

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

POSC 40, Sect. 1002
Spring 2007
Tu-Th, 12:35
Lalumiere 216

Prof. Michael Fleet
Wehr Physics 446
Hrs: T-Th, 9:30-11:00,
and W, 2:00-5:00

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

This course introduces you to the governments and politics of "foreign" countries. These will include: Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, China, and a number of so-called Third World or "developing" countries (e.g., India, Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran). For purposes of comparison, we will also consider the United States, although strictly speaking it is not a foreign country. Some of the countries we will study, the U.S., Great Britain, and France, for example, are long-standing "liberal" democracies. Others, like Germany, Japan and India, did not adopt democratic institutions until the late 1940s or early 1950s. And yet other states, third world and former communist countries, are currently attempting to strengthen their fragile democratic governments and emerging capitalist economies simultaneously, or to embrace capitalism and the global market without adopting or encouraging democratic politics. In looking at these various cases, we will be asking: what defines democracy, how democracy and capitalism are related, and why, historically, democratic political institutions emerge and either endure or fail to endure.

Students are expected to do the assigned readings prior to class, and be able to discuss them in class in their small work groups, and in discussions involving the class as a whole. Students with more than three absences will have to submit a 2-3 page essay for each day missed to avoid having their participation grade adversely affected. Those not comfortable raising or responding to questions in class are encouraged to submit questions or observations in advance, thereby contributing more to, and getting more from, class sessions. Participation in his or her work group, and in class sessions as a whole, will count for **20%** of each student's grade. Four multiple-choice quizzes will be worth an additional **5%** each (for a total of **20%**). The mid-term take-home (essay) exam will be worth **20%**, and the final (essay) exam **40%**, of the semester grade.

The following texts should be purchased (at either the Bookmarq or Sweeney's):

Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph, Introduction to Comparative Politics (paper);
Neal Wood, Tyranny in America, Capitalism and National Decay, Verso hardback;
Chinua Achebe, A Man of the People, paper;
Annual Editions, Comparative Politics, 2006-2007;

In addition to these materials, 9 articles have been placed on electronic reserve (www.marquette.edu/library).

Course Outline

and Readings

1. **Introduction** (January 16) - distribution of syllabi and work-group sign-up sheet

2. **The Study of Comparative Politics** (Jan. 18th)

Reading (to be done prior to class):

For **Jan. 18th**- Kesselman, Krieger and Joseph (KK and J), Introduction to Comparative Politics, "Introducing Comparative Politics," pp. 5-35;

3. **Established Democracies and their Challenges** (Jan. 23rd - Feb. 8th)

Readings (to be done prior to class):

For **Jan. 23rd** - Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy Isand Is Not," Annual Editions (AE), no. 22, pp. 103-109; and Dahl, "Framed Up," (no. 1 on electronic reserve);

For **Sept. 25th** - KK and J, Ch. 7, "The United States," pp. 302-351;

For **Sept. 30th** - KK and J, Ch. 2, "Britain," pp. 38-89; and "A Constitutional Revolution in Britain?," AE, no. 1, pp. 16-22, "Weighing the Votes," AE, no. 2, pp. 23; and "The British General Election of 2005," AE, no. 3, pp. 24-26;

For **Feb. 1st** - KK and J, Ch. 4, "Germany," pp. 149-200;

For **Feb. 6th** - "A system in crisis; a country in drift," AE, no. 8, pp. 45-46; and "Angela Merkel," AE, no. 9, pp. 47-48;

For **Feb. 8th** - KK and J, Ch. 3, "France," pp. 92-145; "A Divided Self: a Survey of France," AE no. 5, pp. 31-40; "The Next French Revolution," AE no. 6, pp. 41-42; and "French Inch toward Social reform," AE, no. 7, pp.43-44;

For **Feb. 13th** - KK and J, Ch. 5, "Japan," pp. 202-249; "Japanese Spirit; Western Things," AE, no. 12, pp. 53-55; and "Koizumi's Party, Backing Reforms, Wins by a Landslide," AE, no. 13, pp. 56-57;

First Quiz - Feb. 13th - consisting of multiple-choice questions covering KK and J, Chs. 1-5 and 7, AE articles nos. 1-3, 5-9, 12, 13, and 22, and the Dahl article;

4. **How Democratic are "Liberal" Democracies?** (Feb 15th - Feb. 27th)

Readings (to be done prior to class)

