

Political Science 106: Politics of the World's Nations
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Bolton B-46
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm

Office: Bolton 630

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-2:50 p.m. and by appointment.

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Final exam: Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Course Description

This introductory course will compare and contrast the political and socio-economic systems of several states—industrialized and developing, democratic and authoritarian. We begin with a theoretical introduction and consider central issues such as political culture, institutions, political crises and discontinuity (i.e. revolution and dictatorship), and economic development. We then examine the following six case studies: two Western European democracies (Britain and France), a former communist regime (Russia), a reformed communist regime (China), a developing state (Mexico), and finally our own presidential democracy (the United States).

Grades

Grades will be based on two midterms (25% each), one final exam (30%), and attendance (10%) and participation (10%). No make-up exams will be given without a medical excuse or an excused University absence. Students must also produce the appropriate documentation stating why they were not able to be in class at the exact time of the exam. If you have a problem or miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately (beforehand if possible). *If you miss an exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam under any circumstances.*

Class attendance and participation are required and will affect your grade. Attendance will be taken during each lecture. Be sure to sign the attendance sheet each time that class meets. Students may not miss more than two lectures without it negatively affecting their grade. Participation grades will be based on the best five (of six) participation essays/notes and in-class participation during discussion. The participation discussion questions will be posted on D2L the week before they are due and will be collected at the beginning of class on the day of the scheduled discussion, as noted on the syllabus. The discussion notes will be graded as follows: check+ = A; check = B; check- = C. Anything below a check- will not count towards the participation grade.

Assuming that there are no changes in the schedule, the midterms will be given on Tuesday of the 7th week (**October 14, 2014**) and Thursday of the 11th week (**November 13, 2014**). The final exam will be **cumulative** and is on **Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 12:30-2:30 p.m.** If you are a student that needs accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this class, please contact me during the first two weeks of class.

For additional information about UWM University policies see the Secretary of the University Web site at: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>. This web site contains a list of University policies regarding such issues as incompletes, grade appeal procedures, and University policy governing academic misconduct, among other things.

Readings

The required textbook is available in the bookstore:

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom eds. (2012) *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. The eleventh edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

It is also possible to rent a textbook from the publisher. See the following link for information: <http://www.coursesmart.com/020510911X.html>. I have also placed a copy of the textbook on two-hour reserve in the UWM library.

Other, shorter readings listed below are on the course D2L site (under “content”).

- Blair, Tony. (2007) “A Battle for Global Values.” *Foreign Affairs* (January/February).
- BBC News. (5/25/2010) “Cameron hails ‘Radical Programme.’ and “Queen’s Speech: Bill by Bill.”
- Edelman, Eric. (2010) “A Special Relationship in Jeopardy.” *The American Interest* (July/August).
- Giry, Stéphanie. (2006) “France and Its Muslims.” *Foreign Affairs* 85:5 (September/October) pp.87-104.
- Murphy, Kim. (2007) “Ruble Rousers: The Poison-and-Caviar World of Russian Oligarchs in London.” *The New Republic* (April) pp.34-37.
- Soldatov, Andrei and Borogan, Irina. (2010) “Russia’s New Nobility: The Rise of the Security Services in Putin’s Kremlin.” *Foreign Affairs* 89:5 (September/October) pp.80-96.
- Gat, Azar. (2007) “The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers.” *Foreign Affairs* 86:4 (July/August) pp.59-69.
- Rubio, Luis and Davidow, Jeffery. (2006) “Mexico’s Disputed Election.” *Foreign Affairs* 85:5 (September/October) pp.75-85.
- Robert Bonner. (2010) “The New Cocaine Cowboys: How to Defeat Mexico’s Drug Cartels.” *Foreign Affairs* 89:4 (July/August 2010) pp. 35-47.
- Jacoby, Tamar. (2006) “Immigration Nation.” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December).

Course Schedule:

I. Introduction and Structural/Functional Theoretical Framework

Week 1 (9/2 & 9/4): Issues and Problems in Comparative Politics and Almond and Powell's Comparative Model of Political System, Process, and Policy.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters, 1, 2, 3 and 4 (pp. 1-74).

Suggested reading: Fukuyama, Francis. (1989) "The End of History?" *The National Interest* (Summer) pp. 3-18. D2L.

Huntington, Samuel P. (1993) "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer) 72:3 pp. 22-49. D2L.

Week 2 (9/9 & 9/11): System, Process, and Policy continued.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters 5, 6, and 7 (pp. 75-147). Interest groups, interest aggregation and political parties, government and policymaking, and public policy.

II. Britain

Weeks 3 and 4 (9/16, 9/18, 9/23, & 9/25): Britain

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 8), "Politics in Britain" by Richard Rose, pp. 147-193.

Also required reading: Blair, Tony. (2007) "A Battle for Global Values." *Foreign Affairs* (January/February). D2L.

