COMPARATIVE POLITICS

PS202
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Wellesley College
Spring 2008

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course integrates the study of contemporary politics in three major countries—Britain, India, and Brazil—with an inquiry into how one compares developments across widely differing polities. We will engage some of the central questions in contemporary comparative political analysis.

Are states losing their ability to control society? Is there a single best way to govern the economy? Are left and right political and economic ideologies converging? Or are a variety of political and economic strategies equally viable in the contemporary global economy? What are the lasting effects of colonization on contemporary post-colonial societies? Under what circumstances do democracies promote or undermine economic development? How do collective identities, based on religion, ethnicity, gender, nationality, and class shape and complicate politics? Under what circumstances do political parties and politicians use such collective identities to advance their political goals?

In the initial course segment, we review two recent comparative politics studies (by Putnam and Sen), discuss alternative approaches to comparative analysis, and introduce key comparative themes. Instructors then focus on Britain, India and Brazil, in turn. Joel Krieger will lecture and lead discussion on Britain. Christopher Candland will lecture and lead discussion on India. Lois Wasserspring will lecture and lead discussion on Brazil. The concluding
segment examines the challenges that global perspectives pose to comparative politics.

Throughout the term, all three instructors will attend class, and interact with students and with each other. On several occasions they will participate in panel presentations. All of the instructors will be available for consultation in their areas of expertise. Krieger is the primary instructor, taking responsibility for the organization of the course and for the evaluation of student work.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Nearly all readings are available on electronic reserve. Prompts in brackets provide shorthand references to help identify the relevant files in e-reserves. Please be sure to consult the appropriate folder: Introduction, Britain, India, Brazil, Globalization.

Our core text for the course will be available in the bookstore and will be placed on reserve: Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, and William Joseph, eds., *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, (fourth edition) 2007. This is a modular edition developed for this course (it has fewer chapters and is less expensive than the full edition). Please note, however, that any version of the *fourth edition* that contains the chapters on Britain, India and Brazil would be fine, and that used copies may be available. In the reading assignments below this book is referred to as KKJ.

**REQUIREMENTS, GRADES, AND DEADLINES**

Please read the assignments before the class in which they are discussed. Be prepared for participation in class discussions by considering the study and discussion questions, which will be posted frequently on our FirstClass conference. From time to time, you will also be asked to prepare un-graded exercises. Barring illness and emergencies, please attend all class sessions.

Graded assignments will be as follows: two short papers (approximately 5 double-spaced pages) and a final exam. The paper assignment will be distributed approximately two weeks before each paper is due. The first short paper, on questions raised by the Putnam and Sen readings and by our introductory discussions of comparative analysis, will be due on **Feb. 27**. The second short paper, comparing British and Indian politics, is due on **Apr. 13**. The final exam, focusing upon comparative analysis of our three cases, Britain, India and Brazil, will be self-scheduled.

**Except in cases of illness and emergencies, late papers will be penalized. Please submit your papers by e-mail attachment to Krieger (and be sure to keep a back-up).**

Each of the two papers will contribute 25% toward the final grade. The final exam will contribute 40%. Class participation will contribute 10% of the final grade.
### CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
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| Jan. 31| Democracy and Social Capital  
| Feb. 4 | Democracy and Freedom  
| Feb. 7 | Comparative Approaches  
| Feb. 11| The Approaches Applied  
Review Putnam and Sen |
| Feb. 14| Four Themes for Comparative Analysis  
Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph (KKJ), “Introduction to Comparative Politics” |
| Feb. 18| PRESIDENTS’ DAY--NO CLASS |
Britain

Feb. 21  State Formation, Political Challenges, Challenges, and Changing Agendas

Krieger, “The Making of the Modern British State” (KKJ)
Driver and Martell, The Making of New Labour: and “New Labour and Social Democracy”

Feb. 25  Governing the Economy: Evaluating the Third Way

Krieger, “Political Economy and Development” (KKJ)
Driver and Martell, “Labour and the Economy” and “Labour and the Welfare State”
Giddens “The Third Way and its Critics” and “Social Democracy and the Third Way” [Giddens--The Third Way and its Critics]

Feb. 27:  First Paper Due

Feb. 28  The Democratic Idea: Alternative Visions

Krieger, “Governance and Policy Making” and “Representation and Participation” (KKJ)
Driver and Martell, “Government and the Constitution”

Mar. 3  Collective Identities: National and Ethnic Identities in Crisis?