For **Feb. 15th** - Sodaro, "Critical Thinking about Politics" (no. 2 on electronic reserve), Almond, "Capitalism and Democracy," AE, no. 45, pp. 207-213; and Fleet, "Ideological and Theoretical Perspectives" (no. 3 on electronic reserve);

For **Feb. 17th** - Wood, Tyranny in America, Chs. 1 and 2;

For **Feb. 20th** - Wood, Tyranny in America, Chs. 3 and 4;

For **Feb. 22nd** - Wood, Tyranny in America, Chs. 5 and 6;

For **Feb. 27th** - Wood, Tyranny in America, Ch. 7;

Second Quiz - Feb. 27th - multiple-choice questions covering the Sodaro chapter, the Almond and Fleet articles, and all of Wood; questions for the mid-term essay exam will also be distributed;

5. Politics in Former Second World (Communist) States (Mar. 1st - Mar. 15th)

Readings (to be done prior to class):

For **Mar. 1st** - "Putin Gambles with Raw Power," AE, no. 31, pp. 148-149; and "What does Putin Want?," AE, no. 32, pp. 150-153;

For **Mar. 3rd** - KK and J, Ch. 8, "Russia," pp. 354-414;

Mid-term Essay Exam - due Mar. 8th (No class on either the 10th or 12th)

For **Mar. 8th** - KK and J, Ch. 13, "China," pp. 626-682;

For **Mar. 10th** - "China: the Quiet Revolution," AE, no. 37, pp. 175-179; and "China's Leader, Ex-Rival at Side, Solidifies Power," AE, no. 38, pp. 180-182; -

6. Democracy in the Third World (Mar. 20th - Apr. 19th)

Readings (to be done prior to class):

For **Mar. 20th** - Fleet, "Clientelism," (no. 4 on electronic reserve); and all of Achebe, Chs. 1-13;

For **Mar. 22nd** - Fleet, "Globalization and Democracy" (no. 5 on electronic reserve), "Globalization is About Blending, Not Homogenizing," AE, no. 47, pp. 219-220; "An Explosive Combination," AE, no. 48, pp. 221-223; and Przeworski, "A Flawed Blueprint, the Covert Politicization of Development Economics" (no. 6 on electronic reserve);

Third Quiz - Mar. 22nd covering KK and J, Chs. 8 and 13, the two Fleet articles, the Przeworski article, AE articles nos. 32, 33, 37 and 38, and all of Achebe;

For **Mar. 27th** - KK and J, Ch. 6, "India," pp. 252-300; "Somalia: and Yet so Far," AE, no. 39, pp. 183-182; and "India's Democracy Provides Lesson," AE, no. 40, pp. 186-187; ;

For **Mar. 29th** - KK and J, Ch. 10, "Mexico," pp. 472-518;

For **Apr. 3rd** - Alma Guillermoprieto, "Elections 2000" (no. 7 on electronic reserve); no class on the 5th

For **Apr. 10th** - KK and J, Ch. 8, "Brazil," pp. 416-469;

For **Apr. 12th** - "Poor Man's Burden" (no. 8 on electronic reserve);

For **Apr. 17th** - KK and J, Ch. 11, "Nigeria," pp. 520-575; and "A Conversation with Olusegun Obasanjo" (no. 9 on electronic reserve);

For **Apr. 19th** - KK and J, Ch. 12, "Iran," pp. 578-624;

Fourth Quiz - Apr. 19th - covering KK and J, Chs. 6, 9, 10, 11, and 12, AE articles no. 39 and 40, and electronic articles no. 7 (Guillermo Prieto), no. 8 (Lula), and no. 9 (Obasanjo interview) articles;

7. **Conclusions** (Apr. 24th - May 3rd)

For **Apr. 24th** - "Public Opinion: Is There a Crisis," AE, no. 14, pp. 64-66; "Political Parties: Empty Vessels," AE, no. 15, pp. 67-69; and "Interest Groups: Ex Uno, Plures," AE, no. 16, pp. 70-72;

For **Apr 26th** - (last day of class) - "Women in National Parliaments, AE no. 18, pp. 81-86; "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?," AE, no. 21, pp. 97-102;

For **May 1st** - "The Case for a Multi-party Parliament? American Politics in Comparative Perspective," AE, no. 27, pp. 123-131;

For **May 3rd** - Workshop on final-exam essays;

Final Essay Exam due by 5:00 on **Monday, May 7th**