Introduction to Comparative Politics
Political Science 1340 002C
Southern Methodist University Fall 2007

Time: MWF 9-10
Professor: Michael Lusztig
Office: Carr Collins 204
Phone: 214 768-3530
Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00;Th 10:00-11:00; and by appointment

Course Description:
This course is intended to introduce students to a core sub-discipline within political science: Comparative politics. The first portion of the course constitutes a discussion of some of the key concepts and ideas pertaining to the comparative study of politics. The remainder of the course examines the politics of a number of countries: specifically Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico and (possibly) Brazil.

Course Requirements:
Annotated Bibliography** due Oct 26* 15%
4-6 Page Term Paper** due Nov 09* 20%
Mid term exam Oct 10 20%
Quizzes Sep 14; Oct 05; Oct 26; Nov 30 15%
Professionalism 5%
Final Exam Dec 10 (11:30-2:30) 25%

*Late assignments lose three points per day (including weekends). Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted. In the interest of fairness, no excuses (barring documented illness, injury, or family emergency) will be accepted.

Quizzes:
Quizzes will be on the readings only. These are open note – not open textbook – quizzes. They will take 15 minutes, and will put a premium, therefore, on good reading notes.

**Writing Assignments:
There are two small writing assignments for this class. The first is an annotated bibliography; the second is a short research paper. Although it is due first, the annotated bibliography is actually the bibliography for your research paper. You will be graded on the quality – not the quantity – of your research. Specifically, you will annotate (write a two paragraph note about) your six most important sources. We will have a class dedicated to this assignment and more details will be presented then. The research paper will be on the country of your choice. You will be asked to explain the reason for liberal democracy, or lack thereof, in that country.

Professionalism
Part of my job is to assess your predicted performance in the work place or graduate school. This professionalism grade will be affected by tardiness to class, disruptive behavior such as reading or talking during class, and failure to keep or come on time to scheduled appointments.

Blackboard
You will be expected to sign up for Blackboard. A full list of my policies and your responsibilities is available there, as are tips, resources, and announcements. Please be sure to modify your profile to receive emails to your preferred address. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email address is correct.
Attendance:
I expect complete and regular attendance. In part, your participation and professionalism grades depend upon it. In addition, students who miss class without a *bona fide* (and documentable) reason will lose one percent of their overall grade per each class missed. *Bona fide* excuses include illness, injury, family emergency, important family events (not including vacation plans), university-sanctioned extra-curricular events, and religious observation (for this a letter *in advance* suffices). The imperative to study for a killer midterm, or like attempts, will not suffice. It is your responsibility to let me know about events that occur as quickly as possible.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious problem in academics and will not be tolerated in this course. Please note, students accused of plagiarism in this class will be reported to the SMU Honor Council. If convicted, students almost invariably receive an HV (honors violation) on their transcripts for a lengthy period. It is tough to apply successfully to post-graduate programs or for employment with an HV, so don’t plagiarize.

Plagiarism is defined by Southern Methodist University according to Alexander Lindley’s definition:

> Plagiarism is the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own (*Plagiarism and Originality* [New York: Harper, 1957], p.2). Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another.

If you have any questions regarding citation, please see me. While I am not looking for excuses to accuse you of plagiarism, and therefore you need not be worried about honest mistakes, you should be aware that the following excuses will not work:

- “I didn’t know that I had to use quotation marks when I borrowed someone else’s prose.”
- “I used footnotes, I just didn’t use quotation marks.”
- “But I changed every fourth word…”
- “I didn’t realize that I couldn’t turn in the same paper for more than one class.”
- “I didn’t know how to reference internet sources, so I didn’t cite it.”
Disability Accommodations:

If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4563) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Readings:

You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and will be examined on them. Readings come from the following books, which have been ordered and are at the Bookstore. Additional readings are accessible online.


Annual Editions, *Comparative Politics 07/08.*

**Week One**
August 24 Overview

**Week Two**
August 27 Modernization Theory
August 29 The 1970s
August 31 Institutions

Readings:  
*Mahler ch.1; pp.144-149.*  
*CP art.37.*

**Week Three**
September 5 Institutions
September 7 Regimes

Readings:  
*Mahler chs.2;4*  
*CP art.38.*

**Week Four**
September 10 Parties
September 12 Parties
September 14 Great Britain – Early History

**Quiz**

Readings:  
*Mahler pp.149-158*  

**Week Five**
September 17 Great Britain – 20th Century
September 19 Great Britain – Institutions
September 21 Great Britain – Political Culture

Readings:  
*CP arts.1-4;12;13;16*
Week Six
September 24  Great Britain – Parties and Interests
September 26  Great Britain – Mrs. Thatcher’s Revolution
September 28  Term Paper Workshop

Readings:  •Mahler ch.9

Week Seven
October 1  France – Early History
October 3  France – Institutions
October 5  France – Political Culture

Quiz

Readings:  • Mahler ch.10
  • CP arts.5-6

Week Eight
October 8  Review
October 10  Midterm
October 12  Germany – Early History

Readings:  •CP arts.7-8

Week Nine
October 15  Germany – Institutions
October 17  Germany – Political Culture
October 19  Germany – Parties and Interests

Readings:  •Mahler ch.11

Week Ten
October 22  Germany – Reunification
October 24  Japan – Early History
October 26  Japan – Institutions

Bibliography

Quiz

Readings:  •Mahler ch.12

Week Eleven
October 29  Japan – Parties and Political Culture
October 31  Japan – Political Culture and Interests
November 2  Japan – 20th Century/Institutions

Readings:  •CP art.10
  •M. Diana Helweg, “Japan: A Rising Sun?” Foreign Affairs 2000
  (access through www.foreignaffairs.org)
Week Twelve
November 5  Japan – Will Japan Survive?
November 7  Mexico – Early History
November 9  Mexico -- Institutions

Term Paper
Readings:  •Mahler ch.14

Week Thirteen
November 12 Mexico – Authoritarian Corporatism
November 14 Mexico – The Future of Democracy
November 16 Brazil – Early History

Readings:  •Susan Kaufman Purcell and John F.H. Purcell, “State and Society in Mexico: Must a Stable Polity Be Institutionalized?” *World Politics* (access through PONI)

Week Fourteen
November 26 Brazil – Institutions and Culture
November 28 Brazil -- Parties
November 30 Brazil -- Democratization

Quiz
Readings:  •*CP* arts.30-31;40-41

Week Fifteen
December 3  Catch-UP
December 5  Catch-Up
December 6  Review