

The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Department of Political Science

**Comparative Politics and Foreign Government  
Political Science 102  
Richard R. Marcus**

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**Classroom: MH 122  
Class Hours: 12:40-01:35  
Office Hours: 8:00-9:30 MW + my door is open.**

**WebCT: <http://classweb.uah.edu>**

**Course Description:**

This course describes and evaluates the operations of political processes and actors and the values on which they are based. To this end it teaches students the basic theoretical concepts of Comparative Politics. Among the topics to be explored are: the role of the state, nationalism and ethnicity, types of governments, and how governments are formed and influenced. The course will be divided in a thematic manner, focusing on a different body of ideas and approaches each week. These diverse ideas will be threaded together through discussions of the common definitions, the major debates of the sub-discipline, and studies of particular cases. Beyond the enhancement of substantive knowledge, this course holds the goals of stimulating intellectual curiosity, encouraging critical thinking about political systems and ideas, augmenting oral and writing abilities, and considering the duties of citizenship. Students must therefore think of the definitions and classifications explored throughout the class as tools for exploring the way in which we think about the political sphere, not as an end in themselves.

**Methodology:**

Lectures and discussions will be interspersed with talks, debates, and presentations. It is expected that each student taking the course will be an integral part of the class, not just an uninterested observer of the class activities. Note that all assignments should be typed and checked for grammatical and spelling errors. Assignments submitted late without a prior agreement will be penalized by the reduction of one grade per day. Thus an assignment with a grade A-, submitted on Tuesday instead of Monday will receive a final grade of B+.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

1. Class Participation/Attendance	5%
2. Reaction Papers (2)	20%
3. In-class assignments	10%
4. Mid-Term	30%
5. Final exam	35%

*Participation and Attendance:*

It is mandatory that students attend class regularly, do the reading assignments, and be prepared to discuss the material each day. Participation on a regular basis is not only encouraged of all students, but, in fact, is expected. In order to receive an "A" for this requirement it is not sufficient merely to attend class. Both regular attendance and participation are required.

*Reaction Papers:*

Each student will write four (2) reaction papers, each 800-1000 words in length. Each paper will use the case discussed in a novel, placing it in the broader theoretical context discussed in class. Though this paper is

short, it is expected to be of a high intellectual and grammatical quality. The purpose of the paper is for the student to have an opportunity to demonstrate his or her ability to apply class concepts to real world circumstances. The papers will be graded on how well this is achieved.

### *In-class Assignments*

There will be several in-class assignments. In-class assignments may be done as a group assignments, as individual essays, or as pop quizzes. In-class assignments may be announced or unannounced, but they will always be on the most recent topic covered by the readings and lectures. The purpose of in-class assignments is to either give students practice in applying class concepts to real world circumstances or to provide a gauge of how well students are understanding a particular idea. The details of the assignment, and the expectations for grading, will be clearly articulated at the onset.

### *Mid-term/Final Exam*

The examinations will test the students' familiarity with the literature and lecture material covered until the date of the exam. While the final will not be "cumulative" per se, it is expected that students will be able to apply concepts explored in the first half of the class to the final exam.

### *Geography*

While this is not a geography class, it is absolutely critical that students know where countries are if we are going to "compare" their political systems. For this reason, at the beginning of the class students will be given a list of countries. They will be expected to learn where they are and be able to place them on a map. A map quiz will appear in the first section of both the mid-term and the final.

### *Final Paper Option*

Students can choose to write a final paper, 3500-4000 words in length. The topic you must be approved by the professor before Thanksgiving. The paper itself will be due December 10<sup>th</sup>. A final paper is an opportunity for students who want to explore a specific topic further to do so. It is in addition to, not in lieu of, the other work in the class. If a student writes a final paper the grade on the paper will be averaged with the final exam grade. As a \*Bonus\* for taking the more challenging path, the combined final paper/exam grade will be augmented by one letter grade! Thus a grade of "B-" on the final will change to an "A-", etc.

### *Academic Honesty*

Your written assignments and examinations must be your own work, written originally for this course. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. To ensure that you are aware of what is considered academic misconduct, you should review carefully the definition and examples provided in Article III, Code of Student Conduct, Student Handbook, p. 93. If you have any questions in this regard, please come talk to me immediately.

UAH is committed to the fundamental values of preserving academic honesty as defined the Student Handbook (7.III.A, Code of Student Conduct). The instructor reserves the right to utilize electronic means to help prevent plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity to Turnitin.com. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. The terms that apply to the University's use of Turnitin.com service, as well as additional information about company, are described at [www.uah.edu/library/turnitin](http://www.uah.edu/library/turnitin).

