

**POS 203: Introduction to Politics – Comparing Empires and Nations.
Fall 2010 Professor Erickson**

Professor: Christian Erickson (cerickso@roosevelt.edu - <http://faculty.roosevelt.edu/erickson/>)

Meeting Times: Wednesdays 6-8:30pm.

Location: AUD 430.

Office Hours and location:

- o Downtown - AUD 757: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 to 5:45 or by appointment.

Phone Number: (312) 341 3707(office/voice mail).

Course objectives: The goal of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to the discipline of political science by placing a primary emphasis on the field of comparative politics. Comparative politics is a field of the discipline of political science that strives to understand the origins, and course of evolution, of diverse systems of governance. Comparative politics, and related disciplines of comparative sociological and historical inquiry, are based on the development and testing of theories about how to understand and compare both the similarities and the unique properties of the various systems of governance that nation-states and other large-scale human political structures, such as empires, have developed. In this course, the examination of comparative politics is grouped thematically and examines the origins, development, and future of empires, industrialized democracies, post-communist and post-authoritarian transitional states, and developing or “third world” states. Besides being structured by a typology of different types of empires and states, this class will also examine how each of these categories of states and empires is responding to unique political problematics posed by the first decades of the 21st century such as: globalization; war, terrorism and other forms of political violence and state failure; the rise of transnational criminal organizations; and the impact of technological developments and global environmental and health concerns. Various methods for analyzing industrialized, transitional, and developing countries will be discussed and acquired by students in order to prepare them for more advanced inquiry into the politics of various states. In particular we will focus on how to compare empires and countries in the following areas: economic development and democracy; violent political dissent and social revolution; non-violent political dissent and social movements; transitions to democracy; and, human rights.

Prerequisites: None.

Course texts and other materials: All books are available at the Roosevelt University bookstore.

Required Texts:

- 1) Hauss, Charles. 2011. *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*. 7th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.
- 2) Howe, Stephen. 2002. *Empire: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 3) Landman, Todd. 2008. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge.

On-line required and recommended texts: I will be using the course website to distribute, or provide links to, recent articles and other sources that reflect themes covered in the course. Some of these readings may be required readings, and others are texts that are recommended for use in either your research papers, or if you are interested in exploring particular subjects in greater depth.

Current events requirement: Students are expected to keep up with current events generally, and particularly related to countries, regions, which are assigned for any particular week. Links to relevant news sources will be provided from course website for classes starting September 8th. Oral presentations will be built around this current events requirement.

Course Assignments: This course places equal emphasis on readings and lecture. All students are expected to have completed weekly reading and other assignments prior to coming to class. Students are required to do **one** brief presentation and lead a discussion during class on a subject raised by the readings and recent (last 6 months) news stories related to this subject. The student will do one 5 minute presentation, during one class session. A more detailed description of the presentation assignment, and

possible topics, will be distributed September 8th, you must schedule a week for your presentation by September 22nd, and the presentations will begin on the September 22nd.

Total class grade will be derived from your participation in several ways:

Class participation: 30% of the total class grade
(Attendance, in-class participation/assignments, occasional discussion assignments
15% - 5 minute presentation 15%).

Midterm exam (October 20th): 20%.

Research/Term paper (December 8th): 25%.

Cumulative final exam (December 15th): 25%.

There will be no make-up examinations without medical excuse or prior arrangement with the professor. Make-up exams will be penalized 10 – 20 points on a 100 point scale (10 points if scheduled w/n a week of the exam date, 20 points after that).

Course website: Our course also has a website: <http://faculty.roosevelt.edu/Erickson/courses/pos203/>. The syllabus is posted on this site, and it will be used for announcements, archiving lecture slides, providing research links, distributing or providing links to supplemental articles, and other purposes as we collectively decide over the course of the semester.

Research paper: Each of you will write a term paper of 2500 to 2750 words (roughly ten or eleven typed, double-spaced pages w/12 point font) on a topic of your choice that pertains to the themes of the course. The term paper should not be a basic report on a subject, but rather should 1) address a theoretical *question* that is introduced by one of the readings for class, which is 2) backed up by empirical evidence that is organized according to the methods discussed in Hauss, Howe, Landman, or introduced in lecture. You must then 3) state your own analysis and opinion, and 4) substantiate your analysis and opinion with facts and theories that you have learned in the course of readings, lecture, and your own research. A more detailed summary of the term paper assignment will be distributed September 8th. The paper assignment is broken up into 4 assignments: 1) paragraph long paper description with 3 sources; 2) one page long paper description with 6 sources; 3) one and a half page description, annotated bibliography with 9 sources; outline; 4) final research paper.

