Winthrop University
Comparative Politics
PLSC 207, Sec 001, 3 credits
Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney
Spring 2015
Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-10:45am
KIN 115
disneyj@winthrop.edu

Political Science Office Phone: (803) 323-2209  My Office Phone: (803) 323-4668
PLSC Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00am-12:00pm and by appointment
PLSC Office Location: Bancroft Hall, Room #328
WMST Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm and by appointment
WMST Office Location: Bancroft Annex G-03

Required Text


Disney, Jennifer Leigh. “Democratization, Civil Society, and Women’s Organizing in Post-Revolutionary Mozambique and Nicaragua,” 2003, Article Sent By Email as PDF-File.

It is also recommended that you monitor the news media for stories relating to the topics and countries discussed in class.

Course Description
This course is designed to introduce you to the fundamental concepts of Comparative Politics. As such, it is designed to cover the diversity of political, economic, social and cultural systems that exist around the world today. We will explore the theories and practices of modernization, economic development, political development, dependency, party systems, electoral systems, interest groups, social movements and women and politics within a global framework, focusing on: 1) domestic political systems; 2) the relationship between states; and 3) the impact of the international context as a whole. In addition, this course will apply the theories of comparative politics to 10 specific country case studies from the so-called First, Second and Third worlds, including advanced industrial nations, post-communist nations, and developing nations. This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.

Course Goals
This course meets the Global Perspectives and Social Science Requirements of the General Education Program. It has a broad liberal arts orientation and a writing component. This course contributes to student mastery of the following University Level Competencies (ULCs): Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live. Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural
Students enrolled in this course will gain an understanding and appreciation of: (1) the basic theoretical concepts of Comparative Politics; (2) the application of such concepts to 10 countries of the world from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe; and (3) the global diversity of political, economic, and cultural systems existing around the world both historically and today.

Students enrolled in this course will learn to: (1) understand various aspects of the political, cultural, and economic development of countries from around the world; (2) use basic concepts of comparative politics as tools to describe, explain, and even predict the political realities of our world; (3) know how to conduct research on international topics using multiple resources; and (4) successfully complete a research paper.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
At the completion of this course, students should be able to answer the following questions: What is politics? What is Comparative Politics? What is power and are there several different types of power? What is democracy and are there several different types of democracy? What are modernization, development, and dependency? What is the difference between economic development and political development? What are the different types of political and economic systems that exist in the world? What is the relationship between capitalism and democracy? After completing this course, students should be able to use the basic concepts of Comparative Politics as tools to describe, explain, and even predict the political realities of our world.

**Student Learning Activities and Course Requirements**
Discussion is a very important aspect of this course, both for critically comparing and contrasting ideas as well as for interesting, inclusive, and enjoyable dialogue. Consult sources such as Newsweek, Time, www.nytimes.com, www.bbcnews.com, www.cnn.com to keep up with current international political events.

You will also be required to complete a three-part comparative politics research project, culminating in a **6 page research paper** based on a **country case study** that you will select this semester. The research paper is designed to help you with your reading comprehension and critical thinking skills, as you apply the concepts we will be discussing in class to a country of your choosing. You can choose any of several areas of study to pursue for your research paper, such as: political history, political culture, political economy, structure of the government, war, democratization, development/underdevelopment, immigration, women’s movements, etc.

This research project will have three parts: (1) a country case study **2-page fact sheet, worth 10%** of your grade and due Thursday, February 17; (2) a **two-paragraph paper topic proposal and a 6-source annotated bibliography worth 10%** of your grade and due on Tuesday, March 24; (3) the final country case study **research paper, worth 20%** of your grade and due Tuesday, April 21. Thus, cumulatively, this project is worth **40% of your grade**. Your papers will be deducted one letter grade for each day they are late. **ALL FINAL PAPERS must be submitted to Turnitin.com by the due date in order to be graded. The Class ID is 9319768 and the Enrollment Password is Compare.**
In addition, the course will consist of **two written, in-class exams**, a mid-term and a final, consisting of shorter and longer essay questions. The questions will ask you to show that you understand and can apply key concepts we have discussed in class.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**
Attending class and being engaged in discussions is an important part of this course. It will help you to fulfill the course objectives. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the day’s reading. You are expected to attend all classes. Your class participation grade is based on attendance; attention to lectures; and your informed discussion and participation in class. **Class participation points will be based on both the quality and quantity of your contributions throughout the semester.**

**MID-TERM EXAM/FINAL EXAM**
The mid-term exam and final exam will include questions from the reading assignments, as well as any quizzes, class discussions and lectures. Anything we discuss in class could be on the exams. They will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay. The final exam will be cumulative.