Schuster and Solomos, et. al., “Race, Immigration and Asylum: Debate” [Race, Immigration—Schuster]
Selected contemporary articles

Mar. 6  World of States: Blair, the War, and Brown: New Directions?

Krieger, “British Politics in Transition” (KKJ)
Blair’s Sedgefield Defense [Blair—Sedgefield]
Driver and Martell, “New Labour and Post-Thatcherite Politics”
The Challenges of Development

Mar. 10  Colonization, Dependency, and Globalization
Discussion

India

Note: Students are asked to post, to the course conference, brief answers (no more than 100 words) to the questions posed below. Please post your answers by 5 PM before the class in which these will be discussed. Your answers will not be graded, but they are required.

Mar. 13  State Formation in India

Kohli and Basu, “The Making of the Modern Indian State (KKJ)

study questions: In what sense did British rule create India? How did Manmohan Singh become Prime Minister of India?

Mar. 17  Collective Identity: Religious, Social and Political

Butalia, “Blood” (Butalia 2000: 23-50)

study questions: How did Urvaishi’s uncle lose his home without leaving his house? Why did Urvaishi and her uncle lose touch?

Mar. 20  The Democratic Idea: Flawed or Flourishing?

Kohli and Basu, “Governance and Policy Making” and “Representation and Participation” (KKJ)

study question: Is Indian democracy flawed or flourishing?

SPRING BREAK


Kohli and Basu, “Political Economy and Development” (KKJ)
Dreze and Sen, “Way Beyond Liberalization” (Dreze and Sen, 2002: 306-346)

study question: Is India developing more rapidly today that before the 1991 New Economic Policy?
April 3 World of States: Nuclear South Asia

Kohli and Basu, “Indian Politics in Transition” (KKJ)
Dreze and Sen, “Security and Democracy in a Nuclear India”, (Dreze and Sen, 2002: 275-305)

Study questions: Is Indian security enhanced by being a nuclear weapons state? What is the major roadblock to the United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006?

Brazil

April 7 State Formation and Governing the Economy: Path Dependency in Brazil

Montero, “The Making of the Modern Brazilian State” and “Political Economy and Development” (KKJ)

April 10 The Democratic Idea: Authoritarianism and Democratic Transition

Montero, “Governance and Policy-Making,” “Representation and Participation,” and “Brazilian Politics in Transition” (KKJ)
Alvarez, “The (Trans)formation of Feminism(s) and Gender Politics in Democratizing Brazil” [Alvarez—Transformation of Feminism(s)]
Power, “Political Institutions in Democratic Brazil”—“Four Arenas...Debates And Controversies” (Kingstone and Power, pp. 22-32)

April 13: Second Paper Due

April 14 The Democratic Idea: Inequality and the Quality of Democracy

Schepet-Hughes, “Two Feet Under and a Cardboard Coffin: The Social Production of Indifference to Child Death” [Schepet-Hughes—Two Feet Under]
Caldeira, “The Paradox of Police Violence in Democratic Brazil”

April 17 Collective Identities: Race in Brazilian Politics

Hanchard, “Black Cinderella? Race and the Public Sphere in Brazil” [Hanchard—Black Cinderella]
Fry, “Color and the Rule of Law in Brazil”, (The(Un)Rule of Law and the
Underprivileged in Latin America, pp.186-206)
Daflon and Ballve, “The Beautiful Game? Race and Class in Brazilian Soccer”
Htun, “From ‘Racial Democracy’ to Affirmative Action: Changing State Policy on Race in Brazil” [Htun—Racial Democracy]

Apr. 21  PATRIOTS’ DAY—NO CLASS

Apr. 22  (MONDAY SCHEDULE)  The World of States:  The Lula Challenge
Varoga and Fornes, “Lula’s Landslide [Campaigns & Elections]
Maxwell, “Lula’s Surprise” [Maxwell-Lula]
Hakim, “The Reluctant Partner” [Hakim—Reluctant Partner]
Vanden, “Brazil’s Landless Hold Their Ground”

Comparative Analysis

Apr. 24- Apr. 28  The Themes Revisited

Discussion

Globalization’s Challenges to Comparative Politics

May 1  Limits of the State/The Globalization of Power

Robinson and Harris, “Towards a Global Ruling Class?  Globalization and the Transnational Capitalist Class” [Robinson—Global Capitalism]

Comparative Politics at the Crossroads

May 5  Discussion and Review Session