

**PS 220: Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Summer 2005**

**Room: Dane Smith 225  
Hours: MTWR 11:40 – 2:10**

Instructor: Matt Ingram  
Office: Social Sciences 2048  
Office Hours: Tues. 2:30-3:30, Fri. 10:00-11:00  
Tel: 277-5104  
Email: [mingram@unm.edu](mailto:mingram@unm.edu)  
Class webpage: [www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220](http://www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220)

**Course Summary.** This course offers an introduction to the comparative study of government. We will explore the ways in which political systems differ around the world, the reasons for these differences, and the political outcomes that result from these differences. The class will begin with the fundamental concepts, theories, and analytical approaches that are used in the field of comparative politics. We will then apply these theoretical and analytical frameworks to different countries and regions of the world, as well as to the substantive issues they face, e.g., stability, development, democratization, human rights, and conflict. In doing so, we will see how the logic of comparison helps explain patterns of continuity and change across political systems, and provides lessons for public policy decisions both in the United States and abroad.

**Objectives.** The objective of this course is to teach you to think comparatively about the world's political systems. This means that you will be expected to learn and demonstrate a variety of comparative methods and techniques, as well as the theoretical approaches to understanding political events and outcomes. Additionally, you will be expected to learn and demonstrate your substantive knowledge of political institutions, cultures, and actors from different parts of the world. Finally, you will combine these analytical skills, theory, and substantive knowledge of the subfield by conducting your own brief analysis of a political problem of your choosing.

The analytical skills you learn in class will serve you well beyond this course. They can be used to analyze any argument. Therefore, while this class asks you to apply them to arguments about the characteristics, causes, and effects of political systems, they can be applied to other areas in the social sciences, as well as other disciplines. These skills can even assist you outside of class and in your future professions.

**Requirements.**

Attendance. Attendance is important, especially given the accelerated pace of a summer class.

Readings. The main text for this course is *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*, by W. Phillips Shively (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Used and new copies are available in the UNM bookstore. The other required book is *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, by Marjane Satrapi (2003). This book is on order and should arrive at the UNM Bookstore by the first week of class. Additionally, the reading will be supplemented periodically with articles and other short pieces. Please see the class schedule below for a detailed list of the reading assignments for each class. Articles and other short pieces are available from Electronic Reserves at <http://elibrary.unm.edu> (Password: "lobo220"). You should expect to read approximately 50-80 pages for each day of class. Please stay current with the reading as it will enhance your ability to participate in class.

In addition to the required reading, I strongly recommend you read a major newspaper every day or a news magazine every week, e.g., *The New York Times* or *The Economist*. This class deals with domestic and international events that are in the news headlines every day. If you are familiar with some of the facts surrounding these events you will be able to contribute this information to the class and be in a better position to understand the material presented. I have provided links to several online news sources on the class webpage. Many more are available through the main library web site.

- Link to news sources on the web at: [www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220](http://www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220)

Participation. Active engagement with the material is critical to your success in this class. Generally, you need to encounter the material three different times in order for you to understand it in any depth. For some people, this may be easy to do independently. However, for most people, the easiest and fastest (and most efficient) way to encounter the material three times is to 1) read for class, 2) listen attentively or participate in class discussions, and 3) write a paper or review the material for an exam. Therefore, please stay current with the reading and try to participate in class.

Papers. You will be asked to write two short papers for this class. The papers are due on the following dates:

- Paper 1: Mon., July 11
- Paper 2: Tues., July 26

Paper #1 (2-3 pages): You will have the option of writing on one of two topics: 1) briefly discuss two of the methods employed in comparative analysis, and the strengths and weaknesses of each, or 2) identify two concepts that are frequently employed in comparative politics, describe them, and discuss them in reference to the empirical (i.e., real) world.

Paper #2 (3-5 pages): You will have the option of writing on one of three topics: 1) explain the political system of a single country, discussing how the characteristics of the system have influenced events in the country's history over time, 2) compare two countries and their political systems, and explain how the characteristics of the system influenced similar or different outcomes in each country, or 3) identify two theoretical approaches in comparative politics, describe them, and compare their strengths and weaknesses.

You should be able to complete Paper #1 without doing much, if any, outside research. I am primarily interested in your personal reflections on the concepts and methods of comparative politics. Which methods or concepts interest you? How would you explain these methods or concepts to someone else? Are they useful? Do they help you understand aspects of your own life?

