

Introduction to Comparative Politics
CPO 2001

Professor Anderson
Office Hours: Mon 1:45-2:45
and Wed 1:45-3:45

Meeting times: M and W 12:50-1:40
Discussion sections: see your assigned schedule

This course is an introduction to comparative politics. It proceeds on two levels. At the first level we will concentrate on the specifics of politics in several modern nations. You will be introduced to the fundamentals of politics in Britain, France, Germany, Argentina and Nicaragua. This allows you to understand the development of democracy in older (Britain) and newer democracies (Nicaragua and Argentina) and several in between (France and Germany.)

At a second level I will ask you to step back from the specifics of politics in individual nations and consider the larger picture. The larger picture involves considering our world today and how we got here from there. In other words, how has history shaped our world? Another part of the larger picture involves thinking about democracy more generally, both how it has developed and what our role in democracy is, can, and should be.

An underlying theme of this course is the development of democracy. Britain and France have successfully developed democracy, albeit with differing obstacles along the way. Germany is currently a democracy but arrived there only after going through fascism. We will consider how democracy has developed in Germany since the fall of Nazism. Nicaragua and Argentina are new democracies (about 30 years old). What do they have in common with the older democracies and how are they different? In addition to studying the political systems and institutions of each country we will cover current events in each country through lectures based on recent news sources. In Nicaragua, there is an election happening during the course of the class so we will cover current events surrounding that election.

Attendance is mandatory in this class and will be part of your grade. We will be taking attendance within a few minutes after class starts. If you are here then, you will be counted as present. If you are not here when attendance is taken, you will be counted as absent.

The assignments for the class are the readings, two exams and two papers. I am asking you to purchase a textbook, two scholarly books, and two older classics which can be had for a very small amount of money online from Amazon or Abebooks.com. The midterm and the final exam each count as 30% of your grade. Each paper will be 5 pages long. Each paper counts for 20% of your grade. You will write one paper on the book: *The Guns of August* and another paper on the book *Democracy and Education* (see reading list below).

In addition to grades on the papers, there will be an award given out for the very best paper written on each of these two books. If you win this award you should list the award on your vita. There will be 2 brief awards ceremonies to give out these awards for the two best papers written in the class.

Please come to class having read the material listed for that date.

There will be no extensions of any kind granted for work in this class. Please do not ask for an extension. If you are physically ill and can provide written evidence of such, signed by an MD or a RN, you can receive an exception to this rule. But short of such evidence of physical illness, any work turned in late will be graded down one letter grade for every day late. The date given for the Final Exam in this class was available on line in mid June. If that changes, knowing about the change is your responsibility. You

are responsible for being at the final exam. A signed medical excuse is the only reason we will accept for your not attending the final.

You have Teaching Assistants to help you with this class. They are studying for a PhD in political science here at the University of Florida. They are very knowledgeable and you should feel free to contact them. They will hold office hours every week and will tell you the exact time and location of their office hours.

Required Reading

Rolf Theen and Frank Wilson *Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Seven Countries*
 Leslie E. Anderson and Lawrence C. Dodd, *Learning Democracy: Citizen Engagement and Electoral Choice in Nicaragua, 1990-2001*
 Leslie E. Anderson, *Democratization by Institutions*
 Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August*
 John Dewey, *Democracy and Education*

Both books are on sale at the various Florida book stores.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading required</u> (you should complete the reading by the date given) |
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Part I: The Advanced Industrial Democracies

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| August 22 | First class | Introduction, Pass out syllabus |
| August 24 | Begin Britain | Theen and Wilson, Chapters 1, 2,3 |
| August 29 | Background | British history |
| August 31 | NO CLASS | |
| | Annual Conference: American Political Science Association | Check with your TA if they are going to the meeting or holding discussion section |
| September 5-7 | The Westminster Model | T and W Chapters 4, 5, 6 |
| September 12 | Begin France | Theen and Wilson, Chapters 7, 8, 9 |
| September 14 | Background: The French Revolution | |
| September 19-21 | The Hybrid Model | T and W Chapters 10, 11, 12 |
| October 26 | Begin Germany | Theen and Wilson, Chapters 13,14 |
| October 28 | The Breakdown of German Democracy: Nazism | |
| October 3-5 | The German Model | Theen and Wilson, Chapters 15-18 |
| October 10 | Review for Midterm | |
| October 12 | Midterm Exam | |
| October 17 | Brief overview of The Guns of August | The Guns of August |
| October 19 | Return exam: Overview of exams, input from TAs | |

Part II: The Developing Democracies

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| October 24 | <i>Guns of August</i> paper due |
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| October 24 | Begin Argentina | Anderson, 2016 Chaps 1,2 |
| October 26 | The Breakdown of Democracy: The Dirty War | Anderson, Chaps 3-4 |
| Oct 31-November 2 | The Argentine Presidential System | Anderson, Chaps 5-7, 9 |
| November 7 | Awards Ceremony: | return <i>Guns of August</i> papers and discuss award (TAs) |
| November 9 | Begin Nicaragua | Anderson and Dodd, Chapters 2 and 3 |
| November 14-16 | The Nicaraguan Revolution and the coming of democracy | Anderson and Dodd, Chap 9 |
| November 21 | Democratic backsliding: | Update since 2005 |
| November 23 | Overview of Democracy and Education | |
| November 28 | Wrap up class and overview | |
| November 30 | <i>Democracy and Education</i> paper due | |
| December 5 | Awards Ceremony: | return <i>Democracy and Education</i> paper and discuss award |
| December 7 | review for Final | |
| December 12 | 1:00 PM (main classroom) Double check this on the exam schedule of ISIS. This was the date as of mid June, | |