

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**Political Science 2300R - Comparative Politics (2012/13)**

MWF 11:30am-12:30pm, Chemistry 226

Instructors:

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We live in an era of rapid change world-wide, in which political activities and decisions hold striking consequences for peoples' lives. In Western Europe, for example, politicians and citizens are struggling with the implications of deeper and wider European integration for their own nation-states; in Eastern Europe, former Communist countries are attempting the difficult transition to liberal democratic and market-based political and economic structures; in Mexico, citizens are struggling to overcome the legacies of an authoritarian system and secure a democratic future; and in China, Communist leaders are attempting to promote economic liberalization without conceding the demise of their political order. This course proceeds on the assumption that it is fascinating to study diverse political systems and processes in their own right; but further, that through comparison and generalization, we can gain a better understanding of the characteristics of politics everywhere, including our own country.

The course surveys the methods and scope of Comparative Politics. It does so through an examination of what have been the three major classifications of political systems in the post-World War II world: western democracies (industrial, capitalist nations); communist and former communist systems (centrally planned economies); and "Third World" countries (an increasingly problematic term encompassing "Newly Industrializing Countries" and "Less Developed Countries"). After a general overview of the nature of these classifications, countries from each will be studied in depth. Concepts and theories which are useful for comparing political life in various countries will be discussed in the second term.

**FORMAT**

The class will meet for 3 one-hour sessions per week. Generally speaking, there will be two core lectures per week. Opportunities for questions and discussion will be built into this time. In addition, throughout the year, students will undertake and present group projects linking case studies to the cases and concepts studied in the course. In general, one lecture hour will be devoted to a group presentation every second week. On Fridays, in addition to regular lecture material, there will also be special sessions on writing and research methods, as well as reviews of examination techniques.

The grading thresholds are:

90-100 = A+	77-79.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	50-55.9 = D
85-89.9 = A	73-76.9 = B	59-64.9 = C	below 50 = F
80-84.9 = A-	70-72.9 = B-	56-58.9 = C-	

Note that the deadline by which a student may withdraw from the course is February 8<sup>th</sup> 2013. (Early deadline: November 9<sup>th</sup> 2012).

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Students are expected to purchase the following **text**, which forms the basic reading requirements of the

course: John McCormick, Comparative Politics in Transition 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson, 2013). This text comes with access to internet sites and online databases. Furthermore, required **readings packages** for each term will be available at *Julia's Photocopy*, found at 1525 Lemarchant Street. The readers will available for purchase at the beginning of each semester.

### **RESERVE READINGS:**

Additional books have been placed on reserve in the Killam Library for those interested in a particular group of countries. These texts include:

Paul Cammack, et. al., Third World Politics: A Comparative Introduction.

Charles Hauss, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges.

Stephen White, et. al., Communist and Post-communist Political Systems: An Introduction.

Howard Wiarda, Comparative Democracy and Democratization.

Other useful texts and readings have also been placed on reserve. Some of these are assigned for specific class topics; others will be valuable in preparations for exams, essays and group projects.

### **COMPARATIVE POLITICS ON THE WEB:**

A BbLearn site has been set up for Political Science 2300. This site features course handouts, links to websites detailing case study countries, resources for study, essay writing, and general Internet resources for political scientists. There are many valuable resources for political analysis on the web including government and party pages, journalistic and news resources, commentaries by interest groups, political dissidents, etc., as well as information about the cultures, societies and economies of our case studies and most other countries in the world. Furthermore, information on formatting and citations for Political Science term papers is available via the Killam Library and online at <http://politicalscience.dal.ca/resources/termpapers.htm>.

### **COURSE OUTLINE: Term 1**

We begin by examining the comparative politics field and assessing the broad political characteristics of what have been the three main categories of countries - Western Democratic, Communist/former Communist, and Third World. Increasingly, as discussed by John McCormick in one of the two texts, the idea of a "Third World" is being replaced by several new categories, two of which will be examined in the course: Newly Industrializing Countries (NICs) and Less Developed Countries (LDCs). We then study in greater detail the political history and institutions of key countries from each of these groupings - the United Kingdom and Japan from the developed industrial world, the (former) USSR and China from the Communist/post-Communist world, Mexico and India from the NICs, South Africa as a mixed case, and Nigeria from the LDCs. Finally, we look at the policy outputs of the different types of systems: what kinds of social and economic policies have emerged, and how those policies are made.

### **OUTLINE OF TOPICS**

Week 1-2: Introduction to the course; overview of Comparative Politics

*Read:* McCormick, Introduction, pp. 2-23.

Howard J. Wiarda, Introduction to Comparative Politics: Concepts and Processes Orlando: Harcourt, Brace, 2000), Chapter 1,2.

Hague and Harrop, Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction, Chapter 3, “Research Strategies.”

*Recommended:*

Frank Wilson, Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002, pp. 2-15. (On Reserve).

Giovanni Sartori, “Comparing and Miscomparing,” *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 1991. (See link on BbLearn)

Week 3: Comparing Post-Industrial and Transitional Socialist Systems

*Read:*

Hague & Harrop, Chapter 5, “Democracy”

McCormick, pp. 23-33 and 193-205

Haus, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, Chapter 2, “Industrialized Democracies,” and Chapter 8, “Current and Former Communist Regimes.”

