CPO6091 - Seminar in Comparative Politics
Waltraud Morales

Syllabus
Spring 2012

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	CPO6091 - Seminar in Comparative Politics
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2012
Location	Monday 6:00-8:50 pm., ENGR 383

Course Description

Catalogue: Seminar in Comparative Politics: PR: Admission to a graduate degree-seeking program or CI. Introduction to the theory and methodology of comparative politics, institutions, contextual factors of selected political systems such as Canada, European, and Third World nations. Even Spring.

Thus the course explores Comparative Politics as a subfield of political science and international relations, focusing on the roles of social structures and political institutions, ideas, and individual behavior within a comparative perspective.Â The course considers key frameworks, methodologies and theories of comparative politics and analysis and attempts to apply these to specific contemporary problem areas, particularly social and political change and instability.

Course Objectives

- Learn what is comparative politics
- Focus on the role of structures and ideas in comparative politics
- Develop the "how to" of comparative analysis
- Learn about contemporaryÂ issues and problems in diverse countries

Required Text and Readings

Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes, eds. ***The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics.*** New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. (Also available in electronic format online.)

Chilcote, Ronald H. ***Comparative Inquiry in Politics and Political Economy***.Â Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, 2000.

Geddes, Barbara. ***Paradigms and Sand Castles***.Â Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 2003.

Skocpol, Theda. ***Social Revolutions in the Modern World***. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Supplemental Recommended

Caramani, Daniele, ed. ***Comparative Politics***.Â New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Course Requirements

There are Five grading components in the course earning 20 points each.

1. **Midterm Exam.** This is an in-class test on selected terms, concepts, authors, and essay questions. (Bring blue exam booklet on exam night, please.)
2. **Final Exam.** This is a take-home test on selected essay questions, available last weeks of class and due on last class meeting night **both** in hard copy and online web courses turnitin submission.
3. **Research/Critique/Analysis Paper.**Â This paper should focus on all three of these components and demonstrate an understanding of the theories, methodologies and selected issues and/or problems in comparative politics.Â The paper should range from 10 to 15 pages in length, double-spaced, and include introduction to the issue or problem, related literature review, methodology,Â discussion of findings and conclusion, bibliography, and citations and sources consulted.Any style-sheet may be used, but APSA style is suggested.Â The paper will be discussed further in class.
4. **Presentations.** This consists of two in-class presentations of: (a) the assigned readingsÂ for a given week (10 points); and (b) your research paper topic and expected findings. Schedules and details of this assignment will be discussed and developed in class. (If enrollment is large, there may be only one presentation worth the full 20 points.)
5. **Participation and Attendance.**Â Because this is a graduate seminar that meets only once per week, a record of active participation andÂ near perfect attendance is necessary to gain the full 20 points for this class requirement.Â More than **two** absences, for whatever reason may result in a loss of 2 points; and so forth for each additional absence. Also, active participation in discussion is also critical. So if you rarely contribute to the class discussion and/or demonstrate that you are unprepared with the week's readings, you will also lose points.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

There is no extra credit in this class.Â If you miss an assignment or submit assignments late, there will be late penalties of as much as a letter-grade equivalent for each day late. If you miss an exam completely, you will lose the points for that exam, as there are no make-up provisions, except in the case of an officially documented illness.

Evaluation and Grading

The following is the grading scale to be used in this class.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 â€“ 100 points
A-	90 â€“ 92 points
B+	87 â€“ 89 points
B	83 â€“ 86 points
B-	80 â€“ 82 points
C+	77 â€“ 79 points
C	73 â€“ 76 points
C-	70 â€“ 72 points
D+	67 â€“ 69 points
D	63 â€“ 66 points
D-	60 â€“ 62 points
F	59 and below

Assignment Evaluation Points

The following is the percentage of points for each required assignment in this class.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	e0%
Research/Critique/Analysis Paper	20%
Presentations	20%
Participation and Attendance	
Total	100%

Attendance Policy

As noted above, attendance is critical in a graduate seminar that meets one per week.Â Â Therefore, more than **two** absences, for whatever reason may result in a loss of 2 points; and so forth for each additional absence. If you foresee a conflict with work or other commitments you need to discuss the situation with the instructor; and it may be preferable to take this class in another semester.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the *UCF Golden Rule* for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In

other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.