

Introduction to Comparative Politics 2012  
Maymester 2009  
M-F 12:15 – 3:30pm  
MUEN E123

Keeley W. Stokes  
Ketchum 124

Office Hours: Immediately before and after class daily  
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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this class is to cover the major themes in Comparative Politics. The class will give you an opportunity to ask questions and participate in small group discussions to better understand the important concepts. The idea is that you learn from your peers as well as from your textbook and class materials.

It is required that you not only attend class, but arrive ready to answer and ask questions regarding the readings, lectures, and current events. Class will consist of lectures and discussion of topics from the readings. Attendance in the class lectures and reading the assigned texts are required in order to fully participate in the class. Since we will be meeting every day, it is especially important that you keep up with readings and assignments – two days is approximately equivalent to two weeks in a regular semester!

We are in an academic environment where ideas and concepts are formed and challenged. Feel free to speak your mind concerning any of the issues that we discuss over the course of the semester. However, use good judgment when challenging any of the ideas of one of your colleagues. Do not let the discussion degenerate into personal attacks. You will respect your classmates, yourself and your instructor. In other words, play nice. Please wait until you are called upon before speaking and do not interrupt me or your fellow classmates. Please keep your comments on topic and focused; think before you speak.

**Class Email List**

In addition to class, I will also communicate with the class via email. The class email list will allow me to send emails out to the entire class to inform them of changes in assignments, schedule, policies, etc. After the first class session, you are responsible for any announcements I send out on this e-mail list, **including assignments not mentioned in class.**

**Assignments**

Over the course of the semester, you will also be required to complete a class presentation. The presentation will entail lecturing and leading class discussion. You will also need to submit a paper following the presentation with more information on your topic. More detailed explanations of this assignment will be handed out separately.

This class will have two midterm exams and a final exam. The dates for the midterms and final are listed below. Pop quizzes should be expected for failure to keep up with the course readings. If, for a legitimate reason, you need to take the midterms or final on an alternative date, please inform me of this *as soon as possible* so that we can make accommodations. I am reasonably flexible with test dates but expect that you will be respectful and communicate with me *early* and often.

Your grade consists of the following:

- 20% - Midterm #1
- 20% - Midterm #2
- 35% - Final Exam
- 15% - Paper (4-5 pages)
- 5% - Class Attendance
- 5% - Class Presentation

Finally, I want to make this class as interesting as possible – this means addressing issues you want to know about and any topic that is not clear or mentioned in the course material. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions for how the course could be improved. **Use me as a resource to help you succeed in this class. If you have a question, no matter what it is, ASK IT.** E-mail is the best way to reach me and I usually respond quickly. Come see me in office hours and/or make an appointment to talk anytime outside of class.

### **Class Schedule & Required Readings**

#### **THE STATE, INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES**

##### **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to course, syllabus & Introduction to the United Kingdom**

- Skim Chapter 2 & 3
- Read Chapter 5, Begin Chapter 16

##### **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – United Kingdom Continued**

- Read Chapter 7
- Continue Chapter 16

##### **Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – United Kingdom Continued**

- Finish Chapters 5, 11 & 16
- Read Chapter 11

##### **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – United Kingdom Continued**

- Finish Chapters 5, 7, 11 & 16

##### **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – Midterm #1 & Movie**

## **IDEOLOGY, ECONOMICS AND POWER**

### **Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to Russia**

– Read Chapters 4 & 20 (pg. 112-121 on Iran is optional)

### **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – Russia Continued**

– Begin Chapter 13 & 14

### **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Russia Continued**

– Finish Chapters 4 & 20

– Continue Chapter 13 & 14

### **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Russia Continued**

– Finish Chapters 4, 13, 14 & 20

### **Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Midterm #2 & Movie**

## **DEMOCRACY, POLITICAL CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL**

### **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to Brazil**

– Begin Chapters 8 & 15

– Read Brazil section of Chapter 22

### **Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Brazil continued**

– Read Chapter 12

### **Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Brazil Continued**

– Finish Chapters 8, 12, 15 & Brazil section of 22

### **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – FINAL EXAM & PAPERS DUE**

## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO POLICIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices).

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions.

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at

[http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>