

# Comparative Politics / Introduction to the Politics of the Developing World

University of California, Santa Cruz  
Politics 60  
Spring 2009

Professor Benjamin L. Read  
Email: [blread \(at\) ucsc \(dot\) edu](mailto:blread@ucsc.edu)  
Office: 157 Merrill Faculty Annex, 831-459-4469  
<http://benread.net>

Teaching Assistants:  
Randy Cota / [rcota \(at\) ucsc \(dot\) edu](mailto:rcota@ucsc.edu)  
Don Kingsbury / [dkingsbu \(at\) ucsc \(dot\) edu](mailto:dkingsbu@ucsc.edu)  
Jan Kotowski / [jkotowsk \(at\) ucsc \(dot\) edu](mailto:jkotowsk@ucsc.edu)  
Sarah Mak / [smak \(at\) ucsc \(dot\) edu](mailto:smak@ucsc.edu)

Lectures: MWF 9:30a - 10:40a, Thimann Lecture 3  
Course web site: [http://ic.ucsc.edu/services/learning\\_management\\_system/](http://ic.ucsc.edu/services/learning_management_system/)  
Professor's office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00a - 12:30p, and by appointment  
Syllabus date: May 21, 2009

## Overview:

This course is an introduction to Comparative Politics that focuses on countries of the developing world; the main cases we look at are Nigeria, Indonesia, Afghanistan, India, Brazil, and South Korea. How do the political systems of such states work, or fail to work? How is governance in such areas affected by historical legacies, domestic and international economic forces, non-governmental organizations, ethnic strife, and the actions of other states? How does the study of politics help us to understand issues like poverty, disease, and instability? These and other questions will be examined in the process of learning and applying basic concepts of this branch of political science.

## Texts:

- W. Phillips Shively, ed., *Comparative Governance* (McGraw-Hill / Primis, 2009)  
Note that this is a custom-published textbook. It has Prof. Read's name on it as well as Shively's. It is available only as an E-book.  
ISBN: 0-39-015382 (\$35-\$40, go to <http://www.ebooks.primisonline.com>, then click on "Custom eBooks," and proceed from there.)
- Howard Handelman, *The Challenge of Third World Development*, 5th edition (Prentice Hall, 2009)  
Hard-copy option: ISBN: 0-13-605477-3 (available at the bookstore, list price \$69.60)  
E-book option: ISBN: 0-13-605479-X (\$34.80, <http://www.coursesmart.com/9780136054795>)
- Other items are on the course web page.

## Assignments:

- Read this syllabus all the way through.
- Regular attendance at lectures and discussion sections is a firm requirement of this course.  
Attendance will be taken at some lectures and at every section meeting. The instructors are understanding about family emergencies, illness or other serious exigencies, and will treat them as excused absences if verifiable documentation is provided. Unexcused absences will lower your grade. See the course web page or the professor's web page for absence forms.
- After the first lecture, please send an email to Prof. Read and to your teaching assistant, telling us about yourself. Include the following information: the name you would like to be called, what year you are in school (first, second, etc.), your major if you have one already, a phone number at which we could contact you if that were urgently necessary for some reason, where you are from, what factors made you decide to take the course, what foreign languages you have studied (if any)

and for how long, and what foreign countries you have visited or lived in (if any) and for how long. Also include anything else you'd like to tell us about your background and interests.

- Complete the readings, and prepare thoughts on the discussion questions, before each week's section. Discussion questions will be posted on the WebCT site and will also be circulated by email.
- Students' grades for the quarter will be determined as follows:
  - Section participation and reading comprehension (20 percent of the quarter grade)
  - Midterm examination (35 percent): In class on Friday, May 8, 2009.
  - Final examination (45 percent)

### **Some Things to Bear in Mind:**

- Your curiosity and participation are very important to the success of this class.
- There is no such thing as a stupid question. Ask anything!
- We strongly recommend that you use and check your UCSC email while you are taking this course. We plan to use that address to contact you.
- Email is also an excellent way to reach us. Often, questions submitted by email will be useful to the rest of the class and the answer will be forwarded accordingly (without the sender's name.)
- Students are encouraged to attend Prof. Read's office hours as well as those of their assigned teaching assistant, and to visit Prof. Read's personal web page for a few pieces of general advice to students.
- Anyone who has a disability that may require seating modifications, testing accommodations, or accommodations concerning other class requirements should contact Prof. Read during the first week of class so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

### **Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments:**

Most readings are found in the Shively and Handelman texts.

For all other readings, go to the course web page. A few readings are available directly via internet URLs given here in the syllabus, though links are also available on the course web page.

