

Political Science 106: Politics of the World's Nations
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Bolton Hall B-40
Fall 2021

Instructor: Samantha Ann Hagle

Office: Bolton Hall

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment.

E-mail: sahagle@uwm.edu

Course Description

This introductory course will compare 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 (35%), and attendance and participation (15%). 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 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 Canvas 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. For this three-credit course, students are expected to devote six hours of study per week reading, studying, and working on assignments.

Assuming that there are no changes in the schedule, the midterms will be given on Tuesday of the 8th week (**October 19th**) and of the 12th week (**November 18th**). The final exam will be **cumulative** and is on

Course Schedule:

I. Introduction and Structural/Functional Theoretical Framework

Week 1 (9/2) Introduction and Overview

Week 2 (9/7 & 9/9): 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, and 3 (pp. 1-54).

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

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

Week 3 (9/14 & 9/16): System, Process, and Policy continued.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters 4, 5, and 6 (pp. 55-130).

Interest groups, interest aggregation and political parties, government and policymaking, and public policy.

II. Britain

Weeks 4 and 5 (9/21, 9/23, 9/28 & 9/30): Britain

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 7), "Politics in Britain" by Richard Rose, pp. 132-172.

Blair, Tony. (2007) "A Battle for Global Values." *Foreign Affairs* 86:1 (January/February) pp.1-7. Canvas.

Edelman, Eric. (2010) "A Special Relationship in Jeopardy." *The American Interest* (July/August) pp.2-10. < <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2010/07/01/a-special-relationship-in-jeopardy/>>

Suggested reading: UK Cabinet Office and Prime Minister's Office. (December 19), "Queen's Speech 2019 Transcript of the Speech, exactly as it was Delivered."

19 December 2019. D2L. To view the December 19, 2019 State Opening of Parliament—The Queen's Speech—BBC News, see the following web links:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtm9aMEC74U>>

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZxzzPRNvLY>>

9/30 (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 6 and 7 (10/5, 10/7, 10/12 & 10/14): France

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 8), "Politics in France" by Martin A. Schain, pp. 174-217.

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

10/14 (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 19th, 2021

IV. Russia

Weeks 8, 9, and 10 (10/21, 10/26, 10/28 & 11/2): Russia

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 11), “Politics in Russia” by Thomas F. Remington, pp. 298-339.

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. Canvas.

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

11/2 (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

Week 10, 11, and 12 (11/4, 11/9, 11/11 & 11/16): China

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 12), “Politics in China” by Melanie Manion, pp. 340-381.

Economy, Elizabeth. (2018) “China’s New Revolution: The Reign of Xi Jinping.” *Foreign Affairs* 93:6 (May/June) pp.60-74. Canvas.

11/16 (Tuesday): Participation discussion notes due at the beginning of class.

Recommended film: “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. This film is on media reserve in the West Wing of the UWM Golda Meier Library.

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.

Second Midterm: Thursday, November 18th, 2021

VI. Mexico

Weeks 13, 14, and 15 (11/24, 11/30, 12/2, & 12/7): Mexico

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 13), “Politics in

Mexico” by Wayne A. Cornelius and Jeffrey A. Weldon, pp. 382-421.

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

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

Recommended: Dresser, Denise. (2018) “Can Mexico Be Saved? The Peril and Promise of Lopez Obrador.” *Foreign Affairs* 97:5 (September/October) pp.157-168. Canvas.

12/7 (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/pages/frontline/meth/>>

VII. The United States

Weeks 15 and 16 (12/9 & 12/14): The United States: A Nation of Immigrants

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 18), Politics in the United States” by Austin Ranny and Thad Kousser, pp. 598-617.

Also required reading: Berman, Sheri. 2016. “Populism is not Fascism, But It Could Be a Harbinger.” *Foreign Affairs* 95:6 (November/December) pp. 39-44. Canvas.

Cumulative Final Exam Thursday, December 16th 2021