

# Comparative Politics of the Developing World

Politics 60 • 42355 • Winter 2014  
University of California, Santa Cruz

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Lectures: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:00a to 9:10a, Earth & Marine Sciences B206

Course web site: <http://ecommons.ucsc.edu/>

Professor's office hours: Mon. & Wed. 10:00a to 11:30a, 157 Merrill Faculty Annex, and by appointment

Date of this syllabus: January 5, 2014. Subject to change; check websites for latest version

## Overview:

This course is an introduction to Comparative Politics that focuses on countries of the developing world. The primary cases we look at are Nigeria, Indonesia, Afghanistan, India, and Brazil. How do the state agencies and political systems of such countries work, or fail to work? To what extent are they democratic, and what are the problems and contributions of democracy in such settings? How is governance in such places affected by legacies of colonialism and other historical forces, domestic and international economic currents, 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.

## Readings:

Every year I do my best to update the readings, trim out unnecessary material, and ensure that the readings provide the best value possible for the time and money that you spend on them.

- Custom course reader, "Comparative Politics of the Developing World" (McGraw-Hill Create, 2013)  
This is a custom-published textbook, based on a modular textbook edited by W. Phillips Shively and Paulette Kurzer titled *Comparative Governance: Political Structure and Diversity across the Globe*. It has my (Prof. Read's) name on it, though I have no financial relationship with McGraw-Hill. Please buy a copy of this text at the Bay Tree Bookstore. It contains five introductory chapters by Kurzer and longer chapters on Nigeria and Indonesia.
- Katharine Adeney and Andrew Wyatt, *Contemporary India* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).
- Riordan Roett, *The New Brazil* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2011).  
The above two books are also available at the Bay Tree Bookstore. I encourage you to buy them. But both these books will be on 2-hour reserve at McHenry library. Also, the full text of Roett's book is available as an online resource via the UCSC library system, accessible as follows: look it up in CruzCat, then click on the link that says "An electronic book accessible through the World Wide Web; click to view." If you are off-campus, you will need to log in first via the "off-campus" link from the main library page.
- Other assigned items are on the course web site (eCommons), where optional extra readings are also posted.

## Assignments, Ground Rules, and Notices:

- Read this syllabus all the way through.
- 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, which should be turned in to your teaching assistant.

- 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 to become 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 answers to the discussion questions, before each week's section. Discussion questions will be posted on the eCommons 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 (30 percent): In class on Friday, February 7, 2014
  - Final examination (50 percent): Tuesday, March 18, 2014, noon-3pm
- The percentages above are subject to adjustment. All grades are given on a 0-100 scale, where 92-98 is an A, 90-92 is an A-, 88-90 is a B+, 82-88 is a B, etc. A-range grades are reserved for work of exceptionally high quality.
- If you require accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to Prof. Read after lecture or during office hours within the first two weeks of the quarter. Feel free to request a private meeting with Prof. Read about this or anything else.

### 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!
- You must 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, such as "How to Read in College."

### Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments:

- For readings other than those in the course reader, Roett, and Adeney/Wyatt, go to the eCommons web site. A few readings are available directly via internet URLs given here in the syllabus, though links are also available on the course web page.

<b>WEEK ONE: COURSE INTRODUCTION, AND KEY CONCEPTS (1)</b>	
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Monday, January 6	Lecture
Wednesday, January 8	Lecture
Friday, January 10	Lecture

- Course reader: chapters 1 & 2: "Why (and How) Should We Compare?" and "The Setting of Power: the State"
- Howard Handelman, "Understanding Underdevelopment," *The Challenge of Third World Development*, 5th edition (2006), pp. 1-26
- Chapter 3, "Drivers of Development Transformation," of UNDP, "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World," Human Development Report 2013, pp. 63-85. Download this chapter from eCommons, or download the full report at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2013>
- Hans Rosling, "Debunking Myths about the Third World" (2006), 20-minute video, at <http://tinyurl.com/99rnm>. Transcript available on the TED site. Also titled "The best stats you've ever seen." If you are interested, you can use "Gapminder World" at [www.gapminder.org](http://www.gapminder.org) to explore data through graphs in the way that Rosling does.

