

Political Science 106
Politics of the World's Nations
Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-12:50 p.m.
Chemistry 180
Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm

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Final exam: Monday, May 12, 2008, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Course Description

This introductory course will compare and contrast the political and socio-economic systems of several states—industrialized and developing, democratic and authoritarian. We begin with a theoretical introduction and consider central issues such as political culture, institutions, political crises and discontinuity (i.e. revolution and dictatorship), and economic development. We then examine the following six case studies: two Western European democracies (Britain and France), a former communist regime (Russia), a reformed communist regime (China), a developing state (Mexico), and finally our own presidential democracy (the United States).

Grades

Grades will be based on two midterms (25% each) and one final exam (50%). No make-up exams will be given without a medical excuse or an excused University absence. Students must also produce the appropriate documentation stating why they were not able to be in class at the exact time of the exam. If you have a problem or miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately (beforehand if possible). *If you miss an exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam under any circumstances.*

Assuming that there are no changes in the schedule, the midterms will be given on Tuesday of the 7th week (March 4, 2008) and Thursday of the 11th week (April 10, 2008). The final exam is on Monday, May 12, 2008 from 12:30-2:30. Class and discussion section attendance (and participation) are required and will influence your grade in all borderline cases. If you are a student that needs accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this class, please contact me during the first two weeks of class.

Readings

The required textbook is available in the bookstore:

Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Jr. Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strom eds. (2008) *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. Ninth edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Other, shorter readings listed below are on electronic reserve in Golda Meir Library, at: <<https://millib.wisconsin.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=rbSearch>>.

Blair, Tony. (2006) "A Battle for Global Values." *Foreign Affairs* (January/February). Also available at <<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070101faessay86106/tony-blair/a-battle-for-global-values.htm>>

Giry, Stéphanie. (2006) "France and Its Muslims." *Foreign Affairs* 85:5 (September/October) pp. 87-104.

Trenin, Dmitri. (2007) "Russia Leaves the West." *Foreign Affairs* 85:4 (July/August) pp 87-96.

Murphy, Kim. (2007) "Ruble Rousers: The Poison-and-Caviar World of Russian Oligarchs in London." *The New Republic* (April) pp.34-37.

Gat, Azar. (2007) "The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers." *Foreign Affairs* 86:4 (July/August) pp.59-69.

Rubio, Luis and Davidow, Jeffery. (2006) "Mexico's Disputed Election." *Foreign Affairs* 85:5 (September/October) pp.75-85.

Jacoby, Tamar. (2006) "Immigration Nation." *Foreign Affairs* (November/December). Also available at <<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20061101faessay85606/tamar-jacoby/immigration-nation.htm>>

Course Schedule:

I. Introduction and Structural/Functional Theoretical Framework

Week 1 (1/22 & 1/24): Issues and Problems in Comparative Politics and Almond and Powell's Comparative Model of Political System, Process, and Policy.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters, 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Suggested reading: Fukuyama, Francis. (1989) "The End of History?" *The National Interest* (Summer) pp. 3-18.

Huntington, Samuel P. (1993) "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer) 72:3 pp. 22-49.

Week 2 (1/29 & 1/31): System, Process, and Policy continued.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 (interest groups, interest aggregation and political parties, government and policymaking).

II. Britain

Weeks 3 and 4 (2/5, 2/7, 2/12 & 2/14): Britain.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 8), "Politics in England" by Richard Rose, pp. 152-200.

Also required reading: Blair, Tony. (2006) "A Battle for Global Values." *Foreign Affairs* (January/February). Also available at: <<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070101faessay86106/tony-blair/a-battle-for-global-values.htm>>

III. France

Weeks 5 and 6: (2/19, 2/21, 2/26 & 2/28): France.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 9), "Politics in France" by Martin A. Schain, pp. 202-253.

Also required reading: Giry, Stéphanie. (2006) "France and Its Muslims." *Foreign Affairs* (September/October) 85:5, pp. 87-104.

First Midterm: Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

IV. Russia

Weeks 7 and 8 (3/6, 3/11, 3/13 & 3/25): Russia.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 12), "Politics in Russia" by Thomas F. Remington, pp. 358-403.

Also required readings: Trenin, Dmitri. (2007) "Russia Leaves the West." *Foreign Affairs* (July/August) 85:4, pp. 87-96.

Murphy, Kim. (2007) "Ruble Rousers: The Poison-and-Caviar World of Russian Oligarchs in London." *The New Republic* (April), pp. 34-37.

V. China

Weeks 9, 10, 11 (3/27, 4/1, 4/3 & 4/8): China.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 13), "Politics in China" by Melanie Manion, pp. 406-450.

Also required reading: Gat, Azar. (2007) "The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers." *Foreign Affairs* (July/August), 86:4 pp. 59-69.

Second Midterm: Thursday, April 10, 2008.

VI. Mexico

Weeks 12, 13, 14 (4/15, 4/17, 4/22 & 4/24): Mexico.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 14), "Politics in Mexico" by Wayne A. Cornelius and Jeffrey A. Weldon, pp. 454-504.

Also required reading: Rubio, Luis and Davidow, Jeffery. (2006) "Mexico's Disputed Election." *Foreign Affairs* (September/October), 85:5 pp. 75-85.

VII. The United States

Weeks 14 and 15: (4/29, 5/1, 5/6, & 5/8) The United States.

Required reading: *Comparative Politics Today: A World View* (chapter 19), "Politics in the United States" by Austin Ranny and Thad Kousser, pp. 712-754.

Also required reading: Jacoby, Tamar. (2007) "Immigration Nation." *Foreign Affairs* (November/December). Also available at:

<<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20061101faessay85606/tamar-jacoby/immigration-nation.html>>

Final Exam: Monday, May 12, 2008, 12:30-2:30 p.m.