

**Political Science 100**  
**Introduction to Comparative Politics**  
**Winter Quarter, 2007**

**Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 PM – 4:18 PM**

Room: 0174 Mendenhall Laboratory (ML)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday

12:25pm–2:25pm

*or by appointment*

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**Course Description**

Introduction to Comparative Politics is a course that will provide students with a broad theoretical, conceptual, & informational overview of how societies throughout the modern world govern themselves. Comparative Politics is, in essence, the study of how countries build and operate their political regimes. After taking this course, you will be able to understand concepts such as the state, what we mean when we say “democracy,” why some countries have had a tough time achieving political stability, and how economics and globalization have transformed and challenged countries around the world, among other important topics.

This course will proceed in two phases. In the first half of the course, we will introduce several theoretical concepts crucial to understanding the huge variety of challenges that societies face and the political structures they rely upon to address these problems. We will introduce how Comparative Politics works as a social science, we will introduce key terms in the study of politics, and we will describe several important issues that the field has been concerned with over the last few decades. This portion of the class will set the conceptual stage for the latter half.

The second portion of Introduction to Comparative Politics will concentrate upon case studies of the politics within nine important countries. In this portion of the course, students will witness the concepts they learned in the first portion of the course in action. We will study three basic categories of state: democratic, non-democratic, and states undergoing political change. This section will, as a side-benefit, provide students with background information on the politics of states that have, and will likely continue, to play important parts on the world stage.

The end purpose of this class will be to provide students with the necessary tools to understand and interpret international political events and problems for the remainder of their lives. The course, while crucial for Political Science majors, has been designed with non-Political Scientists in mind as well. It is hoped that, long after the course is over, students will be able to employ the practical information provided here to better understand the world around them.

## Readings

There is one required book for this course. Also, students will be asked to read material contained on the Ohio State Carmen online course management system. The book you are to purchase should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long's, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the book online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger and William A. Joseph (ed.s). *Introduction to Comparative Politics (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. **ISBN: 0-618-60447-2**

In addition, there will be **eight** additional readings that you will be asked to access at your own convenience via the OSU electronic reserve system on Carmen. You can access, download, or print the included readings (in .pdf form) on any on-campus or off-campus computer with Internet access. For additional information, see the “Carmen” section of this syllabus on Page 3.

Also, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) or *Newsweek* ([www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course is the surest way to a good term paper and the achievement success in exams.

## The Determination of Grades:

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in four areas:

<b>1. Quizzes (Best 2 scores out of 3)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>2. Midterm Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>3. Term Paper</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>4. Final Exam</b>	<b><u>35%</u></b>
<b>FINAL GRADE</b>	<b>100%</b>

My grading scale for the paper, exams, and final course grades is as follows:

<b>A</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100% - 92%</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>80% - 78%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>92% - 90%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>78% - 72%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>90% - 88%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>72% - 70%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>88% - 82%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>70% - 68%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>82% - 80%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>68% - 60%</b>
			<b>E (also known as “F”)</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Less than 60%</b>

## **GEC-Mandated Goals & Objectives for this Course**

### **Political Science 100 – Diversity: International Issues**

#### **Goals/ Rationale:**

Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

## **Carmen (Online Course Management System)**

This class will employ Ohio State's "Carmen" online system to distribute readings not found in your required textbook. Also, Carmen will house an online archive of all class handouts (syllabus and study guides). To access Carmen, if you have not yet done so before, employ the following steps:

1. Go to the Ohio State website (www.osu.edu).
2. Click on "Current Students" entry near the top of the screen.
3. On the next screen, Click on the "Carmen (Course Management System)" entry under the "Computing" list.
4. On the next screen, click "Log In"
5. You will be asked to log in using your OSU Internet Username and Password (if you have not activated a username yet, contact the Ohio State OIT Technology Support Center at 614-688-4357)
6. On the next screen, if you are properly registered for the course, you should see the entry "POLITSC 100 (REESE)" under the "Political Science" heading under the "Winter 2007" heading under the "My Courses" section of your Carmen homepage. Click the "POLITSC 100 (REESE) entry to advance to the class homepage.

We will employ the "Content" function of Carmen in this class (the "Grades," "Discussions," and "Dropbox" functions will not be used...however, feel free to email me at [reese.150@osu.edu](mailto:reese.150@osu.edu) at any time during the course to check your grade status or ask questions about the course material).