## WEEK TWO: KEY CONCEPTS (2)

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

- Course reader: chapter 3, “Holding the State Together,” chapter 4, “Political Conflict,” and chapter 5, “Decision Making in the State”
- Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, “What Democracy Is ... And Is Not,” *Journal of Democracy*, 2/3 (Summer 1991), 75-88

### **Optional further reading:**

- 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 THREE: NIGERIA

Monday, January 20	<b>** Martin Luther King Day; no class **</b>
Wednesday, January 22	Lecture
Friday, January 24	Lecture

- Course reader: chapter on Nigeria by Rotimi Suberu and Larry Diamond
- John Campbell, “The ‘Election-Like Event’ of 2007,” in *Nigeria: Dancing on the Brink* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2011), pp. 97–113
- Peter M. Lewis, “Nigeria Votes: More Openness, More Conflict,” *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 22, #4 (October 2011)
- George Packer, “The Megacity: Decoding the Chaos of Lagos,” *The New Yorker* (November 13, 2006)
- Many optional readings are also available on eCommons.

## WEEK FOUR: INDONESIA

Monday, January 27	Lecture
Wednesday, January 29	Lecture
Friday, January 31	Lecture

- Course reader: chapter on Indonesia by R. William Liddle
- Saiful Mujani and R. William Liddle, “Personalities, Parties, and Voters,” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 21, #2 (2010), 35-49
- Edward Aspinall, “The Irony of Success,” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 21, #2 (2010), 21-34
- Many optional readings are also available on eCommons.

## WEEK FIVE: REVIEW & MIDTERM (AND START ON AFGHANISTAN)

Monday, February 3	Wrap-up on Nigeria and Indonesia
Wednesday, February 5	Review for midterm
Friday, February 7	<b>** In-class midterm **</b>

- 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
- Many optional readings are also available on eCommons; Afghanistan, in particular, has been the subject of much fine journalism and many think-tank reports.

## WEEK SIX: AFGHANISTAN

Monday, February 10	Lecture
Wednesday, February 12	Lecture
Friday, February 14	Lecture

- Elizabeth Rubin, “Karzai in His Labyrinth,” *New York Times Magazine*, August 4, 2009
- Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia* (2nd ed.; New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2010), ch 17: “The Taliban Resurgent 2000-2009”
- International Crisis Group, “Afghanistan: The “Long, Hard Road to the 2014 Transition,” October 8, 2012

### WEEK SEVEN: BRAZIL (1)

Monday, February 17	<b>** Presidents’ Day; no class **</b>
Wednesday, February 19	Lecture
Friday, February 21	Lecture

- Riordan Roett, *The New Brazil* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2011), ch. 1–4 (pp. 1–72)
- Excerpt from “Five Lives Affected by Vargas-Era Reforms,” in Levine and Crocitti (eds.) *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999), pp. 217-221
- Barry Ames, Andy Baker, and Lucio R. Rennó, “The Quality of Elections in Brazil: Policy, Performance, Pageantry, or Pork?,” in Peter R. Kingstone and Timothy J. Power, *Democratic Brazil Revisited* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008), pp. 107-133
- Many optional readings on Brazil are also available on eCommons.

### WEEK EIGHT: BRAZIL (2)

Monday, February 24	Lecture
Wednesday, February 26	Lecture
Friday, February 28	Lecture

- Riordan Roett, *The New Brazil* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2011), ch. 5-9 (pp. 73-152)
- Nicholas Lemann, “The Anointed,” *The New Yorker*, Vol. 87, Issue 39 (December 5, 2011).

### WEEK NINE: INDIA (1)

Monday, March 3	Lecture
Wednesday, March 5	Lecture
Friday, March 7	Lecture

- Katharine Adeney and Andrew Wyatt, *Contemporary India* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), introduction and chapters 1-3
- Selection from Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (New York: Random House, 2012), pp. 3-12, 17-30, 104-112, 221-232.
- Many optional readings are also available on eCommons; there is a large amount of fine writing on India.

### WEEK TEN: INDIA (2)

Monday, March 10	Lecture
Wednesday, March 12	Lecture
Friday, March 14	Lecture

- Katharine Adeney and Andrew Wyatt, *Contemporary India* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), chapters 4-7 (but the section on sport, popular culture, and food, pp. 171–189, is optional.)
- Ian Parker, “The I.D. Man,” *The New Yorker*, Vol. 87, Issue 30 (October 3, 2011)
- Robin Jeffrey and Assa Doron, “Mobile-izing: Democracy, Organization and India’s First ‘Mass Mobile Phone’ Elections,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 71, #1 (February 2012), 63-80

**Final exam: Tuesday, March 18, 2014, noon-3pm**