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Chaminade University  
Spring 1999  
January 11 - May 6, 1998

COURSE: POL 11101 Intro to Comparative Government & Politics  
TIME: T/Th 8:00 am - 9:20 am  
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Louise Kubo  
COMMUNICATION: 545-2725 (between 9-5)  
email: kubo@hawaii.edu  
TEXTBOOK: Michael G. Roskin  
*Countries and Concepts: An Introduction to  
Comparative Politics*, 6th ed. NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998

#### Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the comparative study of different forms of governments and political institutions as they currently exist in various nation states. An examination of the specific workings of governments, their differences and their similarities leads us to more fundamental questions: what is the purpose of government? what are its goals and objectives? how do governments reflect the cultural values of its people? how does the rhetoric of governing reinforce or challenge the philosophical premises of that government?

With the tremendous rise of transnational corporations and the globalization of capital, particular attention will be placed on the role of economic systems on political institutions. What is the relationship between political and economic systems? How do economic interests drive political action and vice versa?

Finally, the assumption here is that politics is continually evolving and in a "state of becoming." Therefore, the aim in a comparative perspective is not to decide which nations have "good" governments or which ones have "bad" ones. Rather, it is to think critically about the relative successes and challenges of different forms of governing and the measures by which we make those determinations.

#### Course Objectives

- to obtain an overview of different forms of government and political institutions in a sampling of countries.
- to interrogate the purpose and objectives of governing and of concepts such as democracy, security, and freedom.
- to develop a critical perspective by which our understanding of politics and international relations is expanded.
- to promote critical thinking skills through discussion and student writings.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

Attendance and participation:	20%
Quizzes:	20%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm I	20%
Research project	20%

A=90 -100%   B=80-89%   C=70-79%   D=60-69%   F=59% and below

**Attendance/Participation: 20% of final grade**

In addition to the readings in the text, students will also be required to be familiar with the current events of the countries covered. A large number of periodicals are available in Sullivan Library as well as resources accessible on the Internet. (See attached list).

Class sessions are an opportunity for you to ask questions regarding the assigned readings as well as to have discussions which take us beyond what we have read. (Class time will not be used as a review of the readings themselves). Participation includes both listening and speaking. Excesses or profound lacks in either will have a negative impact on this portion of your grade.

**Quizzes: 20% of final grade.**

There will be a quiz covering each of the first five parts of the texts. The questions will cover the assigned reading as well as material presented in class.

Midterms: 20% of final grade each. These will be a combination of objective questions (definitions, identification) and short essay-type answers.

Midterm: 1 February 23.

Midterm 2: April 15.

**Research project: 20% of final grade.**

Each student will select a country in which to research a public policy issue, for example, labor, education, poverty, family/children, etc. You are not limited to the countries covered in the text. In addition to writing a paper (maximum 10 pages) on your research, you will also share your findings with the class in a brief presentation.

**SCHEDULE**

Jan 12	Introductions
Jan 14	Defining our terms. What is the purpose of government? What are the assumptions of different political philosophies and economic systems?
Jan 19	Great Britain. Chapters 2-6
Jan 21	Video: <i>Tyranny of the Majority</i>
Jan 26	Quiz #1. Current issues
Jan 28	Economic vs. political systems. Video: <i>Controlling Interest</i>
Feb 2	Russia. Chapters 17-21.
Feb. 4	Video: <i>People Power, 1989</i>

Feb. 9	Quiz #2. Current issues
Feb. 11	France. Chapters 7-11
Feb. 16	Video: <i>A Soldier's Duty</i>
Feb. 18	Quiz #3. Current issues. Midterm review
Feb. 23	Midterm I
Feb. 25	Video: <i>Democracy in a Different Voice</i>
Mar 2	Germany. Chapters 12-16
Mar 4.	Video: <i>Test the West</i>
Mar 9	Quiz #3. Current issues
Mar 11	Japan. Chapters 22-26
Mar 16	Video: <i>Of the People</i>
Mar 18	Quiz #4. Current issues
Mar 22-26	SPRING BREAK
Mar 30	China. Chapter 27.
Apr 1	Brazil. Chapter 28
Apr 6	Video: <i>Banking of Life and Debt</i>
Apr 8	South Africa. Chapter 29
Apr 13	Iran. Chapter 30
Apr 15	Midterm 2
Apr 20-22	Class presentations
Apr 27-29	Class presentations

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Please answer the following on the index card.

1. Your full name, including the name you like to be called (if different).
2. Your phone number(s) and email address if available. Not likely to be needed, but just in case.
3. Your educational objectives.
4. What else do you do besides school? (work/play/family/etc.)
5. What other related courses have you taken?
6. Why did you take this course?
7. Do you have any specific areas of interest in regards to this course?

## Current Events/Issues Resources

## Sullivan Library

Newspapers

The Observer (UK)  
Nikkei Weekly  
Washington Post  
NY Times

Magazines/Journals

Commentary  
Environmental Ethics  
International Journal of the Sociology of Law  
International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice  
Journal of Peace Research  
MacLean's (Canada)  
UNESCO Courier  
Japan Times  
Journal of Japanese Studies  
Beijing Review  
China Today  
Inside China Mainland  
Far Eastern Economic Review

CD-ROM

British Journal of Political Science  
Economic Development and Cultural Change  
Foreign Affairs  
Foreign Policy  
International Economic Review  
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research  
International Labour Review  
Journal of Political Economy  
Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Studies  
Latin American Perspectives  
Mother Jones  
Progressive  
Socialist Review  
World Policy Journal

## Internet/Web

Comparative Politics Online

[www.hauss.politics.wadsworth.com/country.html](http://www.hauss.politics.wadsworth.com/country.html)

Offers links of resources to newspapers and journals by country including:

Great Britain  
Japan  
France  
Germany  
Russia  
China

Crayon's News Sources

<http://crayon.net/using/links.html>

Dozens of links to international news publications including:

## The Globe and Mail (Canada)

BBC World News  
The Times (London)  
The Electronic Telegraph (London)  
The Electronic Herald (Scotland)  
Evening Times Online (Scotland) The Daily Record (Glasgow)  
The Irish Times  
The St. Petersburg Times (Russia)  
Vladivostok News  
Russian Business News Update  
Russia Today  
This Week in Germany  
Asahi Newspapers (Japan)  
The Mainichi Newspapers (Japan)  
The Daily Yomiuri (Japan)  
Kyodo News (Japan)  
South China Morning Post  
China News Digest  
Hong Kong Standard  
Arabic News  
International Herald Tribune