Paper #2 will require a little extra effort. You will need to gather enough information about the country or countries that interest you in order to apply the ideas from class. However, if you find yourself doing what seems like far too much research for either of these papers, please come talk with me. The papers are intended primarily as a way for you to reflect on material covered in class, organize a coherent and thoughtful response to a question, and demonstrate your understanding of the analytical, theoretical, and substantive aspects of the material. I have provided some helpful resources on how to read nonfiction books for content (i.e., quickly) and on how to write social science papers on the class webpage. You will also find sources for data and country reports at this site.

- Link to web resources at: [www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220](http://www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220)

If you decide to write about theoretical approaches rather than a country study, please see me since we will need to adjust the requirements regarding the notebook and presentation.

**Presentation.** Everyone will make a short presentation during Week 3 or 4 in which you will outline what you have learned about the political system of the country or countries you chose for Paper #2 (see information on papers above). These presentations should be brief (approximately 3-5 minutes each) but should offer helpful information to the class regarding your main findings and provide each of you with an opportunity to see what your classmates are doing. I will provide more information about the presentations in class.

**Notebooks.** You will be required to keep a notebook of your research on the country or countries you choose to study for Paper #2. This notebook should contain information relevant to three main areas:

- 1) general information regarding the country (geographic size, population, GDP, etc.)
- 2) political system (institutional arrangement, culture, and structural characteristics)
- 3) a specific problem faced by the country in the last 25 years (growth, poverty, democratization, political violence, etc.).

**Quizzes.** There will be three (3) pop quizzes during the course of the class, but only two will count toward your final grade. I will drop your quiz with the lowest grade and only count your two best grades. Each quiz will consist of five short questions (True/False or short answer).

**Exams.** There will be two exams: a mid-term exam (Exam 1) and a final exam (Exam 2). These exams are scheduled for the following dates:

- Exam 1: Thurs., July 14.
- Exam 2: Thurs., July 28.

**Grading.**

- Quizzes: 5%
- Notebook: 5%
- Presentation and participation: 10%
- Paper 1: 10%
- Paper 2: 20%
- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%

**Late Work and Missed Exams.** Without a legitimate (e.g., medical or family emergency) and documented explanation, late work will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late. No late exams will be given.

**Disabilities.** Qualified students with disabilities who require appropriate academic accommodation should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner.

**Miscellaneous.** If you feel like you need any help or simply want clarification on any of the material, please do not hesitate to raise your question in class or approach me outside of class. I will hold regular office hours throughout the duration of the class. If you cannot arrange to come talk with me during these hours, please call or email me and we can set up an appointment.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Main Text:** W. Phillips Shively, *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.

- Link to web materials related to text at: [www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220](http://www.unm.edu/~mingram/PS220)

**Additional required readings are listed for each class in the schedule below. Readings are marked with an asterisk.**

### **WEEK 1: July 5-7**

#### **I. Introduction to Political Analysis**

##### **Class 1 (Tue. 7/05): Introduction**

\* “Symposium: The Relevance of Comparative Politics for Public Life.” APSA-CP Newsletter 15(2) Summer 2003: 7-22. (EReserves)

**Cases:** UK, France, Iran, Mexico, Brazil, China, India, Nepal, Nigeria.

#### **II. Concepts & Methods**

##### **Class 2 (Wed. 7/06): Concepts & Methods**

\* Shively: Appendix, Chapters 1-3 & 5

\* Kaldor, Mary. 2004. “Nationalism & Globalisation.” *Nations & Nationalism* 10(1/2): 161-177. (EReserves).

#### **III. Theoretical Approaches**

##### **Class 3 (Thur. 7/07): Overview & Introduction to Political Economy: Micro-Analytic Perspectives (Rationalism) vs. Macro-Analytic Perspectives (Structuralism)**

- **Notebooks due**

\* Shively, pp. 100-102

\* Lichbach and Zuckerman. 1997. “Introduction.” *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. (E-Reserves)

\* Blais, André, Robert Young, & Miriam Lapp. 2000. “The Calculus of Voting: An Empirical Test.” *European Journal of Political Research* 37: 181-201. (EReserves)

### **WEEK 2: July 11-14**

- **Paper 1 due Monday, July 11, by 5:00 pm (COB).**

##### **Class 4 (Mon. 7/11): Political Culture (identity, norms, value orientations, etc.)**

\* Shively, Ch. 7

\* Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*.

