

**PSCI 220S – INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT**  
**Fall 2018 – The University of Montana**  
**MWF 11:00 - 11:50, ISB 110 (Interdisciplinary Sciences Building)**

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Weekly Review Session: Friday 12-12:50 (in LA 203)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the major types of political systems in different countries, and to examine how the types of political systems affect the way countries are governed and the lives of their citizens. This course will also introduce you to the major concepts and theories that political scientists use to understand the wide variety of political systems in the world.

The course begins by introducing and exploring the principal concepts & theories used in comparative politics to study countries' political systems. We then apply these concepts to analyze major characteristics of the political systems of industrialized democracies in general, and then more intensively analyze the similarities and differences in the political systems of three industrialized democracies – the United States, Great Britain, and (possibly) France – and the emerging European Union. Next, we will examine the political systems of communist and post-communist countries, and the changes taking place in Russia and China. Then we will examine the political systems of the large group of nations called “global south” or “less developed” or (formerly) “third world” and focus on India, Iran, and Mexico. We will conclude by exploring some of the problems and opportunities citizens and countries across the globe will face in the coming years.

In addition to addressing these questions, this course satisfies the General Education Social Sciences (S) requirement. The goal of this requirement is to enable you to 1) describe the nature, structure, and historical development of human organizations and/or relationships, 2) comprehend the role of theory in explaining social phenomena, 3) generate and/or interpret social science data, 4) assess and evaluate the significance of social science phenomena.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:**

Introductory courses are intensive by nature and build on the knowledge gained in earlier parts of the course, which means that your investment in keeping up with the class will pay off in terms of how much you will learn, how interesting class will be to you, and how well you will do on the exams and research paper. This requires doing the readings before each class and being prepared to participate in class discussion and ask questions – even in a large class such as this, intelligent questions and discussions are critical components of learning. There will be two midterm exams (each worth 25% of the course grade), one research and analysis paper (25% of the course grade) due in early December, and an exam during final week (25% of the course grade). Course Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89.9	C+ = 77-79.9	D+ = 67-69.9	below 60=F
A- = 90-92.9	B = 83-86.9	C = 73-76.9	D = 63-66.9	
	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	D- = 60-62.9	

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:**

- \* **Makeup exams will be permitted only if I have been notified prior to the missed exam and if I agree that the absence was necessary due to a serious, documented emergency.**
- \* **All three exams and the research & analysis paper must be completed in order to pass the course.**
- \* **Check your calendar now to be sure you do not have any conflicts with the 3 exam dates scheduled.**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM:**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to academic penalties by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. You must be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, online at [http://www.umt.edu/vpesa/Dean\\_of\\_Students/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpesa/Dean_of_Students/default.php)

The University of Montana Student Conduct Code prohibits plagiarism, which is “representing another person’s words, ideas, data, or materials as one’s own” and other forms of academic misconduct. These are serious academic violations that can result in penalties up to suspension or expulsion from the University.

**I take academic honesty very seriously, and do my utmost to prevent, uncover, and penalize any form of dishonesty.** Read Section V, “Academic Conduct” on pp. 5-6 of the Student Conduct Code above.  
**Please contact me with any questions or concerns about academic honesty.**

**CLASS COURTESY:**

In order to have a pleasant and effective learning environment in a class this size, we need to observe a few basic courtesies. This is a small campus, so please arrive in class on time; arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class. **Please turn off all cell phones and all other electronic devices before class begins.** Please do not read a newspaper or other non-course material, eat during class, or use text messaging, web browsers, or similar communications. You may take class notes using a computer but do not use it for other purposes. If you have a question or comment about the material, please raise your hand instead of discussing it with your neighbor. **We all benefit when we remember we’re in the room together to learn.**

**DROP POLICY AND INCOMPLETES:**

You can drop on Cyberbear through September 17, and from September 18 to October 29 using a drop form signed by me. From October 30- December 7 (5 pm), you must go through the more difficult “late drop” petition process. I will sign late drop petitions until one week after the 2<sup>nd</sup> exam is graded, and after that only if necessitated by accident, illness, or family/personal emergency as stated on the Drop form here:

<http://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/Course-Drop-Form.pdf> Incompletes will only be permitted when all the conditions set forth in the official University policy are met – this policy and other official UM academic policies are at <http://catalog.umt.edu/academics/policies-procedures/>

**GENERAL EDUCATION SOCIAL SCIENCES REQUIREMENT:**

In order for this course to fulfill your University of Montana General Education Requirement in the Social Sciences, you must take the course for a letter grade, and must earn a C- or better.