Make-up exams will only be approved when you have a **documented** reason for missing the exam. **You must notify me prior to the exam.** Unchangeable, documented circumstances are the only acceptable reasons for missing the exam. If you get a note from a doctor (or student health services) it must state that you were so ill at the time of the exam that you could not attend.

**Your Grade Composition will be as follows:**
- Mid-Term Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- 2 page Country Case Study Fact Sheet 10%
- Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography 10%
- 6 page Country Case Study Concept Paper 20%
- Daily Class Participation/Paper Presentation 10%

The **Grade Distribution** in this class will be as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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**Grading:**

**A** 93-100 = **A**  **Designates work of superior quality**

90-92 = **A-**  
Class participation is voluntary, frequent, relevant, and reflects that you have both read and thought about the material. Performance on exams is consistently strong; demonstrates complete mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is clear, well-organized and thought-provoking, and free of grammatical or mechanical errors.

**B** 87-89 = **B+**  **Designates work of high quality**

Class participation is voluntary, frequent, and reflects that you are keeping up
83-86 = B  with the assigned materials. Performance on exams is very strong; demonstrates mastery of facts and concepts. Written work reflects a good understanding of the issues and concepts. Writing is clear with minimal errors.

80-82 = B-  

C  77-79 = C+  Designates work that minimally meets the course requirements

73-76 = C  Class participation is occasional and/or rarely voluntary, with comments that reveal only a superficial grasp of issues and concepts. Performance on exams demonstrates acceptable degree of mastery of facts and concepts. Written work may contain arguments that are confusing, with minimal evidence of organization. Writing is marred by errors.

70-72 = C-  

D  67-69 = D+  Reflects minimal clarity and comprehension

63-66 = D  Class participation is minimal, never voluntary, and reveals that you have either not read the assigned materials or did not understand the readings. Performance on exams demonstrates minimal mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is confusing, contradictory, repetitive, and/or not supported by either your own ideas or your sources. Writing is marred by errors.

60-62 = D-  

F  0-59 = F  Unsatisfactory performance along most (or all) measures.

Both attendance and class participation are important aspects of your grade, not to mention of learning the material. **YOU MUST KEEP YOURSELF UP TO DATE WITH THE SYLLABUS.** This course is designed to be a discussion course. Therefore, you are required to read and think about all assigned materials before class. Remember, learning is not a spectator sport! I am also very approachable. Please feel free to come to me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have as the class progresses.

**Schedule of Class Topics and Reading Assignments**

**Syllabus Change Policy:** This calendar is subject to change during the semester. I will provide any information on changes during class. It is your responsibility to keep track of this information.

**I. BASIC CONCEPTS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**WEEK ONE**

**WHY COMPARE?**

January 13  Discussion of Course Description and Requirements
Why Compare? What is Comparative Politics?

**WEEK TWO**

**POLITICS AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

January 15  What is Politics?
Comparative Politics: What Is It? Why Study It?
Chapter 1, pp.3-29
January 20  Major Topics of Comparative Politics  
Chapter 2, pp.30-55  


Work on Selecting Country Using The UNDP Human Development Report, CIA World Factbook, and BBC News  

WEEK THREE  POWER AND DEMOCRACY  

January 22  Research Project Country Selection  
Power, Chapter 4, p. 96-118  

Direct v. Indirect Democracy/Republic/Representative Government  

WEEK FOUR  DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM  

January 29  Ideology, Chapter 13, pp.312-341  
Hand-Out Continued: Types of Economic Systems  

February 3  Political Economy: Laissez-Faire, Central Planning, Mixed Economies, Welfare States, Chapter 14, pp. 342-365  
Hand-Out Continued: Types of Economic Systems  

WEEK FIVE  STATES AND NATIONS  

February 5  The State and Its Institutions, Chapter 5, pp.124-146  

February 10  States and Nations: Nationalism, Nation-Building, Supranationalism  
Chapter 6, pp. 147-170  

WEEK SIX  ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT  

February 12  First, Second, and Third World Nation-States  
Politics of Development, Chapter 15, pp. 366-391  
Hand-Out: Modernization Theory – Marx v. Rostow  

