POL 141-1 Governments of the World  
Fall 2015

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Office Hours: Office Hours: MWF 1030am-1120am & 1230pm-130pm, & Thursday 1pm-245pm (via online chat or phone)  
Class Location: ME 1012

Course Description: A comparative survey of the political processes, institutions, political views and aspects of governments/politics in different political systems and regions of the world.

Goals: For students to have theoretical tools with which to analyze and understand governing institutions around the world and to better interpret and analyze political processes.

Other selected readings will be made available to students online. Note: Students are expected to read the material prior to our class sessions.

Course Requirements:  
The major assessments in this course will consist of a 1) midterm and 2) final exam, 3) periodic reading questions, a pair of online activities, and 4) a country brief covering the current political elections in a country of your choice. Reading questions will be posted before readings are due and will briefly cover the major points of the assigned readings and will ask that students respond to key questions from the readings. I expect that students are familiar with the arguments or topics in a reading before class so our sessions can clarify and deepen your understandings of the readings. The midterm and final exams are designed to show how well students can use theory and evidence to understand politics across various countries. Therefore, they will both require critical thinking and efficient writing from students. As we approach both tests I will give further details. For country reports, and online activities, I will provide separate instructions for each and we will talk about them in class.

Note: On all assignments, tests, and quizzes, unless the question states to “list” something, all answers should be in complete sentences.

Grade Calculation:  
Reading Questions and Online Activities = 25 points (each is equally weighed and total % earned is scaled to 25pnts)  
Midterm = 30 points  
Country Report = 20 points  
Final = 25 points  
Total = 100

Grade Scale:  
100-90 = A  
89-80 = B  
79-70 = C  
69-60 = D  
59-0 = F

Class Structure: Each class meeting will consist of an informal presentation related to the day’s readings, or related topic, with significant input expected from the students about their thoughts and questions about the readings. It should be stressed that student thoughts and questions are a large component of the entire classroom learning experience. We will also use simulations of decision making on occasion to illustrate course concepts. Attending class regularly is of the utmost importance.

Doing well in this class:  
Reading course material, whether you immediately understand every part of it or not, is the most important way to be successful in this course. Class meetings and discussions are there to both expand on, and clarify, course readings. Understanding the material will improve every other graded aspect of your course performance.

Course Policies

Mutual Distractions: Cell phones should be on silent and stowed for the duration of our class sessions. Using them, though tempting, is rude to both instructor and fellow students who are speaking, participating, and listening in class. The use of laptops or tablets is permitted for notes, but not surfing and multitasking. Please let me know if you need to use a device for notes etc. and I’ll make a note of it. I do not prohibit devices entirely, however, because questions do emerge in class that I and your classmates may not know the
answer to and students with devices can often find answers for us during the class. I encourage these types of productive uses of electronic devices and will discourage and identify rude or non-productive uses.

Make-up Work: Make-up privileges, where make-up is possible, will be granted to students with officially excused absences only. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate plans for make-up work and complete the work promptly. If you know you are going to be absent, to submit any reading questions the day you miss, you must contact the instructor prior to the absence and arrangements will be made if reading questions are scheduled.

Grief Absence Policy for Students: Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). GAPS Policy: Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for misses assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student’s family.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct. Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, University Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]. For more details and clarity on academic integrity and plagiarism see Purdue's student guide for academic integrity <http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php>.

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent Behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, Violent Behavior is prohibited in or on any University Facility or while participating in any university activity.

Students with Disabilities: Purdue University is required to respond to the needs of the students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 through the provision of auxiliary aids and services that allow a student with a disability to fully access and participate in the programs, services, and activities at Purdue University.

If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is important that we talk about this at the beginning of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center (http://www.purdue.edu/drc) of an impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications.

Emergencies: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Nondiscrimination: Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Any student who believes they have been discriminated against may visit www.purdue.edu/report-hate to submit a complaint to the Office of Institutional Equity. Information may be reported anonymously.
Course Schedule

[Any changes to our class schedule will be posted online]

24-Aug: Class Expectations, Meeting Colleagues, Syllabus, and Seating
  Reading: Syllabus

Method, Comparison, and Causes

26-Aug: Definitions, Variables, and Clarity
  Reading: D&E Cpt 1

28-Aug: Mill’s Canon and Methods of Knowing
  Reading: D&E Cpt 1 (special attention to MSS and MDS systems of design)