\* “The Man in the Baghdad Café.” *The Economist*, Nov. 9, 1996: 23-26. (EReserves)

### **Class 5 (Tue. 7/12): Institutions I – Constitutions & Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism**

\* Shively, Chapters 9, 14, & 15  
Cases: US, UK, France, Iran, Nigeria

### **Class 6 (Wed. 7/13): Institutions II – Electoral Rules and Party Systems**

\* Shively, Chapters 10, 11 (skim ch. 12)  
\* Allen, Christopher. 2004. "The Case for a Multi-Party U.S. Parliament: American Politics in Comparative Perspective." *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 04/05*. (EReserves)  
\* Norris, Pippa. 2004. "Comment: Does PR Promote Political Extremism, Redux." *Representation* 40(3) (EReserves)

Cases: Brazil, France, Mexico, China, India, Nepal

### **Class 7 (Thur. 7/14):**

#### **Review**

- Exam 1 (midterm)
- Notebooks due

### **WEEK 3: July 18-21**

#### **IV. Substantive Topics in Comparative Politics**

### **Class 8 (Mon. 7/18): Stability and Economic Development**

\* Shively: pp. 92-97  
\* Williamson, John. 2000. "What Should the World Bank Think About the Washington Consensus?" *World Bank Research Observer* (Aug.): 251-264.  
\* Naím, Moisés. 2000. "Washington Consensus or Washington Confusion?" *Foreign Policy* (Spring): 87-103.  
\* Guthrie, Doug. 2003. "China: The Quiet Revolution – The Emergence of Capitalism." *Harvard International Review* (Summer). (EReserves)  
\* Weyland, Kurt. 2004. "Assessing Latin American Neoliberalism." *Latin American Research Review* 39(3): 143-149.

Cases: Mexico, India, China, Nigeria

### **Class 9 (Tue. 7/19): Democratization**

\* Shively: Chapters 8 & 13  
\* Amuzegar, Jahangir. 2003. "Iran's Crumbling Revolution." *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb): 44-57. (EReserves)  
\* Baer, M. Delal. 2004. "Mexico at an Impasse." *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb). (EReserves)  
\* Rudolph, Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph. 2002. "New Dimensions of Indian Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 13(1). (EReserves)  
\* Smith, Tony and Larry Diamond. 2004. "Was Iraq a Fool's Errand?" *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec) (EReserves)

Cases: Mexico, Brazil, India, Iran, Nigeria

**Class 10 (Wed. 7/20): Citizenship: Civil Society, Rights, and the Deepening of Democracy**

\* Shively: Ch. 6 & 17

\* “The Hourglass of the Zapatistas.” Interview with Subcomandante Marcos, interviewed by Gabriel García Márquez & Roberto Pombo. In Tom Mertes, ed., *A Movement of Movements: Is Another World Really Possible?* London: Verso, 2004. pp. 3-15. (EReserves)

\* Woolcock, Michael and Deepa Narayan. 2000. “Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research & Policy.” *World Bank Research Observer* 15(2). (EReserves)

\* O’Donnell, Guillermo. 2001. “Democracy, Law, and Comparative Politics.” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1) (read only pages 7-12 and 19-29).

Cases: France, Mexico, Iran, Nepal

**Class 11 (Thur. 7/21): Armed Conflict & Political Violence**

- Notebooks due

\* Shively: pp. 410-415

\* Wilson, Robin. 2001. “The Politics of Contemporary Ethno-Nationalist Conflict.” *Nations & Nationalism* 7(3): 365-384. (EReserves)

\* “Symposium: Cumulative Findings in the Study of Ethnic Politics.” APSA-CP Newsletter (Winter 2001): 7-25. (EReserves)

Cases: Iran, Mexico, Nepal

**WEEK 4: July 25-28**

**Class 12 (Mon. 7/25): Class Presentations**

Class presentations.

**Class 13 (Tue. 7/26):**

- Paper 2 due

Movie: *Triumph of Evil*.

**Class 14 (Wed. 7/27):**

Finish movie: *Triumph of Evil*

Review

**Class 15 (Thur. 7/28): Last day of class**

- Exam 2 (final): Thursday, July 28.