MC 325:001
Fall 07 T,Th: 12::40-2:00pm

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States and Societies in Comparative Perspective

Course Abstract

Why do countries enact starkly different “public policies” on issues that might appear to have a “global consensus”? A most recent example of this is countries’ stances and policies toward eliminating “terrorism”. Countries could not even agree on a definition of terrorism- how much more its elimination. By examining the longitudinal and latitudinal depth involved in a country’s ultimate policy direction, this course will explain the “why’s” and “how’s” that explain “national” or “country-level” “difference”. It will do so by examining the historical “constitutions” of “states and their societies” in comparison with each other.

In MC325, we will identify and define the differences and similarities among different countries-configured as “state-societies”-, learn about their patterns, trends, and processes, and learn how to interpret hypotheses to explain their differences and commonalities. In this respect, the course seriously approaches ‘the comparative method’ by identifying major themes and topics and providing students an opportunity to evaluate “comparisons and contrasts” in countries’ “state-society” processes from the perspective of a selected number of major topics (e.g., state-nation formation, political systems-democracy; identities and political cultures; political economies and economic development; inter-nationality and globalization). The course is taught from an interdisciplinary perspective highlighting aspects of a country’s histories, politics, anthropologies, sociologies, and economics. The course will present knowledge from these disciplines to be used as a basis for understanding countries’ divergent contemporary policy orientations- arguing that “public policies” are derived from a country’s “histories” and convey a country’s behavior and identity.

Specifically, while learning from the “comparative” features of several symbolic country cases including England, France, Germany, Scandinavia, India, South Africa, China, Nigeria, Brazil and Mexico, the course will focus on United States’ ‘exceptionalism’ as an important epistemological premise for students’ in America to compare divergent policy orientations and directions among countries.
Teaching/Learning Format

MC325 will be delivered in a non-traditional teaching format. View this course as a semester long workshop in which you are a central facilitator-agent rather than a series of professor lectures. This instructional style combines instructor-led lectures with collaborative learning methods such as student-led seminars and other colloquial sessions. There will be individualized assignments as well as group assignments; and formal classroom instruction will be conducted utilizing effective learning technologies, including instructional audio-visual props and Angel online resources. In addition to exposing you to and delivering to you complex, deep, broad and interdisciplinary knowledge of states and their societies around the world, my course delivery method seeks to develop the skills and talents that require your success in the social science careers. This entails the development of your multiple research skills, including analytical and critical thinking and various types of written as well as oral communication delivery.

Below is the University’s posting of this course, please make sure that the university/college requirements meet up to my objectives of this course- especially the course description.

**Course:** MC 325  State and Society in Comparative Perspective  
**Semester:** Spring of every year  
**Credits:** Total Credits: 4  
Lecture/Recitation/Discussion Hours: 3  
4(3-0)  
**Prerequisite:** (MC 221 or MC 241 or MC 271 or MC 230) and Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement  
**Recommended Background:** or approval of college.  
**Description:** Comparison of political systems and social-economic structures in capitalist and state-socialist societies. Political history, institutions, culture, and current policy issues.  
**Effective Dates:** FALL 2007 - Open

Also, remember that this course is designated as a **Tier 2 (W) cluster writing requirement** course. This means that you and I must work together on ‘developing’ your research papers. It means that you have the opportunity to ‘consult and revise’ your papers. In your senior year, when taking your Senior Seminar (MC492), you will be asked to submit a portfolio of your research paper written in this course as a requirement for graduation.
Book List

REQUIRED TEXT BOOKS


A Course Reader in States and Societies in Comparative Perspective compiled by Professor Edozie (reproduced by Wes Printing Services and sold in Neds Bookstore, Fall 2007)

REQUIRED REVIEW BOOKS (two review books are required for purchase; you will be assigned one book from part I, and will sign up voluntarily for the other from part II)

Part I


The Great Transformation by Karl Polanyi, Joseph E. Stiglitz (Foreword by), Fred L. Block Textbook Paperback - 2ND ISBN: 080705643X Pub. Date: January
2001


Part II
The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity (Hardcover) by Amartya Sen (Author) Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005 ISBN 0713996870


Course Academic Requirements

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. American Exceptionalism Roundtable Chapter Assignment (5pts)
2. Book Review Assignments (First) (15pts)
3. First Quiz (Modules 1 and 2) (10pts)
4. Midterm Quiz (Modules 3 and 4) (10pts)
5. Book Review Assignment (Second) (15pts)
6. Final Quiz (Modules 5 and 6) (5pts)
7. Final Paper (comparative policy paper) (10 pages) (25pts)
8. Class participation, attendance and reading response Q/A (5pts: and bonus)

GRADING SCALE: EVERYTHING CURVES DOWN (sorry!)

