University of Central Florida

Comparative Politics

	Course #	**CPO 3103 Section 50**
	Professor	Dr. Anca Turcu
	Term	Fall 2011
	Class Meets	UCF Orlando West Campus VW Building 11, Room 316 Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:45 AM

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone	407-582-5642
Office Location	VW Building 11, Room 227
Email Address	Anca. Turcu@ucf.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday 3:45- 5:45 PM or by appointment
Other Information	I encourage students to contact me if they have questions, problems, or concerns. You can contact me by official university e-mail. You can also call my office or contact me in person during office hours. If office hours are in conflict with your schedule, I am available for appointments during the week.

General Course Information

Course Description	This class will explore the government and politics of a number of countries around the Globe while providing a comparative insight into the institutions, electoral systems and processes that are specific to their governments. We will also examine historical contexts, political culture, social realities and policy outcomes specific to each country.
Learning Objectives	On completing this course students will be able to: 1. describe and analyze differences between the institutions and governmental systems of different countries 2. discuss the implications of different electoral systems for institutional change 3. comprehend traits of political culture and current developments in different countries 4. analyze the impact of institutions and government policies upon the democratization process in each country

Required Texts & Materials	***Required Text*** It is imperative that students use the edition indicated below. All assigned articles and chapters have to be read **prior** to coming to class. "Comparative Politics, A Global Introduction", by Michael Sodaro; McGraw Hill Higher Education; 3rd edition (June 1, 2007)
Graduate Teaching Assistant	The GTA for this class is Sabrina Stein. Should you be in need of immediate assistance, and not able to reach me, you may contact Sabrina at: sstein@knights.ucf.edu
Webcourses	Webcourses will be used to send e-mails, post the syllabus, post announcements, host a discussion forum and post grades.

Academic Calendar

Date	Topics	Assignments
08/23	Introduction: The Comparative Study of Politics	Syllabus Sodaro Chapter 1
08/25	The State and the Nation	Sodaro Chapter 6
08/30	Political Economy and Ideology (I)	Sodaro Chapter 13
09/01	Political Economy and Ideology (II)	Sodaro Chapter 14
09/06	Legislatures and Executives	Sodaro Chapter 5
09/08	Electoral Systems	Sodaro Chapter 8
09/13	Political Parties	Sodaro Chapter 11
09/15	Democracy (I)	Sodaro Chapter 7
09/20	Democracy (II)	Sodaro Chapter 9
09/22	**Exam 1**	
09/27	The Politics of Development	Sodaro Chapter 15
09/29	The United Kingdom (I)	Sodaro Chapter16 pp. 395- 419
10/04	The United Kingdom (II)	Sodaro Chapter16 pp. 419- 440
10/06	France (I)	Sodaro Chapter 17 pp.444- 467
10/11	France (II)	Sodaro Chapter 17 pp.467- 493
10/13	Germany (I)	Sodaro Chapter 18 pp. 498- 514 and pp.527-542
10/18	Germany (II)	Sodaro Chapter 18 pp. 514- 527 and 542-546
10/20	Japan (I)	Sodaro Chapter 19 pp.550- 566
10/25	Japan (II)	Sodaro Chapter 19 pp.566- 589
10/27	**Exam 2**	
11/01	Russia (I)	Sodaro Chapter 20 pp.593- 628

11/03	Russia (II)	Sodaro Chapter 20 pp.629- 645
11/08	China (I)	Sodaro Chapter 21 pp. 652- 674
11/10	China (II)	Sodaro Chapter 21 pp. 674- 695
11/15	Mexico	Sodaro Chapter 22 pp.702- 731
11/17	Brazil	Sodaro Chapter 22 pp.733- 757
11/22	Nigeria	Sodaro Chapter 23 pp. 762-782
11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class
11/29	South Africa	Sodaro Chapter 23 pp. 780-796
12/01	**Exam 3**	
TBA	**Final Exam**	

