

Political Science 11D

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Fall Quarter 2017

MW 12:00 - 12:50, plus sections
Ledden Auditorium
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INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Objectives and Approach

Comparative politics includes the study of politics in other countries as well as cross-national comparisons. This introductory course will examine issues of democracy and political development globally and has two major objectives: (1) to help you think about politics in systematic and comparative ways, and (2) to give you knowledge and understanding of contemporary politics in three countries: Great Britain, Russia, and Nigeria. The readings, lectures, and sections will in large part focus on these countries and examine their societies and political history, the behavior of citizens and groups, the impact of political institutions, and public policy challenges. The course will be supported by a TritonEd (Blackboard) account, where lecture files, assignments, and some course readings will be uploaded. There will be no podcasts or i-clicker assignments.

Course Assignments and Grading

Written assignments include an in-class midterm, a paper on one out of a set of topics given by the instructor (you will have some choice), and a comprehensive (cumulative) final examination. You are required to attend class and weekly discussion sections, and you will be responsible for all lecture and section materials. Grades will be based on written assignments (90% of your course grade) and participation (10%). In-class tests will include both objective and essay questions. Your written assignment grade will be based on all three written assignments, and you will need to complete them all to pass the course. If your final exam grade is better than the average of your midterm grade and your paper grade, the final will count 50% and each of the other two assignments 25%, before adjustment for participation. Otherwise, each written assignment will count one-third. Participation grades will be based on well-prepared and constructive participation in section discussions and assignments. Note that in most cases your participation grade can change your course grade by at most one-third of a grade (e.g., from a B+ to an A-, or vice versa). If you do not get a passing participation grade, however, the downward impact on your course grade could be larger. There will be no make-up midterm. Late papers will get late penalties. Incompletes or special exams will be given only for *emergencies* or *recognized disability* in accordance with UCSD policy. Petitions for any special accommodation must be *timely* and *properly documented*.

Academic Integrity

Fair and effective education requires academic integrity. UCSD rules concerning academic integrity can be found in the General Catalog. Note that plagiarism - submitting work done wholly or in part by another person as your own or without proper attribution - is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on assignments as well as using unattributed sources (including work you may have done for other courses). Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course will be *individual*, and no collaboration with any other person permitted. In-class tests will be *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced, and we will report any case of suspected academic dishonesty to the Academic Integrity Office. If you are in doubt about the rules of academic integrity, please ask a member of the teaching staff.

Books and Materials

The following readings are required and will be placed on Library reserve.

G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare W. Strøm, Melanie Manion, and Russell J. Dalton, eds., *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 12th edition. New York: Pearson, 2018 (hereafter: Powell).

Claire Berlinski, *There is No Alternative: Why Margaret Thatcher Matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008.

Arkady Ostrovsky, *The Invention of Russia*. New York: Penguin, 2017.

Peter Cunliffe-Jones, *My Nigeria: Five Decades of Independence*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

The assigned chapters from Powell have been posted on the course website on TritonEd. Please avoid old editions of this book, which will be obsolete. The other books have been ordered by the UCSD Bookstore.

Sections

The discussion sections will be led by the Teaching Assistants, whose office hours will be announced. **Please attend the section for which you are registered and contact your TA immediately if you have an unavoidable conflict.**

Calendar

Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for October 30, and the paper will be due on November 22. The **final exam will be given between 11:30 and 2:29 on Thursday, December 14**, at a location to be announced. All dates and assignments are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE

October 2 - 16: THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings: Powell, chaps. 1-6.

Class Schedule:

- October 2: Comparative Politics: What and Why? (Powell, chaps. 1-2)
- October 4: States and Nations (Powell, chaps. 1 and 3)
- October 9: The Ideal Government? Constitutions and Political Institutions (Powell, chap. 5)
- October 11: Why governments, or why not? (Powell, chap. 6)
- October 16: Citizens, Elections and Political Parties (Powell, chap. 4)

October 18 – November 6: THE UNITED KINGDOM

Readings: Powell, chap. 7; Berlinski, chaps. 1,3,5,7,9-10, and Conclusion.

Class Schedule:

- October 18: A United and Disunited Kingdom (Powell, pp. 132-42; Berlinski, chap. 1)
- October 23: Westminster's World: Winner Takes All (Powell, pp. 142-47, 183-86)
- October 25: Class Politics and Beyond (Powell, pp. 147-59; Berlinski, chaps. 3 and 5)

October 30: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

- November 1: The UK from Thatcher to May (Powell, pp. 159-66; Berlinski, chap. 7)
- November 6: Britain, Europe, and the World (Powell, pp. 166-72; Berlinski, chaps. 9-10 and Conclusion)

November 8 – 22: RUSSIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 11; Ostrovsky, pp. 1-120, 140-64, 174-204, 263-80, and 304-31.

Class Schedule:

- November 8: Russia and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 298-302; Ostrovsky, pp. 1-8)
- November 13: Leninism, Stalinism, and Decline (Powell, pp. 302-04; Ostrovsky, pp. 11-53)
- November 15: The Death of Soviet Communism (Powell, pp. 302-04; Ostrovsky, pp. 54-120)
- November 20: Yeltsin: Reform and Crises (Powell, pp. 304-14; Ostrovsky, pp. 140-64 and 174-204)
- November 22: Putin: Nationalism and Autocracy (Powell, pp. 314-39; Ostrovsky, pp. 263-80 and 304-31)

November 22: PAPER DUE

November 27 - December 6: NIGERIA

Readings: Powell, chap. 17; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue and chaps.1-14.

Class Schedule:

- November 27: Nigeria: An African Giant (Powell, pp. 554-64; Cunliffe-Jones, Prologue, chaps.1,3-5)
- November 29: Social Fractures and Resources (Powell, pp. 564-73; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 6-7,10,12)
- December 4: A Fragile Democracy (Powell, pp. 573-86; Cunliffe-Jones, chap.13)
- December 6: The Trouble with Nigeria (Powell, pp. 587-97; Cunliffe-Jones, chaps. 2,8-9,11,14)

December 14: FINAL EXAMINATION