31-Aug: Causation, Correlation, and their Problems
  Reading: D&E Cpt 2

2-Sept: Theory & Scope Conditions: How They Help
  Reading: D&E Cpt 2

4-Sept: Elements of the State
  Reading: D&E 46-60 in Cpt 3

The State: Formation and Development

7-Sept: No Class

9-Sept: Theories of State Emergence
  Reading: D&E 60-66
  Reading: Tilly (Online)(Skim)

11-Sept: Theories of State Emergence: Conflict
  Reading: Tilly (Online)

14-Sept: Why States are Rich or Poor
  Reading: D&E Cpt 4

16-Sept: Why States are Rich or Poor
  Reading: D&E Cpt 4

18-Sept: Resources, Development, & Politics
  Reading: Ross (Online)

21-Sept: Resource Curse & Avoidance
  Podcast: NPR Podcast (Online)
  Reading: (Online)

Democracy, Emergence, & Non-Democracy

23-Sept: Elements and Approaches to Democratic States
  Reading: D&E Cpt 5 (focus on first half)

25-Sept: The Emergence of Democracy: Theories Overview
  Reading: D&E 122-131 in Cpt 5
28-Sept: The Emergence of Democracies: Waves
   Reading: Huntington (Online)

30-Sept: Democratization and Society
   Reading: Tilly selection (Online)

2-Oct: A Story of Post-WWII Democratization
   Reading (Online)

5-Oct: Authoritarianism & Collapse
   Reading: D&E Cpt 6

7-Oct: Collapses & Backsliding: The Challenge of Seeing It
   Reading: (Online)

9-Oct: Authoritarian Democracy & Hybrid Regimes: Why Are They Stable?
   Reading: Levitsky & Way (Online)

12-Oct: Fall Break – No Class

   Reading: (Online)

Institutions of Government

16-Oct: Online Constitutions Activity (class does not physically meet)
   Reading: D&E Cpt 7
   Item Due: Online Activity
   Mid-term Handout (Made Available Online)

19-Oct: Designing Constitutions
   Reading: Lijphart (Online)

21-Oct: Designing Constitutions Workshop
   Reading: Prep Document (Online)

23-Oct: Legislatures: Types, & Elections
   Reading: D&E Cpt 8 (focus on first half, skim latter)
   Mid-term Due In Class as Hard Copy ONLY

26-Oct: Legislatures: Elections, & Representation
   Reading: D&E Cpt 8 (latter half)

28-Oct: The Executive in Types
   Reading: D&E Cpt 9 (first half, then skim)

30-Oct: Executives & Stability
   Reading: D&E Cpt 9 (latter half)
   Reading: Linz (Online)

2-Nov: Party Systems in Types
   Reading: D&E Cpt 10 (first half especially)

4-Nov: Processes of Coalition Formation
   Reading: D&E 234-238 in Cpt 9
   Reading: Activity Doc (Online)
6-Nov: How Parties Behave
   Reading: D&E Cpt 10 (latter half)
   Reading: Downs (Online)

9-Nov: Spatial Models of Party Behavior Continued and Applied
   Reading: Downs (Online)
   Reading: Activity Doc (Online)

**Contention, Violence, & Society**

11-Nov: Acting Collectively and Its Problems
   Reading: Olson (Online)

13-Nov: Revolutions & Contention in Types
   Reading: D&E Ctp 11 to 290

16-Nov: Revolutions & Big Forces
   Reading: Skocpol (Online)

18-Nov: The Rational Revolutionary
   Reading: Lichbach (Online)

20-Nov: Revolution, Information, and Focal Points
   Reading: (Online)
   **Item Due:** Country Report Due as Hard Copy Only

23-Nov: Online Social Movement Activity (class does not physically meet)
   Social Movements & Long Political Processes
   Reading: McAdam 1st selection (Online)
   **Item Due:** Online Activity

30-Nov: Social Movement Insurgencies by Way of Example
   Reading: McAdam 2nd selection (Online) (Skim where applicable)

2-Dec: Gender Politics and Representation
   Reading: D&E Cpt 13

4-Dec: Gender, Minorities, and the Quota Question
   Reading: (Online)

7-Dec: Fixing Democracy’s Flaw: Minority Representation and Movements
   Reading: Weldon (Online)

9-Dec: Ideology and Nationalism
   Reading: Gellner (Online)

11-Dec: Review Session
   Reading: Preparatory questions

Exam Week: Final Exam
***Final Exam Date, Time, Place TBA***