

PLS 1003: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Section 001 (T, TH: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.)
Eastern Illinois University
Spring, 2009

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Office Hours: M, W: 1:30-2:30 p.m., T, TH: 2-3 p.m., and by appointment

DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory level course which examines the field of Comparative Politics. You will become familiarized with some of the major terms, concepts and questions that direct the study of Comparative Politics. We will look at the state as a central concept in Political Science, types of political regimes, political systems, political party systems, electoral systems, patterns of democracy and democratizations, economic development, and the importance of political institutions. We will also look at politics within states and politics between states, comparing different regions of the world. Students are expected to keep up- to- date with current political affairs.

REQUIRED TEXT

Gabriel A. Almond, et.al. 2006. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 8th Edition. New York: Pearson-Longman.

POLICIES

1. All papers are to be turned in to me personally in class or placed in my mailbox. No papers will be accepted through E-mail.
2. All assignments should be handed in on time. If you are unable to hand in an assignment on time, you should inform me as soon as possible as to why said assignment is not being handed in on time. With the exception of medical emergencies, all papers handed in more than one week after the due date will not be accepted. The **late penalty** for all papers unexcused will be one letter grade. If you are missing class due to an excused academic or athletic commitment, you must turn in your work early in order for the late policy to not apply.
3. If you miss an exam or quiz due to a documented excuse, you must reschedule a make-up exam/quiz no later than the first day you return to class. The make-up exams/quizzes may differ in content and format from the regular exams/quizzes.
4. Turn off ALL electronic devices in class!!!
5. Students are expected to arrive to class in a timely fashion and be prepared by the time class starts. Habitual lateness is rude to the instructor as well as your classmates, and will affect your participation grade.

DISABILITIES

Students with a disability documented through the campus disability services office should notify the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor will do his best to accommodate your needs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to comply with the University's STUDENT CONDUCT CODE in ALL facets of the course. Any student who cheats and/or plagiarizes on an exam or quiz will receive an F grade (in the form of a 0 score) for the course, along with formal written notification to the Judicial Affairs Office. Keep in mind that a student cannot drop a course with an academic misconduct allegation unresolved.

EVALUATION FORMAT

Your final grade is based on the following evaluation format:

Exams: There will be three exams (worth 50 points each) which will cover lectured material, course handouts, reading assignments, class assignments, class activities, and current events information. Exams may use a combination of multiple choice, short answer, short essay, definition identification, and true or false questions. In addition to the three exams, the best exam grade of the three will be doubled, and factored into your final grade.

Writing Assignment: There will be one writing assignment (worth 50 points) which will be assigned during the second week of the semester (due **April 9th**). Additional information will be given in class.

Unannounced Quizzes: There will be six unannounced quizzes given during the semester (worth five points each), covering material in the readings and the lectures. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Participation: While students are not expected to speak out in class on a daily basis, students are expected to critically analyze the information attained throughout the class, and should willingly participate in class discussions to receive full credit. Class attendance will be recorded on a daily basis, and will be factored into your total participation grade (worth 25 points). Students are allowed two unexcused absences, with each additional absence resulting in a two point deduction from the overall participation portion of the grade.

Three Exams = 150 points
Best Exam Doubled = 50 points
Writing Assignment = 50 points
Quizzes = 25 points
Participation = 25 points

Total = 300 points

A= 300-270 points, B=269-240, C=239-210, D=209-180, F=179 and lower

COURSE OUTLINE

Chapter 1: Issues in Comparative Politics p.1-30

Chapter 2: Comparing Political Systems p.31-45

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Political Socialization p.46-61

First Examination: Thursday, February 19th

Chapter 4: Interest Articulation p.62-80

Chapter 5: Interest Aggregation and Political Parties p.81-100

Chapter 6: Government and Policy Making p.101-128

Second Examination: Thursday, April 2nd

Chapter 7: Public Policy p.129-155

Chapter 19: Politics in the United States p.738-782

Chapter 8: Politics in England p.156-205

Chapter 9: Politics in France p.206-259

Chapter 13: Politics in China p.412-459

Important dates to remember: January 19th (M.L. King's Birthday Observed), February 13th (Lincoln's Birthday Observed), March 16 - 20th (Spring Break), April 3rd (Last day to Drop class with a W), May 1st (Last day of class).

Final Examination: Thursday, May 7th @ 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.