1. at least 95 - 4.0  2. at least 90 - 3.5  3. at least 85 – 3.0  4. at least 80 – 2.5
5. at least 75 – 2.0   6. at least 70 – 1.5   7. at least 65 – 1.0

CODE OF CONDUCT

** Full attendance and class participation is required. You will be penalized for unexcused absences.

** Late assignments are not encouraged; however, lose 2 points a day for up to two days for late assignments (a day begins 10 minutes after the assignment due date deadline)

**I’m sorry; I cannot accept emailed copies of assignments.

** Refer to Student Handbook for Academic Honesty Policy

** Remember that this is a 4 credit course based on JMC’s distinctive office hours model (this means that office hours and other professor-student sessions are highly encouraged. My office is open and I am happy to assist you in any way that I can)

OFFICE HOURS

T, Th: 3 – 4:30pm or by Appointment, 364 North Case Hall

HONORS OPTION

There are two academic requirements

**One page response reading talking points to at least 12 of the scheduled Annual Editions (Comparative Politics 07/08) Articles and the Course Reader Book Review Intros- at least one a week (these must be documented orally in class and submitted in writing)

**Twenty page final research paper (Assignment 7). Your papers must use dual country case studies.
Calendar of Events

MODULE 1:
Comparative Methodology and
Introducing American Exceptionalism
Disciplinary Focus: Comparativist Methodology

Session Schedule

8/28

- Lecture: Introduction to the Course:

Assignment:

1. Get organized: it’s easier that way

Session Schedule

8/30

- Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion
• Lecture: What is Comparative States and Societies- and the American Case Study?

• Profile Nation: the USA

Required Reading

*Chapters 1 and 2: Issues in Comparative Politics and Comparing Political Systems*
*Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback)* by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strøm (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)

*Chapter 19: Politics in the United States* *Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback)* by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strøm (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)

9/4

• Lecture-Reaffirming Exceptionalism: The American Creed (Intro, Chaps1-3)

• Roundtable Part I: Reflecting on American Exceptionalism

9/6

• Lecture-Exceptions on the Margin, Chapters 4-6, and 8)

• Roundtable Part II: Reflecting on American Exceptionalism
Required Reading

American Exceptionalism: A Double-Edged Sword by Seymour Martin Lipset (Author)
WW Norton, 1996

Assignment 1:

1. Chapter (s) Assignment: American Exceptionalism (One page, presentation talking points)
2. Read and prepare reading response questions

MODULE 2:

Forging Nations (Comparing Nationalisms)

Disciplinary Focus: History

Session Schedule

9/11:

- Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion
- Lecture: Understanding Nationalism, Nation Formation; and Old Nations vs New Nations
- Profile Nation: Britain
Required Reading

Chapter 8: Politics in England Comparitive Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition Paper by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strom (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)


9/13:

• Review Panel 1: Old Nations: Britain (Reviewing Empire by Niall Ferguson)

• Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World by Niall Ferguson (Author)

Course Reader Introduction

Assignment 2a

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “first book review”. Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions
Session Schedule

9/18:

- **Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion**

- **Lecture: New Nations and Post-Colonialism**

- **Profile Nation: Nigeria**

Required Reading

*Chapter 18 (Nigeria) Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition* by [Gabriel A. Almond](#) (Author), [G. Bingham Powell](#) (Author), [Kaare Strøm](#) (Author), [Russell J. Dalton](#) (Author), [Kaare Strom](#) (Author)


9/20:

- **Review Panel 2: the Post-Colonial World** (Review of *The Empire Writes Back* by Ascroft et al)

- **Reading Response Discussion**
**Required Reading**

*The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures* by Bill Ashcroft

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**Course Reader Introduction**

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**9/25**

**Module 1 and 2 Quiz’s**

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**Assignment 2b and 3**

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “first book review”.
   Due on scheduled date of presentation
2. Read and prepare reading response questions
3. Module 1 and 2 Quiz
MODULE 3:

Building States and Political Systems (Politics and Democracy) (Old Democracy vs New Democracy)
Disciplinary Focus: Political Science

Session Schedule

9/27

- Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion
- Lecture Defining Concepts: States, Political Systems and Democratic Systems

Required Reading


Article 14: Women in National Parliaments pages 77-82  
Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 06/07, Twenty-Fourth Edition  
Christian Soe

10/2

- Review Panel 3: The US’ Presidential System: (Reviewing the Case for Hilary Clinton)

- Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

The Case for Hilary Clinton by Susan Estrich, MarbleheadSuz., Inc., 2006

Course Reader Introduction

Assignment 2 c

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “first book review”.  
   Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions

Session Schedule

10/4

- Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion

- Lecture: The French Political System
• Profile Nation: France

Required Reading

Chapter 9: Politics in France: Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback) by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strom (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)


10/9

• Review Panel 4: French Electoral Politics (Reviewing Testimony: France in the 21st Century)

• Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

Testimony: France in the Twenty-First Century by Nicolas Sarkozy (Author) Harriman House 2006

Course Reader Introduction

Assignment 2d

4. Read and prepare reading response questions
Comparing Economic Systems (Political-Economy)

**Disciplinary Focus:** Economics

**Session Schedule**

10/11

- **Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion**
- **Lecture:** Comparative Political Economy/ Rich Country-Poor Country/Advanced Industrial-Developing Country

**Required Reading**

*Article 38: Capitalism and Democracy page 205-211* Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 06/07, Twenty-Fourth Edition Christian Soe

10/16

• Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading


Course Reader Introduction

Assignment 2e

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “first book review”. Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions

10/18
No Class
Work on Final Paper Outline Draft Outline Due on 10/23

Session Schedule

10/23

• Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion

• Lecture: Comparing Classical Economic Liberalism and Neo-liberal Eras
Profile Nations: China and Bolivia

Required Reading


10/25

• Review Panel 6: (Reviewing the Great Transformation)

• Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

The Great Transformation by Karl Polanyi, Joseph E. Stiglitz (Foreword by), Fred L. Block Textbook Paperback - 2ND ISBN: 080705643X Pub. Date: January 2001

Course Reader Introduction

10/30

Module 3 and 4 Midterm Exam

Assignment 2f and 4

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “first book review”. Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions
3. Midterm Exam (Assignment 4: Quiz on Modules 3 and 4)
MODULE 5:

Culture and Identities (Culture and Society)
(Homogenous Nation vs Heterogeneous Nation)

Disciplinary Focus: Anthropology/Sociology

Session Schedule

11/6

- Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion

- Lecture: Political Culture, Race, Ethnicity, Religion as Cultural Identity (Homogenous Nation vs Heterogeneous Nation)

- Profile Nations: Brazil and India
Required Reading

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Political Socialization Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback) by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strøm (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)

Chapter 15: Politics in Brazil Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback) by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strøm (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)

Chapter 17: Politics in India Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback) by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strøm (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)

11/8

- Review Panel 7: Race and the US (Reviewing Dreams from my Father)

- Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

11/13
• Review Panel 8: Comparing Racial Identities (US, Brazil and South Africa)

• Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa by Anthony W. Marx (Author)

Course Reader Introduction

Assignment 5a and 5b

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “second book review”. Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions

Session Schedule

11/15

• Review Panel 9: Cultural Pluralism in Developing Nations (Reviewing the Argumentative Indian)

• Reading Response Discussion
Required Reading

*The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity* by Amartya Sen

Course Reader Introduction

*Article 35: India’s Path to Greatness* Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 06/07, Twenty-Fourth Edition Christian Soe

Assignment 5c

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “second book review”.
   Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions

Session Schedule

11/20

- *Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion*

- *Lecture: Homogenous Nations (Japan) and Ethno-Religious Conflict: Israel*

- *Profile Nations: Japan and Israel*

Required Reading

*Chapters 10 (Japan) Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback)* by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strom (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)
11/27

- Review Panel 10: Ethno-Religion and Conflict (Reviewing One Country)
- Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse by Ali Abunimah (Author) Metropolitan, 2006

Course Reader Introduction

Assignment 5d

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “second book review”. Due on scheduled date of presentation.
2. Read and prepare reading response questions
MODULE 6

Foreign Policies, Interdependence (International Relations) (Top-tier Power, Second-Tier Power)

Disciplinary Focus: Political Science - IR

Session Schedule

11/29

- Ice-Breaker Pre-Lecture Reading Response Discussion
- Lecture: First Tier, Second Tier and Bottom Tier - the International Security Hierarchy
- Profile Nation: Egypt
Required Reading

Chapter 16: Politics in Egypt Comparative Politics Today: A World View, Eighth Edition (Paperback) by Gabriel A. Almond (Author), G. Bingham Powell (Author), Kaare Strom (Author), Russell J. Dalton (Author), Kaare Strom (Author)


Article 40: Globalization is About Blending, Not Homogenizing Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 07/08, Twenty-Fourth Edition Christian Soe

Article 21: Living with a Superpower Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 06/07, Twenty-Fourth Edition Christian Soe

12/4

• Review Panel 11: The Penultimate Interdependency (Globalization) and National Sovereignty (Reviewing Jihad vs McWorld)

• Reading Response Discussion

Required Reading

Jihad vs. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism Are Reshaping the World by Benjamin Barber

Course Reader Introduction
Assignment 5e

1. Present and write a 5 page book review of your assigned “second book review”. Due on scheduled date of presentation
2. Read and prepare reading response questions

Session Schedule

12/6

• Lecture: Wrapping Up

Module 5 and 6 Quiz

Assignments 6 (Final Quiz/ and 7 (Final Paper)

1. Final Quiz Assignment 6 (Modules 5 and 6)
2. Final Essay Paper – policy country case paper