

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Political Science 002: MODERN WORLD GOVERNMENTS

Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. E. Durukan

Days: MW 10:40 am- 12:05 pm

Section: 0417

Location: Room 1001

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Office Hours: M-12-1pm; T-12-1:30pm; W-12-1:50pm; Th-12-1pm Room: INST 25

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Add Deadline: Sept. 6

Drop Deadlines: Sept. 8w/o penalty); Nov.17 (w/W)

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is a comparative study of the major governments of the modern world in terms of their ideologies, political institutions and processes, political cultures, and foreign policies. Emphasis is placed on the governments of United Kingdom, France, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Russian Federation, China, India, Nigeria and Iran. In this class we will be examining different types of structures (economic, cultural, identity, political), before turning to how individuals are linked to the political system and how they make political choices. Ultimately, we will take a look at how structures and choices interact, including the extent to which existing economies, social, political structures both constrain decision makers and provide them with opportunities.

Course Materials:

There is only one required book for the course which can be purchased at the Mission College Bookstore:

Comparative Politics: Structures & Choices by Lowell Barrington

Students are also expected to follow current events. Ways to do so include following a daily newspaper, for instance the Los Angeles Times, a weekly news magazine, like Time or Newsweek; watching a TV news program covering domestic political news such as "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" at 6 p.m. and BBC news at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Channel 28; and finally,

listening to public radio on 89.3 or 89.9FM. You can also have access to most of these papers, magazines, and news programs on the internet.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend the class regularly and also participate in discussions. I reserve the right to drop you from the course in the case of excessive absence, and tardiness.

Plagiarism is punished by grade F. Plagiarism can be defined as presenting someone else's work as one's own work, in general terms. The submission of work that is not a product of the student's own effort is dishonest and subject to severe disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the college. Students are responsible for finding class notes of the day they are not able to attend.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend the class regularly and also participate in discussions. I reserve the right to drop you from the course in the case of excessive absence.

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.
- failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof
- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs,

photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them.

Course Requirements:

Readings and Exams

Students should come to class prepared, which means all the assigned readings must be completed before the class.

There will be three tests and a final exam. Each test will be worth of 200 points and final is worth of 300 points. Only the best two test scores will be counted towards your class grade. You will be responsible for both your book and the lecture notes. You can make up for the tests you have missed. However, you will have to wait until November, the date when all the make-up tests will be given. Also, bear in mind that make-ups will be given only if you have missed a test for a legitimate reason. So I strongly advise that students e-mail prior to the exam. Just not showing up at the exam day is not acceptable.

Country Comparison Paper and Presentation

A ten-page team solution paper is to be written and presented by groups of 2. Groups are required to submit countries of their choice by Oct. 16 for approval. Finding partners, getting together and brainstorming is strongly recommended to come up with good ideas for your group project. More information will be provided later during the semester.

All the papers are due on Nov. 28. Presentations of these papers will be also start the same day. Before the presentation, each team should provide a one-page paper with the names of the group members, the topic, and an outline of the presentation.

Extra Credit: Optional Internship

Students may select to do internship with a political official or a candidate of their choice. LAMC does not favor, promote, nor endorse one political office/official/candidate over another. If you decide opt for this assignment, you are required to write a three-page reflection paper explaining your internship and how this experience has helped you understand the political process better.

Performance Evaluation:

Grades are based on the following:

Tests : 200 points each (400 total)

Final Exam : 300

Group Paper : 250 points

Participation & Attendance: 50 points

Total : 1000 points

A : 1000-900 points (Outstanding work)

B : 899- 800 points (Above average)

C : 799- 700 points (Average work, meets basic requirements)

D : 699-600 points (Below average, but passing)

F : 599-0 points (Unsatisfactory, fails to meet basic requirements)

Miscellaneous:

Grades will not be affected by the political views or comments of the students. To show respect for your fellow students' beliefs, views, and ideas is the number one priority!

Lecture Schedule

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| Aug. 28, W | Introduction |
| Sept. 4 | Why Should We Learn Politics & Government? What is Politics? What is Government? The Comparative Study of Politics (Ch. 1) |
| Sept. 11, W | Societies, Nations, States (Ch. 2) |
| Sept. 18, W | Economic Class and Development (Ch. 3) |
| Sept. 25, W | Test # 1 Political Culture and Ideology (Ch. 4) |
| Oct. 2, W | Identity Structure (Ch. 5) |
| Oct. 9, W | Paper Workshop |
| Oct. 16 W | Political Systems (Ch. 6) |
| Oct. 23, W | Test # 2 |
| Nov. 30, W | Legislatures & Executives (Ch. 7) |
| Nov. 6, W | Judiciaries & Militaries (Ch. 8) |
| Nov. 14, W | Political Participation (Ch. 9) |
| Nov. 13, W | Test # 3 |

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| Nov. 20, W | Leadership (Ch. 11) |
| Dec. 4 W | Student Presentations |
| Dec. 11, 3:00- 5:00 pm. | Final |

At the end of the semester you will be able to

1. Compare the structures of branches of governments across diverse states
2. Compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary systems
3. Describe leadership styles across countries analyzed in this course