Edelman, Eric. (2010) "A Special Relationship in Jeopardy." *The American Interest* (July/August). D2L.

Suggested reading: BBC News. (5/25/2010) "Cameron hails 'Radical Programme.'" And "Queen's Speech: Bill by Bill." D2L.

9/25 (Thursday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Recommended film: "The Queen." This film offers a depiction of Tony Blair's interaction with the Royal Family in the wake of Princess Diana's death. Helen Mirren won an Academy Award in 2006 for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth. The film captures the British Monarchy as a tradition-bound institution. This film is on media reserve in the West Wing of the UWM Golda Meir West Library.

Also Recommended: "The King's Speech." This 2010 film depicts King George VI's effort to overcome a speech impediment and his rise to the throne after his brother (Edward VIII) abdicated. This film won four Academy Awards in 2010, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (Colin Firth), and Best Original Screenplay.

III. France

Weeks 5 and 6 (9/30, 10/2, 10/7, & 10/9): France

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 9), "Politics in France" by Martin A. Schain, pp. 194-243.

Also required reading: Giry, Stéphanie. (2006) "France and Its Muslims." *Foreign Affairs* (September/October) 85:5, pp. 87-104. D2L.

10/9 (Thursday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Recommended film: "Charles De Gaulle, 1890-1970." This documentary offers some background on the first president of the French Fifth Republic, Charles de Gaulle. This film is on reserve in the West Wing of the UWM Golda Meir Library.

First Midterm: Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

IV. Russia

Weeks 7, 8, and 9 (10/16, 10/21, 10/23, & 10/28): Russia

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 12), "Politics in Russia" by Thomas F. Remington, pp. 336-383.

Also required readings: Soldatov, Andrei and Borogan, Irina. (2010) "Russia's New Nobility: The Rise of the Security Services in Putin's Kremlin." *Foreign Affairs* 89:5 (September/October) pp.80-96. D2L.

Murphy, Kim. (2007) "Ruble Rousers: The Poison-and-Caviar World of Russian Oligarchs in London." *The New Republic* (April), pp. 34-37. D2L.

10/28 (Tuesday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Recommended film: "Mikhail Gorbachev and the Fall of the Soviet Union." The film offers a summary of Gorbachev's rise within the Soviet Communist Party and discusses his role in the fall of the Soviet Union. The film is on media reserve in the West Wing of the UWM Golda Meir Library.

V. China

Weeks 9, 10, and 11 (10/30, 11/4, 11/6, & 11/11): China

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 13), "Politics in China" by Melanie Manion, pp. 384-431.

Also required: Gat, Azar. (2007) "The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers." *Foreign Affairs*, 86:4 (July/August) pp.59-69. D2L.

11/11 (Tuesday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Recommended films: "China: Through Mao's Eye's. 1958-1969: *Not a Dinner Party—the Cultural Revolution.*" This 61-minute film is the third part of a four-part series based on Philip Short's book *Mao: A Life*. The film incorporates film and video footage from the Cultural Revolution that was kept secret for decades. The film also presents interviews with the last surviving members of Mao's inner circle.

Also recommended: "To Live." The film chronicles one Chinese family's forty-year experience of political turmoil from the founding of the Chinese Communist state, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the early years of capitalist market reform. This film is on media reserve in the West Wing of the UWM Golda Meir Library.

Second Midterm: Thursday, November 13, 2014.

VI. Mexico

Weeks 12, 13 and 14 (11/18, 11/20, 11/25, & 12/2): Mexico

(UWM Thanksgiving Break November 26-30, 2014)

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 14), “Politics in Mexico” by Wayne A. Cornelius and Jeffrey A. Weldon, pp. 432-481.

Also required readings: Rubio, Luis and Davidow, Jeffery. (2006) “Mexico’s Disputed Election.” *Foreign Affairs* (September/October), 85:5 pp.75-85. D2L.

Robert Bonner. (2010) “The New Cocaine Cowboys: How to Defeat Mexico’s Drug Cartels. *Foreign Affairs* 89:4 (July/August 2010) pp. 35-47. D2L.

12/2 (Tuesday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Recommended film: *Frontline’s* “The Meth Epidemic: A National Epidemic.” The fourth chapter of this video discusses how the Mexican drug cartels moved meth operations to Mexico and shows the estimated 1000 meth labs located in just one Mexican border town. This video is available online at pbs.org.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/video/flv/generic.html>

VII. The United States

Weeks 14 and 15 (12/4, 12/9, & 12/11): The United States: A Nation of Immigrants

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 19), “Politics in the United States” by Austin Ranny and Thad Kousser, pp. 678-723.

Also required reading: Jacoby, Tamar. (2007) “Immigration Nation.” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December). D2L.

12/11 (Thursday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 17, 12:30-2:30 p.m.