February 17  Research Project Part I: Country Case Study Fact Sheets Due  
Hand-Out Continued: Modernization Theory v. Dependency Theory  

WEEK SEVEN  POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIZATION  

February 19  Democracy: How Does It Work? State Institutions and Electoral Systems  
Chapter 8, pp.194-220  

Chapter 9, pp.221-241

Conditions for Democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq
Chapter 10, 242-269

WEEK EIGHT  PEOPLE, POWER, AND POLITICAL CULTURE

February 26  People and Politics: Voters, Parties, Interest Groups, Dissidence, Revolution, Chapter 11, pp.270-292

Political Culture, Chapter 12, pp.293-311

Interim Grading Deadline

March 3  Catch-Up Class and Mid-Term Review

WEEK NINE  MID-TERM EXAM

March 5  Mid-Term Exam: Theories and Concepts of Comparative Politics

II. COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

WEEK TEN  UNITED KINGDOM & FRANCE

March 10  The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Chapter 16, pp. 341-387

March 11  Course Withdraw Deadline

March 12  France, Chapter 17, pp. 388-436

March 16-20  SPRING BREAK

WEEK ELEVEN  FRANCE & GERMANY

March 24  Research Project Part II: Paper Topic Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due

France, Chapter 17, pp. 388-436

March 26  Germany, Chapter 18, pp. 437-483

WEEK TWELVE  RUSSIA & CHINA

March 31  Russia, Chapter 20, pp.525-578

April 2  China, Chapter 21, pp. 579-627
WEEK THIRTEEN DEVELOPING/THIRD WORLD/POSTCOLONIAL OVERVIEW

April 7  Third World Overview: Mexico/Brazil/Nigeria/South Africa
Chapters 22 and 23, pp. 702-796

April 9  Mozambique and Nicaragua – Powerpoint Overview

WEEK FOURTEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND NICARAGUA

April 14  Mozambique and Nicaragua – Disney Chapter 1

April 16  Mozambique and Nicaragua – Disney, “Democratization, Civil Society and
Women’s Organizing…”

WEEK FIFTEEN CLASS PRESENTATIONS

April 21  FINAL PAPERS DUE AT START OF CLASS
PRESENTATIONS OF PAPERS

April 23  PRESENTATIONS OF PAPERS CONTINUED

April 28  STUDY DAY FINAL EXAM REVIEW

May 1   FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, MAY 1st 11:30-1:30

Student Obligations

Attendance and Class Participation
Class attendance is required. Excessive absences will lower your grade or lead to your being dropped from the
class. Class participation, which requires your presence, will raise or lower grades on the borderline. If prolonged
illness or other problems cause you to be absent for an extended period of time, please call me and let me know. In
addition, every student is expected to arrive on time. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and is not
acceptable. Every 2 latenesses are equivalent to an absence. If you have difficulty getting to class on time, see me
and explain why.

Class Listserv: I will make frequent use of the class listserv provided by the Division of Computing and
Information Technology, and you are required to subscribe to it. For additional information, go to:
http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081

Exam Policy
You must take exams on the days they are assigned. If an emergency arises, you must call me and leave a message
on my voicemail by the day of the exam and be prepared to document the emergency in writing. I will then assess
the possibility of a make-up exam. If this policy is not followed, you will receive a 0 for the exam, which you
cannot afford if you want to pass the class.

Student Conduct Code
As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult
individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the “Student Conduct Code
Academic Misconduct Policy” in the online Student Handbook

Winthrop’s Office of Disability Services (ODS) Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to
education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator,
ODS Program Director, at 323-2233, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations early in the semester.

**Winthrop’s Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)** identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination and application process. ONCA is located in Dinkins 222B. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of the ONCA webpage [www.winthrop.edu/onca](http://www.winthrop.edu/onca) and email onca@winthrop.edu for more information.

**Winthrop’s Academic Success Center** is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu or [www.winthrop.edu/success](http://www.winthrop.edu/success).

