

PSCI 2012: Introduction to Comparative Politics Recitation

Sections 113/116

Professor David Brown, Fall 2009

T.A.: Duncan Lawrence

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00-10:00 am or by appointment in Ketchum 23A

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Goals: Recitation aims to develop a more complete understanding of comparative politics and its broad concepts as well as to enhance your specific knowledge of different institutions and how they operate in various countries.

Discussion: Recitation will mainly revolve around discussion, which will require your active and enthusiastic participation. Please come to recitation prepared, having thoroughly read the week's assigned text(s).

Readings: There is a large amount of reading (textbook, reader, additional assignments) that will most certainly be challenging, but will provide the base for our recitation.

- The expectation is that you will complete all assigned readings *before* recitation.
- You will usually be asked to write or prepare some type of response to assigned readings that will be specified on a weekly basis.
- When reading, think about the main argument the author makes. How does the author relate specific ideas to a larger theme?
- If you don't understand something, reread the section, look up words that are unfamiliar and seek advice from fellow students or your TA.

Recitation Grade: Overall, performance in recitation is 10% of your total grade. Actual *participation* is the majority of your recitation grade and will comprise 70% of the aforementioned 10%. The remaining 30% will consist of short assignments, summary paragraphs and short answer responses to questions, or in some cases brief recitation presentations. All recitation assignments will be **emailed** to you and you should come to class with a **hard copy** of each assignment to turn in at the beginning of recitation. Assignments turned in late will receive half credit. To perform well in recitation your participation and demonstration of having completed the assigned readings for class are crucial.

Attendance: Recitation attendance is mandatory and is 10% of your final your grade. You are permitted one unexcused absence. Beyond one unexcused absence, your attendance grade will be lowered from 100 by 10 percentage points *per absence*. Students with 8 or more unexcused absences will receive an "F" for the *course*.

Current Events: Keep up with ongoing world events, especially in the countries we are studying by reading a reputable international newspaper or print source daily. You are assigned the *Economist* as part of class. The *New York Times* is an additional option that provides a breadth of quality international news. Obviously, there are other options, but reading *US Weekly* probably won't cut it.

Final Note: Recitation is meant to be a helpful, small, discussion-based class in which you feel comfortable to express opinions, ask questions and debate with your fellow students. I am here to help, so if you have a question, problem or need assistance in understanding something related to class come and see me.

University of Colorado Policies

Students with Disabilities

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities should ask for “reasonable and timely” accommodations. You are welcomed to do so in the first two weeks of the semester either during my office hours or after class. These accommodations can be extended if you are a student with a disability and are registered with the Office of Services to Disabled Students. Please refer to the web link www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices or contact 303-492-8671, Willard 322 for information. University regulations on this issue will be strictly observed. 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.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarizing will be treated according to the University regulations which will be strictly observed. 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; 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). Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the University of Colorado’s Code for Academic Honesty at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students in this situation can ask for “reasonable and timely” accommodations. Please review the syllabus closely and try to find out whether you have time conflicts with any of the assignments. I encourage you to do so in the first two weeks of the semester and inform me about your concerns either during my office hours or after class. Full details can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior

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, 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.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply 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, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be