If you click on the "Content" tab, you will see a listing of all currently available handouts and readings (all in .pdf format). The handout portion of the content page will be updated as each handout is distributed (you should see an entry for this syllabus right away). The readings for the entire course will be fully available from the first day (in case you want to get a head start on later work).

## **Student Responsibilities:**

### **Attendance:**

This is primarily a lecture course. Lecture courses will do you no good if you are not around to hear the lectures. As a result, you are expected to attend every class session. I will not, however, take attendance after the first day. If you do happen to miss a lecture, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate. This is important because we sometimes cover material in lecture not contained in the assigned reading. You may therefore miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do not make the necessary arrangements. However, it is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days that quizzes and tests are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up quiz or exam only if you present me with a documented excuse for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center.

### **Reading:**

You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Ideally, you are to complete this reading *before* each class begins. Please try to perform the readings in the order listed in the “Course Schedule” portion of your syllabus (there usually is a reason behind the ordering). It is important to keep up with this reading. Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly in class discussion and on exams. I cannot emphasize enough that although we will not discuss everything in class covered in your readings you will be expected to answer exam questions that may involve these reading-only points and issues (i.e. merely showing up for class will *not* be enough to do well in this course).

### **Quizzes:**

The quizzes will be held at random (except for the catch-up/catch-up class immediately before each exam) and will not be announced ahead of time. There will be three of these *closed book* “pop quizzes” held during the quarter. Each quiz will be held at the start of class. These quizzes will focus upon recent lectures and your reading assignment for the day they are administered. Each quiz will consist of five multiple-choice questions. At the end of the course, I will “throw out” the worst of your three quiz scores. The quiz component of your final grade (10%) will then be calculated by averaging your other two quiz scores.

### **Term Paper:**

You will be asked to complete a 5-7 page typed term paper (12-point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced) comparing the politics of two countries of your choice. At the end of the second week (Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>), I will distribute a handout to provide you with some paper ideas and further guidelines. You will be expected to turn in a brief (less than 1 page) proposal of your planned paper topic on **Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Your final paper, will be due **4pm on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Unless you have a legitimate documented excuse that has been approved by me *before* that deadline has passed, every calendar day the paper is late will result in a full letter grade deduction (10 points) on your term paper score.

**Exams:**

There will be two *closed book* exams held during this course: a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will be structured similarly with an “identification of terms” section and an “essay” section. Several days before each exam, I will hand out a study guide to assist you in your preparations. If you know the guide, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

**Communication with Your Instructor:**

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. I am easiest to contact via e-mail ([reese.150@osu.edu](mailto:reese.150@osu.edu)) which I do check with consistent regularity. I will make myself available twice every week for regular office hours (Tuesday and Thursday 12:25-2:25pm...in essence, the two hours before class time) and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give me at least 24 hours notice to make sure I can accommodate you.

It is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact me about their performance. If you run into problems with the course material, or are not achieving the grades you believe yourself capable of, please contact me sooner rather than later. If you wait too long, you may have little or no opportunity to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

**Academic Honesty:**

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

**Disability:**

If you need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than January 12<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office For Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

## Course Schedule:

### ***SECTION I: THE COMPARTIVE METHOD AND IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONCEPTS***

**January**      4      **Introduction**

9      **What is Comparative Political Science?**

Read:

- Kesselman, Krieger, & Joseph (KKJ), “Chapter 1: Introducing Comparative Politics”
- Shivley, W. Phillips, “Why (and How) Should We Compare?” in *Comparative Governance*. McGraw Hill, 2003 **(On Carmen)**

11      **States, Nations, Nation-States, & State Formation**

Read:

- Shivley, “The Setting of Power: The State” **(On Carmen)**
- Shivley, “Holding the State Together” **(On Carmen)**
- KKJ, “Chapter 2: Britain” (*Only* read Section 1: The Making of the Modern British State)
- KKJ, “Chapter 3: France” (*Only* read section 1: The Making of the Modern French State)

16      **Political Conflict, Legitimacy, Regimes, & Political Parties**

Read:

- Shivley, “Political Conflict” **(On Carmen)**

18      **Political Regimes I: Democracies**  
          *(\*\*\*Term Paper Proposals Due In Class Today\*\*\*)*