**Winthrop’s Office of Victims Assistance (OVA)** provides services to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking as well as educational programming to prevent these crimes from occurring. The staff assists all survivors, regardless of when they were victimized, in obtaining counseling, medical care, housing options, legal prosecution, and more. In addition, the OVA helps students access support services for academic problems resulting from victimization. The OVA is located in 204 Crawford and can be reached at (803) 323-2206. In the case of an after-hours emergency, please call Campus Police at (803)323-3333, or the local rape crisis center, Safe Passage, at their 24-hour hot-line, (803)329-2800. For more information please visit: [http://www.winthrop.edu/victimsassistance/](http://www.winthrop.edu/victimsassistance/)

**Taking Notes**
Every student should take notes on material covered in class lectures and discussion as well as on the reading. You will be responsible in exams for both material covered in the text and in class.

**Plagiarism**
Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. Consult your Writing 101 Writing Manual for proper citation techniques. Please consult the Political Science Department Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct for further clarifications: [http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kedrowskik/academicmisconduct.htm](http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kedrowskik/academicmisconduct.htm).

**Country Case Study Assignment**

1. **Country Case Study Fact Sheet**
The best required resource for you to use for your country case study fact sheet is the UNDP Human Development Report, published annually and available online. OR type in Search Engine: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Click On: Human Development Indicators or GET STATISTICS. Sort by Country. Other great internet sources include BBC News, the CIA World Factbook and World Bank Country Case Studies and Fact Sheets...SEARCH AND HAVE FUN!!! REMEMBER: YOU MUST CITE SOURCES THROUGHOUT YOUR FACT SHEET OR ELSE YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR YOUR GRADE. FOOTNOTES ARE RECOMMENDED.

Information to Include in Paragraph Form:
Type of Government:
Year(s) of Constitution(s):
Basic History: Include Indigenous/Colonial/Independence Periods
Economy: Population:
Race/Ethnicity Culture/Religion:
Information to Include in Statistical Form:
Life Expectancy:
   By Gender:
Adult Literacy:
   By Gender:
Real GDP per Capita ($PPP):
   Estimated Earned Income by Gender or Some Estimate of Gender Inequality
Human Development Index & Human Development Rank:
Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index
Gender Inequality Index & Gender Inequality Rank:
Multidimensional Poverty Index
% Seats Held by Women in Parliament:
Real GDP per capita for Poorest 20%/Richest 20% or Some Estimate of Class Inequality

II. Research/Concept Paper Topic and Annotated Bibliography
Choose a substantive area or theoretical concept to explore, explain and apply to your country case study. You must use at least six outside sources and your own thinking! Remember, the goal here is to use the tools of analysis to produce more understanding of your country’s domestic situation and state of affairs within the context of the international system. Some examples of the concepts you might choose to apply to your country are: modernization, economic development, political development, democratization, democracy, globalization, political history, social movements, war, revolution, religion, the role of women, the experience of ethnic/racial minorities, etc. Your paper topic will be submitted along with an annotated bibliography: a listing of sources that you have read for your research paper which briefly summarizes the relevant content from those sources for the purposes of the research being done.

III. Country Case Study Research/Concept Paper
Your paper must be 6 full pages. You should look through the topics raised throughout the semester to determine what country and what concept you may be interested in exploring more closely. What is a concept paper? A concept paper asks you to select one of the theoretical concepts we will be discussing in the course and apply it to your country of choice. We will group several important comparative concepts into four overall categories: Political History, Political Culture, Political Economy, and Structure of the Government, as well as discuss specific concepts in detail. Each student will select one of these areas or concepts to examine in your selected country. First, you should show me that you understand the concept’s meaning and the various ways it has been used within the study of Comparative Politics.

Then, you need to apply the concept to your country case study. You must use at least 6 outside sources of research, including books, articles and other international reports. The United Nations Human Development Report, CIA Factbook and other Country Reports may be useful. Some information may be available on the internet. If you use an internet source you must cite the web address in your bibliography like any other, so that I may go to the source myself and check it out. BE CAREFUL of using non-scholarly internet sources like Wikipedia or the Dictionary. You can read this for background information but you SHOULD NOT cite this in a scholarly research paper. YOU CANNOT USE ONLY INTERNET SOURCES FOR YOUR PAPER! YOU MUST USE AT LEAST TWO SCHOLARLY BOOKS AND TWO SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AMONG YOUR SOURCES.

Remember, all papers have a thesis statement. A thesis statement makes an argument. An argument involves logical reasoning, scientific research, and empirical evidence; it is not a mere opinion. Examples from our life experiences are a relevant form of knowledge. It is important, however, that if you use a personal experience as an example you explain how the example connects to the larger issues and theoretical concepts we will be discussing in this course.
Comparative Politics Recommended Reading List


