

Political Science 11

Professor Kaare Strøm

Office: 384 Social Science Bldg.

Office Hours: M 2:00 - 3:00, W 12:30 - 1:30, and by appointment

Phone: (858) 534-0793

E-mail: kstrom@ucsd.edu, <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~kstrom>**Fall Quarter 2001**

MW 11:15 - 12:05, plus sections

Peterson Hall 110

Teaching Assistants and Sections

Nathan Batto (nbatto@ucsd.edu); A07: F 4:40 HSS 1315 & A08: F 5:45 HSS 1315; Hrs: M 2-4, SSB 332

Emily Beaulieu (ebeaulie@ucsd.edu); A05: F 2:30 HSS 1315 & A06: F 3:35 HSS 1315; Hrs: T 12-2, SSB 330

David Fisk (dfisk@ucsd.edu); A01: W 2:30 APM 2301 & A03: W 12:20 HSS 2150; Hrs: M 1:30-2:30, T 4-5, SSB 330

Carl LeVan (clevan@ucsd.edu); A02: W 3:35 CENTR 217A & A04: F 1:25 CENTR 217A; Hrs: W 9-11, SSB 332

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Objectives and Approach

This course is an introduction to comparative politics, a field of political science that involves cross-national analysis and area studies of domestic politics in other countries. The course is designed around the issues of democracy and political development. It has two major objectives: (1) to teach students to think about politics in systematic and comparative terms, and (2) to foster some knowledge and understanding of the politics of three selected countries: Great Britain, Russia, and Nigeria. The readings, lectures, and sections will in large part focus on these countries. We shall examine each country's social background and political history, the behavior of citizens and groups, how political institutions operate, and its public policy challenges.

Course Assignments and Grading

Assignments include an in-class midterm, one relatively short paper on a topic given by the instructor (you will have some choice), and a comprehensive final examination. Class and section attendance is required, and you will be responsible for all lecture materials. In-class tests will include both objective and essay questions. For students whose final exam grades are better than their average for the midterm and paper, the final will count 50% and each of the other two assignments 25%, before adjustment for participation (see below). In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third. Finally, grades will be adjusted, upward or downward, for section participation and contributions (10% of the final course grade). Students who fail to complete the midterm, the paper, and/or the final examination will not pass the course. Late papers will be penalized. Extensions, incompletes, or make-up exams will be given only in *exceptionally pressing* cases and in accordance with UCSD policy. Petitions must be *timely and properly documented*.

Academic Honesty

Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation is a very serious matter. UCSD rules concerning academic dishonesty are spelled out in the General Catalog. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own or without proper attribution work done wholly or in part by another person. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are *individual*, and no collaboration with any other person is permitted. In-class tests are *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced. Any academic dishonesty will **without exception** be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

Books and Materials

The following books have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore. All readings are required and will be placed on Library reserve. Avoid old editions of Almond.

Chinua Achebe, *The Trouble with Nigeria*. Heinemann 1983.

Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare Strøm, and Russell J. Dalton, eds., *Comparative Politics Today*. 7th ed. Addison-Wesley Longman 2000 (hereafter: Almond).

Jeffrey Archer, *First Among Equals*. Harper 1993.

Michael Dobbs, *Down with Big Brother*. Vintage 1998.

AHere=s Hoping: A Survey of Nigeria.@ *The Economist*, January 1999.

Calendar

Generally, there will be two lectures and one section per week. Attendance is required. Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for October 15, and the paper is due on November 14. The **final exam** will be given between **11:30 am and 2:30 pm on Wednesday, December 5** (Note: The exam is likely to be scheduled for two hours only), in the regular classroom. All dates and assignments are subject to change, as announced in class.

COURSE OUTLINE

September 24 - October 15: THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings:

Almond, chs. 1-7.

Class Schedule:

September 24: What Is Comparative Politics? (Almond, chs. 1-2)

September 26: Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage? States and Nations (Almond, chs. 1-2)

October 1: Government: Blessing or Pest? Public Policy (Almond, ch. 7)

October 3: What Are the Rules? Constitutions and Political Institutions (Almond, ch. 6)

October 8: How Do We Choose? Elections and Parties (Almond, ch. 5)

October 10: How Do You Make a Difference? Citizens and Interest Groups (Almond, chs. 3-4)

October 15: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

October 17 - 29: THE UNITED KINGDOM

Readings:

Almond, ch. 8.

Archer, entire.

Class Schedule:

October 17: Why Are the British So Old-Fashioned? (Almond, pp. 161-171)

October 22: The Majority Rules (Archer; Almond, pp. 171-185)

October 24: Britain Against Itself (Archer; Almond, pp. 185-200)

October 29: Britain Reformed: From Thatcher to Blair (Almond, pp. 200-212)

October 31 - November 14: RUSSIA

Readings:

Almond, ch. 12.

Dobbs, pp. 1-29, 84-232, 252-64, 270-89, 307-57, 371-421, 442-51.

Class Schedule:

October 31: The Authoritarian Experience (Almond, pp. 373-379; Dobbs, selections up to p. 125)

November 5: How Soviet Communism Died (Dobbs, selections from p. 126 on)

November 7: Building a New Russian State (Almond, pp. 379-403)

November 14: Difficult Transitions (Almond, pp. 403-416)

November 14: **PAPER DUE**

November 19-28: NIGERIA

Readings:

Almond, ch. 18.

Achebe, entire.

AHere=s Hoping. @

Class Schedule:

November 19: Why Is Development So Difficult? (Almond, pp. 681-692)

November 21: A Fractured Society (Almond, pp. 692-705; Achebe)

November 26: The Politics of Instability (Almond, pp. 705-719; Achebe)

November 28: The Trouble with Nigeria (Almond, pp. 719-731; Here=s Hoping)

December 5: FINAL EXAMINATION