INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Politics 60 – Summer 2016
University of California, Santa Cruz

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Office Hours: Monday, 3-5 p.m., and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to Comparative Politics with a focus on countries of the global south. It analyzes the cases of Nigeria, Indonesia, India, and Brazil to address questions such as the following:

• How do the state agencies and political systems of such countries work (or fail to work)?
• To what extent are they democratic, and what are the problems and contributions of democracy?
• How is governance affected by legacies of colonialism and other historical forces, domestic and international economic currents, and the actions of other states?
• How does the study of politics help us to understand issues like poverty, inequality, disease, violence, and environmental degradation?

These and other questions are examined in the process of learning and applying basic concepts of this branch of political science.¹

READINGS
• All assigned items (as well as optional materials) will be made available on eCommons.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
• Attendance and participation – 25%
• In-class quizzes – 15%
• Three essays – 30%
• Final exam – 30%

All grades are given on a 0-100 scale, where 92-98 is an A, 90-92 is an A-, 88-90 is a B+, 82-88 is a B, etc. A-range grades are reserved for work of exceptionally high quality. Specific grading guidelines for the papers and for class participation will be posted on eCommons.

Attendance and participation
Attendance and active participation in every class is required. Because we only have ten class meetings, any single absence will substantially detract from your learning experience (and from your participation grade). There is no way to “make up” a missed class. Of course, we are understanding about family emergencies, illness, or other serious exigencies, and will treat them as excused absences if verifiable documentation is provided.

Participation points must be earned by being prepared for class (which requires having done all of the assigned readings) and contributing actively and constructively to discussions and group activities. Constructive participation requires all of us to contribute to fostering a positive environment for everyone to participate; learning when to step back and let others speak is just as important as participating frequently.

Quizzes
There will be short quizzes at the beginning of every Monday class meeting (with the exception of the first week, when the quiz will take place on Wednesday). The quizzes will cover basic concepts and arguments from the

¹ The structure of this course and part of the reading list have been adapted for the summer session from a syllabus developed by professors Benjamin Read and Eleonora Pasotti (UCSC).
assigned material. They are intended to help you keep up with the readings, remember important facts and details, and strengthen your ability to retain the most fundamental information from the assigned material.

**Essays**
You will write three (3) essays in response to a prompt related to each week’s readings, lectures, and other in-class activities. The purpose of these essays is to analyze a question and develop an argument that addresses that question in a critical, conceptually sound, and empirically well-supported manner.

- The essays must be submitted on eCommons by the deadline noted for each week.
- **Everyone must write an essay on week 1.**
- For the remaining two essays, you may choose which two of the four country cases you want to analyze; however, you must submit your essay by the deadline of the week in which that country is covered (no late submissions will be accepted).
- The essays should be between 700 and 900 words in length.

**Final exam**
The take-home final exam will cover the entirety of the course contents, ensure that you have developed a strong grasp of the material, and challenge you to engage in cross-case comparative analysis to address broader thematic and theoretical questions.

**EXPECTATIONS, ETIQUETTE, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- You must use and check your UCSC email while you are taking this course.
- Email is a convenient way to reach me or your TA. At the same time, substantial questions or concerns are best discussed in person. You are encouraged to come to our office hours or to reach out to make an appointment if needed.
- **Electronics:** Cell phones should be on silent and put away while you are in class. The use of electronic devices such as computers or tablets is only acceptable for class materials, note-taking, or to look up pertinent information in the context of discussions or other activities. This policy may be modified if we determine collectively that such devices can become disruptive of the learning process.
- **24-Hour Rule for Help on Assignments:** We are always happy to answer questions about assignments, but the last 24 hours before a deadline or an exam are for you to work independently. We will not reply to emails or meet with you during this window of time.
- **Late Assignment Policy:** Given the short nature of summer session courses, late work will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Do not take this class if you foresee that you will not be able to meet the deadlines. If an emergency arises, please make every effort to contact me or the TA before the deadline.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Any form of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will be met with a failing grade and referral to the university for further discipline. Consult this website to clarify what constitutes plagiarism: http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students.

**CITATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF SOURCES IN PAPERS**
Please choose one of the two following ways citing academic work for this course: (1) parenthetical or in-text citations (MLA or Chicago) or (2) footnotes (Chicago). The style guides for both systems can be found on the Politics Department website (http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.html).

**DRC ACCOMMODATIONS**
If you require accommodations due to a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to the instructor after lecture or during office hours within the first week of the quarter. Feel free to request a private meeting with me about this or anything else.

**LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES:**
Learning Support Services helps students find the resources they need to succeed academically. I encourage you to take advantage of this service. Learning Support Services are free of charge. For more information, see http://lss.ucsc.edu.
SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Course Introduction and Key Concepts

Required readings (and podcast) for Monday, July 25

Required readings for Wednesday, July 27
• Richard Katz, “Political Parties” in Comparative Politics, D. Caramani, ed. (Oxford 2014)
• David Samuels, “Democratic Political Regimes,” in Comparative Politics (Pearson 2013).

Essay #1 due Friday, July 29, by midnight (everyone must write this week)

Recommended for this week:
• Peter Mair, “Democracies” in Comparative Politics, D. Caramani, ed. (Oxford 2014)
• Explore Purchasing Power Parity through the Big Mac Index, http://www.economist.com/content/big-mac-index.
• Explore data and trends for our countries (and any other you are curious about):
  o Polity V project (http://www.systemicpeace.org)
  o Freedom House (http://www.freedomhouse.org)
  o World Bank Governance Indicators (http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi)
  o World Values Survey (http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)

Week 2: Nigeria

Required readings for Monday, August 1

Required readings for Wednesday, August 3
• International Crisis Group, “Boko Haram on the Back Foot?” Crisis Group Africa Briefing no. 120. May 4, 2016.

Essay due Friday, August 5, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:
Week 3: Indonesia

Required readings for Monday, August 8

Required readings for Wednesday, August 10
• Mark Williams, “Yudhoyono’s Third Way: Muslim Democracy, National Stability, And Economic Development in Indonesia,” in Indonesia’s Ascent, edited by C. Roberts et al., 69-87 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

Essay due Friday, August 12, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:

Week 4: Brazil

Required readings for Monday, August 15
• Alfred Montero, “Brazil,” in Introduction to Comparative Politics, edited by Kesselman et al., 357-400 (Wadsworth, 2015).

Required readings for Wednesday, August 17

Essay due Friday, August 19, by midnight (if you choose to write this week)

Recommended for this week:
**Week 5: India**

**Required reading (and video) for Monday, August 22**


**Required readings for Wednesday, August 24**


**Essay due Sunday, August 28, by midnight** (if you choose to write this week)

**Recommended for this week:**


**Take-home final exam due Friday, August 26, by midnight**

(prompt handed out at the end of class on Wednesday)