Leon Aron, 2011, “Everything You Think You Know About the Collapse of the Soviet Union Is Wrong: \*And why it matters today in a new age of revolution,” *Foreign Policy*, July/August, [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/06/20/everything\\_you\\_think\\_you\\_know\\_about\\_the\\_collapse\\_of\\_the\\_soviet\\_union\\_is\\_wrong?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/06/20/everything_you_think_you_know_about_the_collapse_of_the_soviet_union_is_wrong?page=full)

Diana Raby, 2009, “Why Cuba Still Matters,” *Monthly Review*, January, <http://monthlyreview.org/2009/01/01/why-cuba-still-matters>

*Recommended:*

Valerie Bunce, 2003, “Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons From the Post-Communist Experience,” *World Politics* 55(2), 167-192,

[http://muse.jhu.edu.ezproxy.library.dal.ca/journals/world\\_politics/v055/55.2bunce.html](http://muse.jhu.edu.ezproxy.library.dal.ca/journals/world_politics/v055/55.2bunce.html)

John Gray, 2011, “The revolution of capitalism,” *BBC News*, September 3,

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-14764357>

Howard Wiarda, Comparative Democracy and Democratization, Ch1, 9. (On Reserve).

Week 4: Comparing the old "Third World": NICs, and LDCs

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 289-301 & 385-399.

Haus, Chapter 11, “The Less Developed Countries.”

Mahler, G. S., & MacInnis, Donald, Comparative Politics: An institutional and cross-national approach, 2001 Ch. 8

Wiarda, Howard, Introduction to Comparative Politics, ch. 3

Pritchett, Lantt, “Divergence, Big Time.”

*Recommended:*

Stein, Howard, “Policy Alternatives to Structural Adjustment in Africa: An Introduction,” in H. Stein (ed), Asian Industrialization and Africa, New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1995.

Week 5: Presidentialism: Politics in the United States

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 70-78, 81-92.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 3, “The United States” (On Reserve).

Week 6: Parliamentarism: Politics in the U.K. and Japan

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 110-188, 120-131; 150-158, 161-172.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 4, “Great Britain”; Hauss (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Chapter 8, “Japan” (On Reserve).

Week 7: Politics in China

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 248-259, 260-272.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 10, “China” (On Reserve).

Week 8: Politics in Russia

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 206-215, 216-229.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 9, “Russia” (On Reserve).

Week 9: Politics in India

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 342-350, 353-364.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 12, “India” (On Reserve).

Week 10: Politics in Mexico

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 302-310, 313-323.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 16, “Mexico” (On Reserve).

Week 11: Politics in South Africa

*Read:* Hauss, Chapter 15, “South Africa” (4<sup>th</sup> edition).

Deegan, Heather, *The Politics of the New South Africa*, Essex: Longmann, chapter 2, pp. 23-38.

Week 12: Politics in Nigeria

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 400-409, 411-422.

*Recommended:* Hauss, Chapter 15, “Nigeria.”

R. W. Theen & Frank Wilson, Comparative Politics: an introduction to seven countries, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice hall, 2000, p. 37-42.

Week 13: Policy Outcomes: North and South

*Read:* Frank Wilson, Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Ch 11.  
Alesina, Glaeser, and Sacerdote, “Why Doesn’t the United States Have a European-Style Welfare State?”  
Additional reading TBA.\*

*Recommended:* White, et. al., ch. 6 (On Reserve).

Week 14: Review of the Term's Work

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## **Term 2**

The course continues with an examination of the cultural environment of political life, and the informal institutions linking state and society, including mass media, interest groups, and political parties. It also examines social divisions like class, gender, and ethnicity. The role of the military and police, political leadership and participation, and future prospects for our case studies will also be examined. These themes will be illustrated with selected examples from the case studies.

*N.B. Readings for the second semester are subject to change. If changes are made, a revised reading list will be provided in January 2013.*

Week 1: Political Culture and Socialization: Concepts

*Read:* Hague & Harrop, Chapter 7, “Political Culture.”  
Mahler, G. S., & MacInnis, Donald, Comparative Politics: An institutional and cross-national approach, 2001, pp. 24-32.

Week 2: Political Culture and Socialization: cases

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 78-81, 118-120, 158-161, 215-216, 259-260, 310-313, 351-353, 409-411.  
Hauss, 51-52, 74-77, 239-241, 274-280, 338-341, 447-450, 474-475.  
Putnam, Robert, “Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America.”

*Recommended:* White, et. al., ch. 2 (On Reserve).

Week 3: Mass Media in Politics

*Read:* Hague & Harrop, Chapter 8, “Political Communication.”  
Curran, James, Shanto Iyengar, Anker Brink Lund and Inka Salovaara-Moring. 2009. “Media System, Public Knowledge and Democracy: A Comparative Study.” *European Journal of Communication* 24(1): 5–26 [Available via BbLearn]

*Watch video:*

Robert McChesney on the American media, February 6, 2011. <http://vimeo.com/19780412>

*Recommended:* David Taras, The Newsmakers Chapter 1.