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	Please note that grades will not be shared through phone, e-mail or mail. You will have to log on to WEBCOURSES in order to find out your grades. Three exams will make up 100% of your final grade. ***Exams*** There will be four exams in this class. Three exams are compulsory. If you do not take one of the three exams during the semester, the final exam will be compulsory. If you take the three exams during the semester and you are satisfied with your grade, you can choose not to take the final. If you take three exams and also decide to take the final, your lowest scoring exam will be replaced with the grade you receive for the final exam. There will be no exceptions: even if your grade in the final is lower than the grade you were seeking to replace, the grade in the final will be the one I will take into account in calculating your final grade. Please note that the final exam is comprehensive. Also note that once you sit for an exam you will receive a grade for that exam. Exam #1 will constitute 30% of your final grade, while exams #2 and #3 will each constitute 35% of your final grade. The value of the final exam will be assigned in accordance to the exam you missed during the semester. Bring picture identification to each exam. ***Exam Schedule*** September 22nd Exam 1 October 27th Exam 2 December 1st Exam 3 TBA Final Exam ***Grading Formula*** `(exam1 *.3)+ (exam2*.35) +(exam3*.35)= final grade` ***Grading Scale*** A (93- 100%), A-(90-92%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63-66%), D- (60-62%), F (Below 60%).

Make-up Exams	Exams and project due dates are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. No one may make up a test or turn in a project late at will. There are two exceptions. First, for personal emergencies (a death in the family, medical problems), students should obtain a note from their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities that conflict with deadlines, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test or deadline. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date. I do not accept notification after the fact ("I did not take the test last week because I had a match/concert").
Extra Credit	For now, there are no extra credit opportunities offered in this class. The instructor may modify this policy during the semester and will announce the change in a timely manner.
Media Resources	In order to do well in this and any Political Science class, students should have a good awareness and a good understanding of current events. I encourage students to keep informed through accessing visual, print and web media. Some credible and reliable news outlets include, among others: BBC World, the New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, The National Public Radio, Financial Times, The Economist, The Atlantic Monthly, Time Magazine and Newsweek.
Class Attendance	Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book. I will not provide notes for students missing class.
Classroom Citizenship	Besides interactive participation, I expect discipline in the class room. Be courteous to others, be on time and do not leave early, unless there is a pertinent reason and you have notified me. Do not eat, text or talk to your colleagues during lecture. Part of being a college student is having manners and respecting those around you. **Turn off** your cell phones and **store them away** in your book bag, for the duration of the class. Set your laptop's volume on mute. <u>Laptop users: make sure you are using your laptop exclusively for taking notes while in class. Laptop usage is a privilege and I reserve the right to revoke it at any time during the semester if you do not follow these rules.</u>
Academic Integrity	Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take this UCF library tutorial: http://infolit.ucf.edu/students/modules/#article116 I will make sure that students suspected of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the class and will also be subject to disciplinary proceedings. http://regulations.ucf.edu/~regs/pdf/notices/5.015StuAcademicBehaviorStandards_newJul09_001.pdf
Class Withdrawal	The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's

	course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of " F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled. Procedures regarding withdrawal policies can be found here: http://www.catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/UCFUGRDCatalog1011.pdf
Student Grievance Procedures	Procedures regarding student grievances can be found here: http://regulations.ucf.edu/~regs/pdf/notices/5.016StuAcademicAppeals_newJul09_001.pdf
Incomplete Grades	Procedures regarding withdrawal policies can be found here: http://www.catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/UCFUGRDCatalog1011.pdf
Disability Resources	If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will also need to contact the Student Disability Services: http://www.sds.sdes.ucf.edu/
Religious Holy Days	The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The instructor or supervisor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course or creating an undue burden for the department. For more details, consult: http://regulations.ucf.edu/~regs/pdf/notices/5.020ReligiousObservancesNEW_Oct09_000.pdf

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. I will provide notification of such changes in a timely manner.