### *Policy on Electronic Devices*

Please turn off mobile telephones and beepers during both lectures and discussion sections. Anyone whose electronic communications device causes a disturbance in class (even if it rings and is not answered) will be asked to leave. Telephones, beepers, and all forms of personal digital assistants (PDAs) are strictly prohibited during all examinations. Anyone found using any such device during an exam will receive a grade of zero. Recording devices are not permitted except with explicit prior approval

**Required Reading:**

1. Harrop, Martin and Rod Hague. Political Science 4th Edition. London, New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2004. ISBN: 1-4039-6766-0
2. Chang, Jung. Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China. New York: Vintage Anchor Publishing, 1992. ISBN: 0-385-42547-3
3. Farah, Nuruddin. Links. New York: Riverhead Books, 2004. ISBN: 1573222658
4. Course Packet

<p>Week 1: Introduction August 30 – September 3</p> <p>September 3: Film</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putnam, Robert D. “APSA Presidential Address, 2002: The Public Role of Political Science.” <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>. Volume 1 - Issue 02 - June 2003.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 2: Concepts September 6-10</p> <p>Labor Day Sept. 6: No Class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H Ch 1 (Politics and Government)</li> <li>• H&amp;H Ch 5 (The Comparative Approach)</li> </ul>
<p>Week 3: The State September 13-17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H Ch 4 (The State in a Global Context)</li> <li>• Scott, James C. <u>Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed</u>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000. Chapter 1.</li> <li>• Begin <u>Links</u> novel</li> </ul>
<p>Week 4 State Collapse September 20-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Links</u></li> </ul>
<p>Week 5: Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Identity September 27-October 1</p> <p>First reaction paper due September 27<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quirin, James. “Ethnicity, Caste, Class, and State in Ethiopian History: The Case of the Beta Israel,” in <u>The Rising Tide of Cultural Pluralism</u>. ed. Crawford Young. Madison, Wis. : University of Wisconsin Press, 1993. p. 200-221.</li> <li>• Connor, Walker <u>Ethnonationalism: The Quest for Understanding Princeton</u>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. Chapter 4, “Terminological chaos ("A Nation is a Nation, is a State, Is an Ethnic Group, Is a.'). pp. 89-117.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 6: Constitutional Frameworks and Parliamentary vs. Presidential Systems October 4-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H Chs 12 (Constitutions) and 13 (Federal, Unitary, and Local)</li> <li>• Ottolenghi, Emanuele. “Why Direct Election Failed in Israel.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. Vol 12, No 4, October 2001. pp109-122. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommended: Rubin, Barnett R. “Crafting a Constitution for Afghanistan” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> Vol 15, No. 3, July 2004.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Week 7: Political Participation October 11-15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H: Chs 8 (Political Participation), 9 (Elections and Voters)</li> </ul>
<p>Week 8: Political Parties October 18-22</p> <p>MID-TERM OCTOBER 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H Ch 11 (Political Parties)</li> <li>• <i>The Economist</i>. “Indigenous people in South America: A political awakening.” Feb 19th 2004. The Economist print edition.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 9: Democracy October 25-29</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H: Ch 2 (Democracy)</li> <li>• Huntington, Samuel P. “Chapter 1: What?” in Huntington Samuel P. <u>The Third Wave</u>. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. pp3-30. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommended: Levitzky, Steve and David Collier. “Democracy with adjectives.” <i>World Politics</i> 49.3 (1997) 430-451</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>Week 10: Civil Society and Political Culture November 1-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H Ch 6 (Political Culture)</li> <li>• Putnam, Robert D. "Bowling alone: America's declining social capital." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 6.1 (1995) 65-78.</li> <li>• Huntington, Samuel P "The Clash of Civilizations" <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. Summer93, Vol. 72 Issue 3, pp.22-50.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 11: Authoritarianism November 8-12</p> <p>November 12: Film</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H&amp;H Ch 3 (Authoritarianism)</li> <li>• Ottoway, Marina. "The Challenge of Semi-Authoritarianism: An Introduction" in Ottoway, Marina, <u>Democracy Challenged: The Rise of Semi-Authoritarianism</u> Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2003.</li> <li>• Kaplan, Robert D. "Was Democracy Just a Moment?" <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>. December 1997. <a href="http://theatlantic.com/issues/97dec/democ.htm">http://theatlantic.com/issues/97dec/democ.htm</a></li> </ul>
<p>Week 12: Social Movements, and Revolution November 15-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isbister Ch 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>• Tilly, Charles. <u>Social Movements, 1768-2004</u>. New York: Paradigm Press, 2004. Chapter 1.</li> <li>• Scott, James "Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance," <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i>. V13, No 2 (1986). Pp.5-35.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 13: Social Movements, and Revolution November 22-23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First half: <u>Wild Swans</u></li> </ul>
<p>Week 14: Thanksgiving November 24-28</p>	<p>Eat! Breathe! Enjoy!</p>
<p>Week 15: Gender November 29-December 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second half: <u>Wild Swans</u></li> </ul>
<p>Week 16: Conclusions? December 6-10</p> <p>Second reaction paper due: December 6th</p>	<p>Study for the Final!</p>