James Deane with Fackson Banda, “The Other Information Revolution: Media and Empowerment in Developing Countries,” in Global Civil Society 2002, edited by Marlies Glasius et al., Oxford: Oxford

University Press, pp. 171-190.

McCormick 5<sup>th</sup> ed ('Media'), p. 65-66, 112-113, 157-8, 216-17, 260-261, 367-368, 428-429.

Robert W. McChesney and John Nichols, *The Death and Life of American Journalism: The Media Revolution that Will Begin the World Again*, New York: Nation Books, 2010.

Week 4: Interest Groups and Classes: Concepts and Categories

*Read:* Hague & Harrop, Chapter 12, "Interest Groups."

Week 5: Interest Groups and Classes: cases

*Read:* McCormick, pp. 100-107, 139-147, 181-188, 237-244, 276-285, 331-338, 373-381, 430-439.

Week 6: Military, Police and Civil Society

*Read:* Hague, Harrop, and Breslin, Chapter 14, "The Military"

Chanhoke, Neera (2002), "The Limits of Global Civil Society," in *Global Civil Society 2002*, edited by Marlies Glasius et al., Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 35-53.

*Recommended*

Frank Wilson, *Concepts and issues in Comparative Politics*, pp. 138-152.

Cammack et. al. Ch. 4 (On Reserve).

Week 7: Political parties and election systems in industrialized countries

*Read:* Hague & Harrop, Chapter 10, "Elections and voters," and Chapter 11, "Political Parties."

McCormick, pp. 92-99, 132-139, 173-181.

Week 8: SPRING STUDY BREAK

Week 9: Political parties and election systems in the "South"

*Read:* Hague, Harrop, & Breslin, pp. 143-145;\* Cammack, et. al., ch. 3

McCormick, pp. 229-237, 272-276, 323-331, 364-373, 423-430.

Week 10: Political Cleavages: Ethnicity, Regionalism, Nationalism

*Read:* David Roth, *Comparative Politics*, ch. 3.

H. Adam and K. Moodley, *The Negotiated Revolution*, pp. 11-31.

McCormick, pp. 246, 389, 446.

Collier, Paul, "Ethnic Diversity: An Economic Analysis."

*Recommended:* Michael Keating, *Nations Against the State* chs, 1-3, 7.

Week 11: Political Cleavages: Gender

*Read:* Doris Anderson, The Unfinished Revolution (selections)  
 Jeff Haynes, Politics in the Developing World, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2002 chapter 7, pp. 183- 214.  
 Georgina Waylen, “Analysing Women in the Politics of the Third World” in Asfan (ed.) Women in the Politics of the Third World  
 Rai, Shirin (2005), "Gender and Development," in Jeffrey Haynes (ed), PalgraveAdvances in Development Studies, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 226-246.

*Recommended:* Nelson and Chodhury (eds.), Women and Politics Worldwide, pages 3-24 and chapters on China, Britain, India, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, etc.  
 Mahmoud, Fatima, “African Women and Feminist Schools of Thought,” in Mohamed Suliman (ed), Alternative Strategies for Africa, vol. 2, London: IFAA, 1991, pp. 141-147.

Week 12: Political Participation and Leadership

*Read:* Hague & Harrop, Chapter 9, “Political Participation.”  
 Roth, Comparative Politics, ch. 6.  
 Weber, Max, “Politics as Vocation.”

*Recommended:* Frank Wilson, Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Chapters 4, 7.

Week 13: Political Change and Future Prospects

*Read:* Frank Wilson, Concepts and Issues in Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Chapter 12  
 Hauss, Chapter 17, “Global Challenges & Domestic Responses.”

*Recommended:* Cammack, et. al., ch. 8 (on reserve)  
 McCormick, pp. 106-107, 146-147, 188, 244, 283-285, 338, 380-381, 439.

Week 14: Review of the Term's Work

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**EVALUATION:** The final grade will be arrived at as follows:

Attendance	Daily	10%
First Term Essay proposal (4 pages/1,000 words)	Due Oct. 5	5%
First Term Essay (10 pages/2,500 words)	Due Nov. 23	15%
First Term Exam	Dec. TBA	15%
Second Term Essay proposal (4 pages/1,000 words)	Due Feb. 4	5%
Second Term Essay (10 pages/2,500 worlds)	Due Mar. 25	15%
Group Project – Presentation	TBA	7.5%
Group Project – Paper (8 pages/2,000 words)	TBA	7.5%
Final Exam	April, TBA	20%

Late Penalty: 2% per working day.

Essay topics will be distributed close to the start of each term.

### **PLAGIARISM AND OTHER UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICES:**

Students are reminded that **plagiarism** (handing in another person's work as one's own or exact copying of the words of another author without attribution), submitting the same essay to more than one course, and close **paraphrasing** (reliance on a source with only minor alterations in wording) are unacceptable. Dalhousie University subscribes to Turnitin.com, a computer based service which checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Dal web at: <http://plagiarism.dal.ca/>

### **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMMODATION**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.