

**PSCI 220S – INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT**  
**Fall 2019 – 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 (ISB 110 – same room as our class)

**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 people. 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, and that you will learn to use during the class.

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 “developing” 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 (tentatively), 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/student-affairs/community-standards/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. 5-12 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 16, and from September 17 to October 28 (5 pm) using a drop form signed by me and your advisor. From October -29 December 6 (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 <https://montana-catalog.coursedog.com/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, 10<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/shop/montana-bookstore/page/find-textbooks> 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 habits & 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 26 -- 28	Course Introduction and Chapter 1, Global Challenges
AUGUST 30 & SEPT. 2	NO CLASS DUE TO ACADEMIC CONFERENCE & LABOR DAY
September 4 – 6	Chapter 1, Global Challenges, and Chapter 2, Domestic Responses
September 9 - 13	Industrialized Democracies, Chapter 3
September 16 - 20	The United States, Chapter 4
September 23 –25	The United Kingdom / Great Britain, Chapter 5
September 27 - 30	France (online) or Germany, Chapter 6 – (I will announce in class) France chapter is at: <a href="https://charleshauss.info/comparative-politics/">https://charleshauss.info/comparative-politics/</a>
<b>* <u>October 2 – WEDNESDAY EXAM #1 – BRING SCANTRON, PENCILS &amp; ERASER, ETC.</u></b>	
October 4 – 9	The European Union, Chapter 16 (note chapter number)
October 11 - 16	Current and Former Communist Regimes, Chapter 7
October 18 - 21	Russia, Chapter 8
October 23 – 28	China, Chapter 9
<b>* <u>October 30 - WEDNESDAY EXAM #2 – BRING SCANTRON, PENCILS &amp; ERASER, ETC.</u></b>	
November 1 - 8	The Global South, Chapter 10
<b><u>November 4 or 6</u></b>	<b><u>Discuss Research Paper Assignment - ATTENDANCE IS CRUCIAL</u></b>
NOVEMBER 11, MONDAY	NO CLASS DUE TO VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY
November 13 – 18	India, Chapter 11
November 20 – 25	Iran, Chapter 12
NOVEMBER 27 – 29, WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY - NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
<b>* <u>DECEMBER 2 – MONDAY -- RESEARCH &amp; ANALYSIS PAPER DUE IN CLASS</u></b>	
December 2 - 4	Mexico, Chapter 14
December 4 – 6	The World Is Messed Up: Discuss, Chapter 15, and Toward a Paradigm Shift, Chapter 17, and Course Review
<b>* <u>FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 8:00 - 10:00 A.M.</u></b> <b><u>BRING SCANTRON, PENCILS &amp; ERASER, ETC.</u></b>	

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN PSCI 220 – AND YOUR OTHER CLASSES

In order to succeed in college-level courses, you need to have an effective strategy for learning. College courses go into more depth and detail on course topics than high school courses, and your professors expect you to understand that material thoroughly, be able to apply it effectively, and develop your critical thinking and communication skills. Here are the keys to succeeding in your classes:

**First, create a weekly schedule** that blocks off time to **attend class every day**, plus 6-9 hours per week for each class as dedicated **time to study** the course material. Attending class is crucial for understanding the material, as it is the main time your professor has to communicate key ideas about the course topic, how to analyze and interpret course readings and other materials, and to engage with your questions and ideas. Ideally, **your study time should be spread over the week**, so that you have time to prepare before each class, and time after each class to recap and review what you learned in class. You may not use every hour that you've blocked off each week, but researchers who study college-level learning find that studying 6-9 hours is key to effective learning in college courses – and to enjoying your courses.

### **Second, learn how to study efficiently and effectively:**

- **Read the material** for each class before attending class, so you will have started to learn the material before discussing it in class. You get more from class discussion when you do the reading first.
  - **Take notes on the reading** as you read. Writing notes about the readings in your own words will give you a more complete and subtle understanding of the readings, and help you remember the information in the readings with more accuracy and detail.
  - **Take notes during class** not just what the professor writes or posts on the board, but also the points he or she makes discussing what's on the board – because what's written is only an outline, and the ideas in the discussion complete the outline. So write down the discussion points you find useful, whether it's an example or greater detail or a comparison to another point – whatever enhances your understanding.
  - **After class, review your notes**, clear up any unclear or confusing parts of your notes, and add any other important information you remember from class discussion.
  - **Review the readings in combination with reviewing your notes** – as you review your class notes, also review the readings we covered in class, including the notes you took on the readings prior to class.
  - **Discuss reading and lecture material with your classmates!**—This not only helps with studying for exams, but studying politics and government raises fundamental questions that human beings have debated (and will continue to debate) throughout time!
- **Following these steps** gives your brain multiple opportunities to think about the material in different ways, which is one of the best ways to understand, engage with, and effectively apply what you've learned. The human brain is amazingly powerful when we use its full capabilities.

**Third, use the resources provided in the course**—the professor's office hours, TA weekly review sessions, TA's office hours, posted quizzes and other materials, pre-exam review sessions. All of these are resources you should use when you have a question, feel you're falling behind or not understanding the material, or are interested or confused by an idea or event. The professor's and the TA's office hours are for you, so please come talk to us and let us know what you'd like to discuss about the course, what's happening with you, and how your educational experience at UM is going.

**Fourth, intro courses are not easy courses** – Don't think a course is easy because it's an "intro" course. Intro courses cover a lot of information, are wide-ranging, deal with fundamental and critical issues, concepts and problems, and are designed to build a strong foundation of knowledge of Political Science. If you take your intro courses seriously, devote time and energy to learning the material well, and "learn how to learn" by developing effective learning practices, you will benefit from this experience throughout your college years, professional career, and your life as an engaged and informed citizen.

**Last but Not Least** – Apply what you're learning in this course to political events and issues beyond the classroom. Political Science employs a set of tools - theories, concepts, analysis, evidence, methods – that enable us to better understand the world around us. Explore how the ideas, concepts, examples, etc. from your courses can be useful in thinking about important political events and ongoing trends. Politics deeply affects our lives, our communities, and our future, so it's crucial to understand what is happening, why, and what it means. Your student colleagues and professors are similarly engaged in seeking to understand politics, so engage with us in discussing the political world.