

SD '00
PM

Chaminade University
Spring 2000
January 18 - May 4, 1998

COURSE: POL 111 Intro to Comparative Government & Politics
TIME: T/Th 8:00 am - 9:20 am
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Louise Kubo
COMMUNICATION: 956-8260
email: kubo@hawaii.edu
TEXTBOOK: James N. Danzinger
*Understanding the Political World:
a comparative introduction to political science, 4th ed.*

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of political science from a comparative perspective. **What does it mean when we say something is "political"? While encompassing more than the functions and institutions of governments, 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 political science as a field of academic inquiry
- to gain an understanding of basic political institutions and processes
- 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%
Journals:	10%
Group presentation	10%
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

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.

Journals: 10% of final grade.

Beginning on January 25, a weekly journal entry will be due in class. You are to select an item from a newspaper or news magazine (Time, Newsweek, etc.) from the previous week which covers a political event outside the United States. Occasionally, you may be assigned a specific topic. In addition to summarizing the article in a few sentences, you will begin to ask "assessment questions" as described on page 6 of the text. The purpose of the journals is to give students the opportunity to begin to do political analysis and to continue to sharpen these analytical skills. The questions you ask, therefore, are the focus here.

Group presentations: 10% of final grade.

Chapters 14-16 covers more developed, transitional developed, and developing countries in the post-cold war world. Students will be assigned to groups which will focus on one of these categories. Within each group (approximately 4 students each), students may decide to focus on individual countries and the challenges and opportunities of that country or focus on a particular political/public policy issue and how that issue manifests itself in different countries. Each group will share its findings with the class in a brief presentation.

Midterm and Final exams: 30% of final grade each. These will be a combination of objective questions (definitions, identification) and short essay-type answers.

Midterm: March 2.

Final: May 9

SCHEDULE

Jan 18	Introductions
Jan 20	Chapter 1: Politics and Knowledge
Jan 25	Journal due.
	Video: <i>A Woman's Place</i>
Jan 27	Chapter 2: Political Beliefs, pages 37-47
	Go to the web site www.womenvote.org and compare your political views to those of your elected representatives.
Feb 1	Chapter 3: Political Actions
Feb. 3	Handout "Global Green Politics," Petra Kelly
Feb. 8	Chapter 4: Influences on beliefs and actions, pages 77-88
Feb. 10	Video: <i>Murder in Texas</i>
Feb. 15	Chapter 5: States and Nations
Feb. 17	Midterm review
Feb. 22	Midterm
Feb. 24	Video: <i>Democracy in a Different Voice</i>
Feb. 29	Chapters 6 and 7: Political Institutions I and II
Mar 2	Great Britain, Northern Ireland
Mar 7	Video: <i>Controlling Interest</i>
Mar 9	Chapter 8 Political Economy
Mar 14	Chapter 11 Change and Political Development
Mar 16	Chapter 10: Political Communication
Mar 21	Chapter 12: Political Violence
Mar 23	Video: <i>Triumph of Evil</i>
Mar 27-31	SPRING BREAK
Apr 4	Chapter 13: Politics between States
Apr 6	International institutions: UN or the WTO?
Apr 11-13	Chapter 14: More Developed Countries
	Group presentations
Apr 18-20	Chapter 15: Transitional Developed Countries
	Group presentations
Apr 25-27	Chapter 16: Developing Countries
	Group presentations
May 2	Final exam review
May 4	Wrap-up

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

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