help us focus on some very fundamental questions and concepts in studying politics.

The remaining readings were chosen to supplement the book as they are examples of original political science research. All are required readings. They are available on Telesis. Please have the readings for the day completed before you arrive at class.

Assignments:

You must keep up with the reading assignments as they are detailed below. I strongly encourage you to come to class and participate during class. Since class discussion is an important component of this class, regular attendance is of paramount importance and will be monitored closely. Don't hesitate to ask questions in class or to offer relevant points of observation. Class attendance and participation will account for 10% of your grade.

There are two in-class exams scheduled for the semester. The dates are detailed below. If you have a valid reason for not being able to take an exam as scheduled, you must consult with me regarding alternate arrangements. Forms of questions on the exams could include true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. Each exam will account for 30% of your final grade. The purpose of the exams is to assess your comprehension of the tools we are discussing and your ability to employ them in the explanation of the major components of political systems.

You will also have the opportunity to explore in greater detail how our tools can be applied through writing brief essay—no more than 10 pages (the specific question for the essay will be given in class). The essay will account for 30% of your final grade. On Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>, a short layout (no more than a page) is due in class. You are then responsible to schedule a meeting with me— to discuss the essay. The paper is due in class on Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup>. Late submissions will not be accepted (unless you have a valid reason).

This class is designed to encourage you to work steadily during the course of the semester. To do well 1) keep up with the readings, 2) come to class every day, 3) take good notes, 4) participate in the discussions, 5) seek out assistance at the first sign of difficulty, and 6) start preparing for known due dates as early as possible. If you shirk the regular reading assignments and class attendance or try to cram your work into short time periods, you will probably have a difficult time.

Finally, note that I adhere to the following number-to-letter grade conversion chart:

100-97=A+	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+
93-96=A	83-86=B	73-76=C	63-66=D
90-92=A-	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D

Grades below 60 will be considered as F.

Students who take this class under the Pass/Fail option must receive a grade of C or better in order to obtain a Pass on their final grade.

The College of Arts and Sciences will handle issues pertaining to academic integrity. The academic integrity policy is available at <http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html>

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

**Monday July 14** — Course Overview

### FOUNDATIONS

**Tuesday July 15 & Wednesday July 16**—The Comparative Approach, Research Design and Theory Testing

HH, Chapter 5

**Thursday July 17**—Politics and Government/The State

HH, Chapters 1 & 2

Rotberg, Robert. 2002. "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure" *The Washington Quarterly*, 25(3): 85-96 (Telesis)

**Friday July 18**—Democracy

HH, Chapter 3

Larry Diamond. 2002. "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes" *Journal of democracy*, 13(2): 21-35 (Telesis)

**Monday July 21**—Authoritarian Rule

HH, chapter 4

### POLITICS AND SOCIETY

**Tuesday July 22**—Political Culture

HH, Chapter 6

**Wednesday July 23**—Post Materialism

Inglehart, Ronald. 1971. "The Silent Revolution in Europe: Intergenerational Change in Post-Industrial Societies", *APSR*, Vol. 65(4), 991-1017. (Telesis)

**Thursday July 24**—Political Economy; Economic Development and Democracy

HH, Chapter 8.

### LINKING SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

**Friday July 25**—Political Participation

HH, Chapter 9.

**Monday July 28**—Elections and Voters

HH, Chapter 10.

Norris, Pippa. 2004. *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior*, Cambridge: Cambridge University press, Chapter 2. (Telesis)

**Tuesday July 29**—why electoral systems matter

Horowitz, Donald. 2003. "Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers", *Journal of Democracy*, 14(4): 115-127. (Telesis)

Pippa Norris. 1997. "Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems", *International Political Science Review*, 18: 297-312.

Lijphart, A. 1990. "The Political Consequences of Electoral Laws, 1945-1985", *American Political Science Review*, 84 (2): 481-496. (Telesis)

**Wednesday July 30**—Interest Groups

HH, Chapter 11.

**Thursday July 31**—Political Parties & Party Systems

HH, Chapter 12.

Giovanni Sartori, "A Typology of Party Systems", in Peter Mair. 1990. *The West European Party System*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 316-349.

Maurice Duverger, "The Two-Party System and the Multiparty System", in Peter Mair. 1990. *The West European Party System*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 285-295.

**Friday August 1-- Parties as Organizations: Candidate Selection Procedures**

Reuven Hazan. "Candidate Selection", in LeDuc, Niemi, Norris (eds.) *Comparing Democracies 2: New Challenges in the Study of Elections and Voting*, London: Sage, 108-126. (Telesis)

Reuven Hazan. "The Intra-Party Elections in Israel: Adopting Party Primaries", *Electoral Studies* 16: 95-103.(Telesis)

**Monday, August 4: Exam 1 (in class)**

**A short layout of the final paper is due in class**

**GOVERNMENT AND POLICY**

**Tuesday August 5—Constitutions and the Legal framework**

HH, Chapter 13.

**Wednesday, August 6—Multilevel governance**

HH, Chapter 14

**Thursday, August 7—Legislatures**

HH, Chapter 15

**Friday, August 8—Cultivating a Personal Reputation or a Party Reputation**

Carey, J.M. and Shugart, M.S. 1995. "Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: a Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas", *Electoral Studies* 14(4): 417-439. (Telesis)

Crisp, Brian, Kathryn, Jensen, and Yael Shomer. 2007. "Magnitude and Vote Seeking", *Electoral Studies*, 26(4): 727-734. (Telesis)

Fish, M. Steven. 2006. "Stronger Legislatures, Stronger Democracies", *Journal of Democracy* 17(1): 5-20. (Telesis)

**Monday, August 11—The Political Executive**

HH, Chapter 16

Linz, J. 1990. "The Perils of presidentialism", *Journal of democracy*, 1(1): 51-69. (Telesis)

Mainwaring, Scott, and Mathew Shugart. 1997. "Juan Linz, presidentialism, and Democracy: a Critical Appraisal", *Comparative Politics*, 29(4): 449-471.(Telesis)

**Tuesday, August 12—How Much to Check and Balance**

Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies", *Journal of democracy*, 15(2): 96-109.(Telesis)

**Wednesday, August 13—Patterns of democracy and Satisfaction with democracy**

**Written assignments are due in class**

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, New-Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 1-47.

Anderson Christopher J. and Christine A. Guillory, "Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Consensus and Majoritarian Systems", *American Political Science Review*, 91(1): 66-81. (Telesis)

**Thursday, August 14—Final Exam in Class.**