

Spring 2004
POLS 260-5
T/TH, 3:30-4:45
DuSable 246

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Office hours: Wed/Thu 11-12
& by appointment

POLS 260: FOREIGN AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS

This course introduces students to the comparative study of politics, providing information about how different kinds of political systems work. We will look at politics in a general way and then analyze in greater depth the political systems, key institutions, and political culture of particular nations, including the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, Japan, and Thailand.

A major purpose of this course is to open your minds to the diversity of political systems found in the world. The course aims to help you study and compare these political systems critically and with an open mind. The more you learn about politics and people throughout the world, the more you will understand about yourself and your own government.

Assigned Readings:

We will read a comparative politics textbook by Michael G. Roskin, *Countries and Concepts*, 8th edition (Prentice Hall, 2004). In 2004 the book was revised, making it relatively up-to-date. To benefit as much as possible from class meetings, students should do the assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned. (Some short readings may also be handed out in class or placed on Reserve desk at Founders Memorial Library.)

Students will benefit immensely by keeping up with current news developments. This will help them raise questions and to understand current affairs around the world. In addition to using web sites noted in the texts as well as other online sources, students should consider subscribing to publications such as *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Economist* or *The New York Times*.

Class Policies:

The Department of Political Science Statement on Academic Integrity: Cheating will not be tolerated. The NIU Undergraduate Catalog states that “Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written whole or in part by someone else. Students are guilty of plagiarism,

intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines or other sources without identifying or acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them.

If any student engages in plagiarism, the student may be subjected to sanctions ranging from a lowered grade on the assignment to academic dismissal (following judicial proceedings) at the discretion of the instructor. If any student aids another student in either cheating or engaging in plagiarism, both students will be held responsible for their behavior.” Any student found guilty of cheating during exams or plagiarizing will receive an “F” for the course.

Students are required to come to class **on time**, stay for the **whole** class period, and be **respectful** of others in the classroom. Cellular phones, pagers, or other electronic devices that make noise must be turned off during class.

Incompletes: The instructor will grant **no incompletes**, accept **no late papers**, and will grant **no make-up exams** except under a medical or personal emergency (with prior notice and verifiable documentation).

Students with disabilities: Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NIU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have some impact on their coursework and for which they may require accommodations should notify the instructor and the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR) on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building. CAAR will assist students in making appropriate accommodations with course instructors. It is important that CAAR and instructors be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester. Students with special needs should talk to the professor as soon as possible.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There are three exams, two midterm exams (20% each) and one final exam (40%). The format of each exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay (three paragraphs). The final exam is comprehensive, but approximately 65% of the questions will be on material covered after the second midterm exam.

Short papers: Each student is required to turn in **two** 3-page essays on current political events or issues outside the U.S. Each essay must include your analysis of the selected political event in relation to class readings and lecture. Each essay counts for 5% of your grade. Sources of international news include both hard copy and online version of the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, BBC World News, Christian Science Monitor, Economist, and websites noted in the required textbook for this course. Sources must be acknowledged in the paper.

Students must hand in each essay on the due date (see course schedule for the due dates). An essay submitted after the due date will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade

per day. (Assignments should be handed in to me personally or given to a department secretary to be time-stamped.)

Attendance and participation: Attendance is taken regularly. Grades will be based on both attendance and contributions to class discussion that are relevant, insightful, and that help to stimulate participation by all class members.

Summary of course requirements:

Two objective midterm exams (20% each)	40%
Two short papers (5% each)	10%
Class attendance and participation	10%
Final exam	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Awards and Resources:

Undergraduate Writing Awards: The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department's spring graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and \$50.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by February 28. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student's name and one without the student's name. Only papers written in the previous *calendar* can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year's competition even if the student has graduated.

Department of Political Science Web Site: Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to <http://polisci.niu.edu>

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS
AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

Date	Topic	Required Readings
January 13	Introduction	
January 15	Nation and State	Roskin, Chapter 1, pp. 1-19
January 20	Comparing Polities	*Schmitter, "what Democracy is...and is not" (on reserve desk)
January 22	Great Britain	Roskin, Chapter 2 & 3, pp. 20-52
January 27	Great Britain	Roskin, Chapter 5, pp. 66-78
January 29	Great Britain	Roskin, Chapter 4, pp. 53-65
February 3	Great Britain	Roskin, Chapter 6, pp. 79-93
February 5	France / **First short paper due at start of class**	Roskin, Chapter 7, pp. 94-112
February 10	France	Roskin, Chapter 8 & 10, pp. 113-129; pp. 147-161
February 12	France	Roskin, Chapter 9, pp. 130-146
February 17	France / Review for exam	Roskin, Chapter 11, pp. 162-175
February 19	First Midterm Exam (20%)	Covering readings from January 13 through February 17
February 24	Japan	Roskin, Chapter 22 & 23 pp. 338-366
February 26	Japan	Roskin, Chapter 25, pp. 382-395
March 2	Japan	Roskin, Chapter 24, pp. 367-381
March 4	Japan	Roskin, Chapter 26, pp. 396-411; *Ibison, "Radical Reverts to the Old Pattern" (on reserve desk)
March 9, 12	Spring Break	Enjoy your spring break!
March 16	Russia	Roskin, Chapter 17 & 18, pp. 260-294
March 18	Russia	Roskin, Chapter 20, pp. 310-323
March 23	Russia	Roskin, Chapter 19, pp. 295-309
March 25	Russia / Review for exam	Roskin, Chapter 21, pp. 324-337
March 30	Second Midterm Exam (20%)	Covering reading from February 24 through March 25
April 1	China	Roskin, Chapter 27, pp. 416-429
April 6	China	Roskin, Chapter 27, pp. 436-440 (extra reading TBA)
April 8	China	Roskin, Chapter 27, pp. 430-435; pp. 440-447
April 13	China	TBA
April 15	Thailand / **Second short paper due at start of class**	*Wilson, Historical Background (on reserve desk)
April 20	Thailand	*Neher, Political Succession in Thailand (on reserve desk)

		*Phongpaichit & Baker, “Power in Transition: Thailand in the 1990s” (on reserve desk)
April 22	Thailand	*Unger, “Thailand’s Political Economy” (on reserve desk)
April 27	Thailand	*Connors, “Framing the People’s Constitution” (on reserve desk) *Hewison, “Responding to Economic Crisis, Thailand’s Localism (on reserve desk)
April 29	Review for final exam	Q&A
May 4	Final exam (40%)	In class, comprehensive