V53.0500
Introduction to Comparative Politics

This course will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, which is defined as the study of domestic politics anywhere in the world. As a way of cutting into this vast topic, we specifically focus on the process of democratic transition by analyzing the democratic revolution that has swept the globe during the last thirty years. In turn we will explore the causes of democratization, threats to democratization, and factors that may aid in a successful consolidation of democracy. As part of this process, students will be exposed to a wide range of topics in comparative politics, including the politics of economic reform, party systems and voting, theories of ethnic politics, and social capital.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REMAINDER OF THIS SYLLABUS REFERS TO THE LAST TIME THAT I TAUGHT THE COURSE, WHICH WAS AT A DIFFERENT UNIVERSITY WITH A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT SCHEDULE. I AM POSTING THIS SYLLABUS ON-LINE NOW TO GIVE STUDENTS A FLAVOR FOR THE COURSE. THE COURSE THAT WILL BE TAUGHT IN THE FALL OF 2007 AT NYU WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE COURSE DESCRIBED BELOW, BUT NOT IDENTICAL.

Requirements

The course is taught in two lectures (T, Th, 3:30 – 4:20) and one precept meeting each week. Grading is based on a final exam (50%), a mid-term (20%), a 5-7 page paper (20%, due April 12th), and precept participation (10%). In addition, all students are required to create a web page for one country (to be assigned during the first precept meeting) that will be graded as part of both the mid-term and final. Prior knowledge of web design is not required and instruction will be provided. In addition, students are expected to stay informed of current events, especially in their assigned country.

Readings

All students are expected to have completed the relevant reading before the precept meeting each week. There are approximately 150-200 pages of reading a week; some are more and some are less. In particular, the weeks on the moment of transition, economic reform, and social capital have heavy reading requirement. Please plan ahead accordingly! Please note that both the mid-term and final will have questions that draw directly from the readings.
All readings are on reserve at Firestone library. The following books are available for purchase at the U-Store

Larry Diamond et. al. (eds.) *The Global Resurgence of Democracy 2nd Edition.* (Johns Hopkins, 1996)
Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Johns Hopkins, 1996)

Readings not contained in these five books are available on electronic course reserves.

### Office Hours

Professor Tucker will hold office hours on Mondays from 3:30 – 5:00 in his office in Bendheim 227. To schedule an appointment, please call or email his administrative assistant, Tim Waldron at 8-4143 or (twaldron@Princeton.EDU). If you do not have an appointment, feel free to drop by during office hours, but there may be a wait. If you need to schedule a time to meet outside of the scheduled office hours, please email Professor Tucker directly.

### Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

**Introduction to Comparative Politics: February 1, 3**

Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph, *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 3-8

Almond, Powell, Strom and Dalton, *Comparative Politics Today*, 3-46


**Regimes: February 8, 10**

*Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*, Ch 1, 3, 4 (p.3-15, 38-65)

*Global Resurgence*: Schmitter and Karl, “What Democracy is…” Ch.4, 49-62

Linz, Juan, *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*, p.65-75, 159-171

The Moment of Transitions: February 15, 17

Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, all

*Global Resurgence*: Huntington, “Democracy’s Third Wave”, Ch.1, p.3-25

*Global Studies: Russia*, “Central-Eastern Europe: From Dictatorship to Democracy”, p.97-115


Forms of Government after Transition: February 22, 24

*Global Resurgence*, Ch. 8 –12 (111-161)

Lijphart, Arend (ed) *Parliamentary vs. Presidential Government*: Intro (p.1-31); Ch 13 (p.111-117) Ch.15 (128-132) Ch.18 (p.142-149)

Mahler, Gregory, *Comparative Politics*, “Ch.2: Constitutions and Ideologies”, p.25-44


Voting and Elections: March 1, 3


Partisan Identification: March 8


March 10th: In Class Mid-Term

Party Systems: March 22, 24


Politics of Economic Reform: March 29, 31, April 5

Sachs, Jeffrey, *Poland’s Jump to the Market Economy* – all


April 5th: *Paper topics assigned in class*
**Corruption: April 7**


Selected Readings from “Ukraine List” (to be announced)

**Ethnic Conflict: April 12, 14**


*April 12th*: Papers due in class

**Social Capital: April 19, 21**

Putnam, Robert, *Making Democracy Work*, all


Berman, Sheri “Civil Society and Collapse of Weimar Republic”, *World Politics* 49 (3) (April 1997) p. 401-429

**Democratic Consolidation: April 26, April 28**


*Global Resurgence* ch. 19, 27, 28, 30, p.227-240, 328-341, 350-357

*Problems of Democratic*, ch. 9, 14, 21, p. 139-150, 219-234, 434-458