

Political Science Y107
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2004

Professor James Lutz
211 Classroom/Medical Building
Office Phone: 481-6688
lutz@ipfw.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00, WF 1:30-2, other times by appointment
Class Times: MWF 11-12; WF 12-1:15, TR 9-10:15

This course will be an introduction to politics and governments in other parts of the world, including Western democracies, the former communist countries, and the developing countries. To some extent the emphasis in the course will be on similarities and differences among various types of governments and countries and the types of political activities that occur in different settings. The course will provide students with a familiarity with other political systems and the methods by which political decisions are made in a variety of cultures and contexts. By the end of the semester students should be familiar with different types of political systems, and the different organizations and groups involved in these systems, and how they function in a diverse world.

The following book (paperback) is required. There are also two readings on reserve at the library and on-line that need to be read.

Thomas M. Magstadt, *Nations and Governments: Comparative Politics in Regional Perspective*, 4th ed.

There will be four tests that will form the basis of your grade. Three will be during the semester, and the fourth will be the final exam at its regularly scheduled time. The final will count 30% of the grade. The lowest grade of the other three will count 20%, and the remaining two grades 25% each. The hour exams will be part essay and part short answer or identification questions. The final will be all essay and will be comprehensive. If an exam is missed, a makeup may be taken within a reasonable time period (my definition).

I will try to cover the material so the exams are given on the dates noted. If I change exam dates, I will announce it in class before the scheduled exam date. You are responsible for all announcements made in class, including date changes for the exams.

Class participation is always welcome in the form of questions, comments, disagreements, etc. I may neglect to mention a factor that is relevant or of interest or overlook a valuable alternative point of view. Your questions will also indicate when I have not clearly explained some point.

The lectures will sometimes build on the readings and at other times introduce completely new topics or ways of looking at things. You will be responsible for both the lectures and the readings. The readings are assigned in blocks rather than day by day. You should try to keep up so that I can clarify any misunderstandings that might occur. The date indicates the day that (ideally) I will start a new topic. Obviously, you cannot have read all of the longer assignments when I begin, but you should have started reading the material. You should probably cover the materials in each topic in the order in which they are listed.

Date

Topic

Readings

Jan. 12	Introduction to Course	
Jan. 14	Comparing Political Systems	Magstadt, Chaps. 1 & 2
Jan. 16	Western Europe--Background	Magstadt, Chap. 3
Jan. 23	Institutions and Policies	Magstadt, Chap. 4
Feb. 4	Russia and Eastern Europe--Background	Magstadt, Chap. 5
Feb. 9	Slavic Europe Institutions and Policies	Magstadt, Chap. 6, Rajan Menon and Graham E. Fuller, "Russia's Ruinous Chechen War," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 79:2 (March/April 2000) ON RESERVE
Feb. 20	*FIRST HOUR EXAM*	
Feb. 23	Asia--Background	Magstadt, Chap. 7
Mar. 1	Asia--Institutions and Policies	Magstadt, Chap. 8
Mar. 15	Latin America--Background	Magstadt, Chap. 9
Mar. 19	Latin America--Institutions and Policies	Magstadt, Chap.10; Tina Rosenberg, "Beyond Elections," <i>Foreign Policy</i> , No. 84 (Fall, 1991) [ON RESERVE]
Mar. 29	*SECOND HOUR EXAM*	
Mar. 31	Middle East--Background	Magstadt, Chap. 11
Apr. 5	Middle East--Institutions and Policies	Magstadt, Chap. 12
Apr. 9	Sub-Saharan Africa--Background	Magstadt, Chap. 13
Apr. 14	Africa--Institutions and Policies	Magstadt, Chap. 14
Apr. 23	*THIRD EXAM*	
Apr. 26	The Future	
May 5	**FINAL EXAM** (10:30-12:30)	