#### WEEK 1: INTRODUCING COMPARATIVE POLITICS, THE STATE, AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Monday, March 30	Lecture
Wednesday, April 1	Lecture
Friday, April 3	Lecture

- Handelman: chapter 1, "Understanding Underdevelopment," pp. 1-12 (not the full chapter)
- Shively: chapter 1, "Why (and How) Should We Compare?" and chapter 2, "The Setting of Power: the State"
- Jared Diamond, "From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy," chapter 14 of *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: Norton, 1997), pp. 265-292

#### WEEK 2: THE CONCEPTS OF REGIME TYPE, REGIME CHANGE, AND INSTITUTIONS

Monday, April 6	Lecture
Wednesday, April 8	Lecture
Friday, April 10	Lecture

- Handelman: chapter 2, "Democratic Change and the Change to Democracy," pp. 27-50
- Shively: chapter 3, "Holding the State Together," and chapter 4, "Political Conflict"

WEEK 3: THE CONCEPTS OF COLONIALISM, PLURALISM AND NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

Monday, April 13                      Lecture  
Wednesday, April 15                Lecture  
Friday, April 17                      Lecture

- Shively: chapter 5, "Decision Making in the State"
- Handelman: chapter 3, "Religion and Politics," and chapter 4, "The Politics of Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict," pp. 55-129
- David B. Abernethy, "Legacies," chapter 16 of *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415-1980* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000), pp. 363-386

WEEK 4: INDONESIA AND ISLAM

Monday, April 20                      Lecture  
Wednesday, April 22                Lecture  
Friday, April 24                      Lecture

- Shively: chapter on Indonesia by R. William Liddle
- R. William Liddle and Saiful Mujani, "The Real Face of Indonesian Islam," *New York Times* (October 11, 2003)
- Muhammad Qodari, "Indonesia's Quest for Accountable Governance," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 16, No. 2 (April 2005), pp. 73-87

WEEK 5: NIGERIA, OIL, AND THE MILITARY

Monday, April 27                      \* **No class** \*  
Wednesday, April 29                Lecture  
Friday, May 1                         Lecture

- Shively: chapter on Nigeria by Rotimi Suberu and Larry Diamond
- Handelman: chapter 9, "Soldiers and Politics," pp. 250-279
- International Crisis Group, "Nigeria: Failed Elections, Failing State?" Africa Report #126 (May 30, 2007), pp. 1-29
- George Packer, "The Megacity: Decoding the Chaos of Lagos," *The New Yorker* (November 13, 2006)

WEEK 6: REVIEW AND MIDTERM

Monday, May 4                         Lecture  
Wednesday, May 6                    Review for midterm  
Friday, May 8                         \* **Midterm Examination** \* To be held in class.

#### WEEK 7: AFGHANISTAN AND FAILED STATES

Monday, May 11	Lecture
Wednesday, May 13	Lecture
Friday, May 15	Lecture

- Martin Ewans, *Afghanistan: A New History*, 2nd edition (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2002), introduction and ch. 15-16, 18-20, pp. 1-9, 150-173, 182-207
- Barnett R. Rubin, "Afghanistan's Uncertain Transition from Turmoil to Normalcy," CSR No. 12 (March 2006), Council on Foreign Relations, pp. 1-40
- David Rohde and David E. Sanger, "How a 'Good War' in Afghanistan Went Bad," *New York Times* (August 12, 2007), <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/12/world/asia/12afghan.html>

#### WEEK 8: INDIA AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Monday, May 18	Lecture
Wednesday, May 20	* <b>Guest lecture</b> by Dr. Matthew C.J. Rudolph *
Friday, May 22	Lecture

- Shively: chapter on India by James Manor
- Handelman: chapter 5, "Women and Development," pp. 136-166
- Ashutosh Varshney, "India's Democratic Challenge," *Foreign Affairs* Vol 86, No. 2 (March/April 2007), pp. 93-106
- Ramachandra Guha, "The Biggest Gamble in History," *The Hindu* (January 27, 2002), <http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/mag/2002/01/27/stories/2002012700550100.htm>

#### WEEK 9: SOUTH KOREA AND DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

Monday, May 25	* <b>No class in observance of Memorial Day</b> *
Wednesday, May 27	Lecture
Friday, May 29	Lecture

- Shively: chapter on South Korea by Vicki L. Hesli, Jae Mook Lee and Hyeon Seok Park
- Handelman: chapter 1, "Understanding Underdevelopment," pp. 13-22; chapter 10, "The Political Economy of Third World Development," pp. 284-314

#### WEEK 10: BRAZIL AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Monday, June 1	Lecture
Wednesday, June 3	Lecture
Friday, June 5	Review for final exam

- Shively: chapter on Brazil by Barry Ames
- Handelman: chapter 7, "Rapid Urbanization and the Politics of the Urban Poor," pp. 196-220
- Barry Bearak, "Poor Man's Burden," *New York Times Magazine* (June 27, 2004)
- Wendy Hunter and Timothy J. Power, "Lula's Brazil at Midterm," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 16, No. 3 (July 2005), pp. 127-139