**DSS STUDENTS:**

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations on exams, papers, notes or other course requirements should contact me as soon as possible, and must contact the DSS office to arrange for, and provide me with a copy of, your DSS letter of accommodations as soon as you can. The DSS office is in Lommasson Center 154.

**E-MAIL AND MOODLE:**

Every registered UM student has an official UM e-mail account, and students registered for this course have a Moodle course account. I may use your official UM e-mail to send you important announcements, and I will post course readings, exam and paper grades on Moodle. At <https://umt.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/Home/> there are instructions on how to access your UM e-mail and Moodle accounts.

**READINGS:**

Reading for this course will be from *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition by Charles Hauss. It’s available from the UM Bookstore as a used or new paperback, book rental, or e-book at <https://montanabookstore.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBTBListView> You can also get it from the publisher or online, but buying at the UM Bookstore keeps prices down. The list price of this book new is \$199 (!) so the e-book or rental book through the UM Bookstore saves money. Make sure you get the 10<sup>th</sup> edition! Whatever format works best for your studying & budget, you must have the book!

I will also hand out or post other articles on Moodle for you to read at various times in the course.

The book author’s useful website is: <https://charleshauss.info/comparative-politics/> and we’ll use material he posts several times during the course. He is thoughtful and has interesting ideas – it’s worth browsing.

**COURSE SCHEDULE: Dates Subject to Change by Professor Muste**

August 27 -- 29	Course Introduction and Chapter 1, Global Challenges
AUGUST 31 & SEPT. 3	NO CLASS DUE TO ACADEMIC CONFERENCE & LABOR DAY
September 5 – 7	Chapter 1, Global Challenges, and Chapter 2, Domestic Responses
September 10 - 14	Industrialized Democracies, Chapter 3
September 17 - 21	The United States, Chapter 4
September 24 –26	The United Kingdom / Great Britain, Chapter 5
September 28 - October 1	Germany, Chapter 6 – or France (I will announce which later) France chapter is at: <a href="https://charleshauss.info/comparative-politics/">https://charleshauss.info/comparative-politics/</a>
<b>* <u>October 3 – WEDNESDAY EXAM #1 – BRING SCANTRON, PENCILS &amp; ERASER, ETC.</u></b>	
October 5 – 10	The European Union, Chapter 16 (note chapter number)
October 12 - 17	Current and Former Communist Regimes, Chapter 7
October 19 - 22	Russia, Chapter 8
October 24 – 29	China, Chapter 9
<b>* <u>October 31 - WEDNESDAY EXAM #2 – BRING SCANTRON, PENCILS &amp; ERASER, ETC.</u></b>	
November 2 - 9	The Global South, Chapter 10
<b><u>November 5 or 7</u></b>	<b><u>Discuss Research Paper Assignment - ATTENDANCE IS CRUCIAL</u></b>
NOVEMBER 12, MONDAY	NO CLASS DUE TO VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY
November 14 – 19	India, Chapter 11
NOVEMBER 21 – 23, WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY - NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
November 26 – 30	Iran, Chapter 12
<b>* <u>DECEMBER 3 – MONDAY -- RESEARCH &amp; ANALYSIS PAPER DUE IN CLASS</u></b>	
December 3 - 5	Mexico, Chapter 14
December 5 – 7	The World Is Messed Up: Discuss, Chapter 15, and Toward a Paradigm Shift, Chapter 17, and Course Review
<b>* <u>FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 8:00 - 10:00 A.M.</u></b> <b><u>BRING SCANTRON, PENCILS &amp; ERASER, ETC.</u></b>	