Read:

- Shivley, “Decision Making in the State” Read pp.64-74  
(Until the Heading Nondemocratic Governance)  
**(On Carmen)**
- KKJ, “Chapter 7: The United States” (*Only* read Section  
3: Governance and Policy-Making [in the United  
States])
- KKJ, “Chapter 2: Britain” (*Only* read Section 3:  
Governance and Policy-Making [in Britain])
- KKJ, “Chapter 3: France” (*Only* read Section 3:  
Governance and Policy-Making [in France])

23      **Political Regimes II: Non-Democracies**

Read:

- Shivley, “Decision Making in the State” Read pp.74-76  
(The remaining section on Nondemocratic  
Governance) **(On Carmen)**
- KKJ, “Chapter 13: China” (*Only* read Section 3:  
Governance and Policy-Making [in China])
- KKJ, “Chapter 12: Iran” (*Only* read Section 3:  
Governance and Policy-Making [in Iran])

25      **The Politics of Economic Management & Political-Economic Reform**

Read:

- Shivley, “The State and the Economy” (**On Carmen**)
- KKJ, “Chapter 8: Russia” (*Only* read Section 1: The Making of the Modern Russian State)
- KKJ, “Chapter 10: Mexico” (*Only* read Section 2: Political Economy and Development)
- KKJ, “Chapter 11: Nigeria (*Only* read Section 4: Representation and Participation)

30      **Globalization & Supra-Nationalism: A New Political Age?**

Read:

- Goldstein, Joshua. “Integration” in *International Relations (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. Pearson Longman, 2005 (**On Carmen**)

**February**      1      **CATCH-UP AND MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW DAY**

6      **\*\*\*\*\*MIDTERM EXAM\*\*\*\*\***  
The exam will held at the regular class time & location

## ***SECTION II: NINE COUNTRY CASE-STUDIES OF POLITICS IN ACTION***

### **A. DEMOCRACIES**

#### **8      **The United States: A Presidential Democracy****

Read:

- KKJ, “Chapter 7: United States” (You’ve already read parts of this chapter. Skim those parts again and concentrate on the parts you have not yet read.)

#### **13     **Britain: A Parliamentary Democracy****

Read:

- KKJ, “Chapter 2: Britain” (You’ve already read parts of this chapter. Skim those parts again and concentrate on the parts you have not yet read.)

#### **15     **France: A Semi-Presidential Democracy****

Read:

- KKJ, “Chapter 3: France” (You’ve already read parts of this chapter. Skim those parts again and concentrate on the parts you have not yet read.)

#### **20     **Germany & Japan: Democracy Perfected?****

Read:

- KKJ, “Chapter 4: Germany” (Concentrate on Sections 2 & 3. Skim the Rest)
- KKJ, “Chapter 5: Japan” (Concentrate on Sections 2 & 3. Skim the Rest)

## **B. NON-DEMOCRACIES**

### **22 China: An Authoritarian Regime with a Totalitarian Past**

Read:

- KKJ, "Chapter 13: China" (You've already read parts of this chapter. Skim those parts again and concentrate on the parts you have not yet read.)

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**\*\*\*\*\*TERM PAPERS DUE TODAY BY 4PM!!!\*\*\*\*\*  
(NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A CLASS DAY HOWEVER)**

### **27 Iran: A Theocratic Totalitarian Regime**

Read:

- KKJ, "Chapter 12: Iran" (You've already read parts of this chapter. Skim those parts again and concentrate on the parts you have not yet read.)

## **C. STATES UNDERGOING POLITICAL TRANSITION**

### **March 1 Russia: The Difficulty of Radical Change**

Read:

- KKJ, "Chapter 8: Russia" (You've already read parts of this chapter. Skim those parts again and concentrate on the parts you have not yet read.)

6 **Iraq: Can Change Be Imposed By External Nation-Builders?**

Read:

- Hauss, Charles with Guilain Denoeux, "Iraq" in  
*Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to  
Global Challenges*, Thomas/Wadworth, 2006. **(On  
Carmen)**

8 **CATCH-UP & FINAL EXAM REVIEW DAY**

**Thursday, March 15th \*\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM\*\*\*\*\***  
**THE FINAL WILL BE HELD FROM 1:30 PM –**  
**3:18 PM AT THE REGULAR CLASS LOCATION**