

PS 220: Comparative Politics, Section 002
Tuesday 7- 9:30 pm, DSH 228

Kimberly Nolan Garcia, Instructor
Department of Political Science
SSCI 2068
knolan@unm.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Objectives:

This class provides the student with an introduction to the concepts used in advanced study of the politics of nations. Students should come away with a basic understanding of the fundamentals of comparative politics. Students should aim to understand political ideologies, regime types, and the range of political institutions such as executives and legislatures, party systems, elections, and so on within the context of country studies.

Required text:

Shively, W. Phillips. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. Mc Graw Hill, 10th edition.
Earlier editions of Shively are acceptable substitutes for the textbook, but students are still responsible for the material presented in the 10th edition.
Additional readings are available on e-reserve and hardcopy reserve.

Classroom policies:

Class material will be presented through assigned readings and lectures, video presentations, and group discussions. Students are expected to come to class Tuesday night having read the assigned chapter and all required additional readings. Suggested readings are listed as places to start looking deeper into that week's issues. Students should come prepared with questions and comments on the readings and/or current events.

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact the instructor as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Incomplete grades and withdrawals will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

Students must comply with UNM academic integrity polices. Cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated..

Office hours: I am available to speak with students before and after class each day, and by appointment.

Coursework:

- In addition to preparing for class, students will complete **10** homework assignments by the end of the semester:

Find an article in this week's newspaper (or a newsmagazine, or a news outlet website) about the current political events of a nation *other than* the USA. In one page, analyze the article by answering the following *two* questions:

- 1) Define the concept or idea from class that is illustrated in the article.**
- 2) Why is the particular story you chose a good example of this concept?**

The article must be a report about an event, not an opinion piece. Pass in both the article and a one page (typed) response paper answering both questions. Reliable news sources on the web include the *New York Times* at www.nytimes.com, the *Washington Post* at www.washingtonpost.com, the BBC World Service at <http://www.bbc.co.uk>, and *The Economist* at www.economist.com.

Each assignment is worth 10 points, for 100 total points possible. Homework is worth 20% of the final grade.

Exams:

Two exams, listed in the course schedule as Tuesday, March 11, and Tuesday, May 13, will evaluate student comprehension of the material in each half of the class. The final exam is not cumulative. Exam formats consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions. They are each worth 40% of the final grade.

Students are expected to take all required exams. Students who miss exams without documentation for a UNM-approved excuse will receive a 0 for that exam, and cannot pass the class.

Students may not leave the classroom during the exam or will forfeit completing the test.

Class participation:

Students are expected to attend lectures, and participate in class and group discussions. Class participation is evaluated through the student's attendance rate and participation in class discussion.

Attendance is crucial to performing well in the class. Students having difficulty coming to class should alert the instructor as soon as possible to arrange alternatives. Students who miss lecture regularly will not perform well in this class. Remember, missing a single night class is comparable to missing an entire week of school!

Grading:

Student grades will be evaluated through performance on two exams, homework, and through class participation, including attendance. One extra credit assignment is offered.

- Exams: 40% each, or 80% of final grade
- Homework: 20% of final grade
- + Class participation, extra credit, attendance

The instructor will provide grade scales at each exam.

Course Schedule

Shively readings are from the textbook. All other readings, including country case studies, can be found on hardcopy at Zimmerman and e-reserves.

The password is lobo220

January 22: Introduction, the comparative method

January 29: States, Nations, and Governments

Shively Ch 3, "The modern state" and Ch 4, "Policies of the state"

February 5: Regime types: Democracy and Authoritarianism I

Quality of democracy issues

Shively Ch 7, "Authority and legitimacy: The state and citizens" pp 149-160;

Ch 8, "Democracy and Autocracy"

Karl, Terry Lynn, and Philippe Schmitter. 1991. "What Democracy is... and is Not."
Journal of Democracy 2: 75-88.

February 12: Regime types: Democracy and Authoritarianism II

Direct democracy?

Shifter, Michael. 2006. "In Search of Hugo Chavez." *Foreign Affairs* (May/June).

Documentary: *The Revolution will not be Televised* (Venezuela/ Ireland, 2004)

February 19: Constitutional Government

Shively Ch 9, "Constitutions and the design of government"

Suggested reading: Foweraker, Joe and Todd Landman. 2002. "Constitutional Design and Democratic Performance," *Democratization* 9, 2 (Summer):43-66.

February 26: Political Ideologies, parties, and party systems

Shively Ch 2, "Modern ideologies and political philosophy"

Ch 11, "Parties: A linking and leading mechanism"

Suggested reading: Mainwaring, Scott and Timothy Scully. 1995. "Introduction: Party Systems in Latin America," in *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully, eds. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

March 4: Electoral systems

Shively Ch 10, "Elections"

Lijphart, Arend. 1996. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies"

Duverger, Maurice. 1972. "Factors in a Two-Party and Multiparty System." *Politics and Pressure Groups*. New York: Thomas Crowell. pp 23-32 (excerpt).

March 11: EXAM I

March 18: No Class SPRING BREAK

March 25: Parliaments, presidential and parliamentary systems compared

Shively Ch 14, "Parliamentary government"

Shively Ch 15 p. 333, "Presidential and Parliamentary systems compared"

Presidential vs. Parliamentary systems (handout on e-reserve)

Suggested reading: Shively Ch 15, "Presidential government"

April 1: Parliamentary systems: British politics

Case study: "Britain"

April 8: Mixed systems: Politics in France

review Shively, pp 347-351

Case study: "France"

April 15: Democratization and semi-authoritarian states: Politics in Mexico

Case Study: "Mexico"

Rubio, Luis, and Jeffery Davidow. 2006. "Mexico's Disputed Election." *Foreign Affairs*, (September/ October), pp 75-85.

"Tribune Op-Ed on Mexican Election", (Chicago), November 21.

April 22: Variants of Authoritarian rule: Politics in Iran

review Shively pp 187-197

Case Study: "Iran"

The Economist special issue on Iran, July 19

7 articles

At http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9466834

or through E-reserves

April 29: Economic development, policy and politics I

Shively Ch 5, "Economic policy and the political economy of the state"

Karl, Terry Lynn. 2000. "Economic Inequality and Democratic Instability." *Journal of Democracy* 11,1 (December): 149-156.

Siegle, Joseph T., et al. 2004. "Why Democracies Excel." *New York Times*, September 28

Suggested reading: Almond, Gabriel. 1991. "Capitalism and Democracy," *PS* (September): 467-474.

May 6: Economic development, policy and politics II

International influences on state economic policy

Documentary: *The Take* (Argentina/ Canada, 2004)

All homework and extra credit due

May 13: Final Exam: 7:45 pm