The research paper has 4 assignments:

1. Class 4 – September 22nd: A paragraph long paper description with 3 sources. Assignment is worth 5% of overall paper grade.
2. Class 9 – October 27th: One page paper description with 6 sources. Assignment is worth 5% of overall paper grade.
3. Class 12 – November 17th: one and a half page description, annotated bibliography with 9 sources; outline. Assignment is worth 10% overall paper grade.
4. Class 14 – December 8th: Final research paper. 80% of overall paper grade.

The subject of the research paper should examine issues related to the contemporary themes of the course: economic development and democracy; violent political dissent and social revolution; non-violent political dissent and social movements; transitions to democracy; and, human rights. Students will examine these issues in depth by comparing and contrasting how these themes affect several countries (at least 2, ideally 3, no more than 5 states) according to the basic research methods and logics that are introduced in class.

Paper requirements: research bibliography properly researched and cited; no plagiarism; descriptive statistics requirement (numbers – no analytic statistics); basic graphics with MS Excel and/or other spreadsheet programs.

All assignments are to be turned in via e-mail to me before class on the due date.

Late Policy/Plagiarism: Without a valid medical or other excuse or prior permission of instructor late papers will be penalized 3 points (on a 100 point scale) for each 24 hour period the paper is late, and 5 points for each 24 hour period after 48 hours. Students are required to review Roosevelt University policies on plagiarism and will be held to standards of scholarship outlined in these policies. If plagiarism is detected the student will be reported as specified in the Roosevelt University plagiarism policy, and will receive an F in the class. All students are required to submit an electronic copy of their papers for scanning by plagiarism detection software.

Course Schedule:

Class 1: September 1st. Introduction: Comparing Empires and Nations.

Readings: No assigned readings, first day of class.

Class 2: September 8th. Analytic Framework: How to Compare Empires and Nations.

Readings: Hauss – Inside cover, List of Tables – Chapter 1 (inside cover – 19).

Howe, Intro and Chapter 1 (1-34).

Landman, Title page, table of contents through Chapter 1, end of p. 21.

Written Assignment: At least a one paragraph answer to the following set of questions.

What is an empire? What is a nation-state? What to compare? How to compare? Why compare?

Research paper assignment 1 and Presentation assignments distributed.

Class 3: September 15th. Empires by Land and Sea, How to Compare Countries

Readings: Howe - Chapter 2 and Chapter 3

Landman, Chapter 2.

Class 4: September 22nd. Empire's Aftermath, Comparing few Countries.

Readings: Howe – Chapter 4 and 5.

Hauss Chapter 2

Landman, Chapter 4

Due: Presentation date/topic selection/Research paper assignment 1 due.

Presentations begin.

Class 5: September 29th. Empires/Nations, United States, Democratization and Economic Development

Readings: .Hauss Chapter 3

Landman, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 100-110

Paper Assignment 1 returned.

Class 6: October 6th. Democratization and Economic Development: Industrialized Democracies – United Kingdom and France.

Readings: Hauss, Chapters 4 and 5.

Landman, Chapter 6 – cont'd (p. 110-122).

Midterm Exam Guide distributed.

Class 7: October 13th. Democratization and Economic Development Germany and the EU

Readings: Hauss, Chapter 6. and Chapter 7.

Landman, Chapter 6 122-129.

Midterm Exam Guide discussed.

Paper Assignment 2 distributed

Class 8: October 20th. Midterm

Readings: No readings – midterm exam.

Class 9: October 27th. Transitions to Democracy in Authoritarian/Totalitarian States.

Readings: Hauss Part 3 Chapter 8
Landman, Chapter 9

Due: Paper Assignment 2.

Class 10: November 3rd. Violent political dissent and social revolution Authoritarian/Totalitarian States - Russia.

Readings: Hauss, Chapter 9.
Landman Chapter 7.

*Paper Assignment 2 returned.
Paper Assignment 3 distributed.*

Class 11: November 10th. Human Rights and Non-violent Dissent in Authoritarian/Totalitarian States – People’s Republic of China.

Readings: Hauss, Chapter 10.
Landman Chapter 11

Class 12: November 17th. Human Rights in the Developing World. – Less Developed Countries and India.

Readings: Hauss, Chapter 11 and 12.

Due Paper Assignment 3.

November 24th no class Thanksgiving Break.

Class 13: December 1st. Human Rights in the Developing World – Iran and Iraq.

Readings: Hauss, Chapter 13 and 14.

Paper Assignment 3 returned.

Class 14: December 8th. Human Rights in the Developing World – Nigeria and Mexico/Forecasting

Readings: Hauss, Chapter 15, 16, and 17.

Final Paper Due

Final Exam – Wednesday December 15th 6:00-8:30pm.

Final Paper returned.

Grades turned in Wednesday December 22nd available in the evening.