PSCI 2101B
Comparative Politics of Industrialized States
Wednesdays, 18:35 – 20:25
Location: 3380 Mackenzie Building

Instructor: Professor Achim Hurrelmann
Office: Loeb A 629
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 16:00 – 18:00
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 2294
Email: achim_hurrelmann@carleton.ca

Course description:
Comparative politics is one of four core sub-disciplines of political science, alongside with domestic politics, international relations and political theory. Research in comparative politics seeks to assess the similarities and differences between government institutions, political processes and public policies at various places or points in time. Its goals are both to learn more about specific countries and to gain a better understanding of general logics and challenges of government that are relevant to the study of politics everywhere in the world.

This course is designed to provide a systematic introduction to comparative politics, focusing on established industrialized democracies of the so-called ‘OECD world’. It introduces basic concepts for the comparison of government institutions, political processes and public policies, and discusses how these concepts can be applied to specific cases. At the end of the course, students will not only be familiar with core political and social institutions of selected countries, but they will also possess an analytical ‘toolkit’ of concepts and approaches to be used in comparative research.

Texts:
There are two required textbooks for this course, which are available in the university bookstore:

Additional readings (marked by ** in the course outline) have been put on reserve in the library.

Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in tutorial groups</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(due 17 January 2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper, outline</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(due 14 February 2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper, final</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(due 21 March 2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(April exam period, April 9 – 28)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Tutorial groups:** All students must attend tutorial groups on a regular basis. Students will be marked on their participation. Attendance alone does not ensure a passing mark in the tutorial group. Participation grades will be assigned according to the quality and quantity of contributions to the discussions. TAs will give further instructions on these points in the first tutorial class.

**Take-home test:** There will be a take-home test (short-answer format / 3 – 4 pages) which will be posted on this course’s Web CT site on the morning of January 11 and is due to be handed back in class on January 17. The test will be based on the material covered in the class of January 10 (including the required reading); it will contain questions about the purposes and design of comparative studies. All answers must be written by individual students acting alone (no group work); textbooks and other course material may be used. The test will be evaluated and returned until January 24 to guarantee early feedback.

**Research paper:** The main assignment to be completed in this class is a comparative research paper focusing on at least two countries. Papers should attempt to answer a clearly stated question relating to one of the basic research objectives of comparative politics: (1) contextual description (Example: What role does the constitutional court play in the German and Italian political system?); (2) comparative evaluation (Example: What are the strengths and weaknesses of proportional representation compared to majority voting systems?); (3) classification (Example: Which types of anti-terror laws have been passed in selected NATO states after 9/11?); (4) explanation (Example: Why was the EU Constitution ratified in Spain but rejected in France?). Further examples for suitable research questions will be given in class and in the tutorials.

The research question should first be formulated – and its relevancy justified – in a brief paper outline (3 pages, double spaced), to be submitted in class on February 14. This outline should also propose and justify a selection of countries to be studied, and sketch the steps in which research is to proceed. Outlines will be marked for the originality and analytical quality of the research design. In reaction to the feedback obtained from the instructor and the TAs, all aspects of the outline may be amended when devising the final paper. Final papers should be about 12-15 pages (double spaced, i.e. 3500-4500 words); they are due in class on March 21. It is essential that the papers are focused on answering the research question and that they actually engage at least some of the concepts discussed in this course.

**Final exam:** There will be a two-hour final exam during the April exam period (9-28 April 2007). The exam will be in a short-answer format; it covers all course material, including reading, lectures and discussions in class and tutorials. It is designed to test both students’ knowledge of key concepts and their ability to apply them to concrete examples. The instructor will hold extended office hours in the review period (April 4-5) to help students prepare for the exam.

**Grading:**

Assignments and exams will be graded with a letter grade. To convert this to a percentage grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grades 49% and below will be assigned a failing grade (F). Please note that the Undergraduate Calendar states: ‘To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations.’ Students who fail to complete the required assignments and examinations will be given a failing grade in the course. Later papers will be penalized one full letter grade per day (e.g. a B+ becomes a B).

**Preliminary course outline:**

*Introduction*

3 Jan. 2007  Introduction: Why Compare Industrialized States?
Logistics, Administrative Details
  - Newton & van Deth, Ch. 1-2

10 Jan. 2007  Comparing Industrialized States: Research Questions and Approaches
  - **T. Landman (2003), Issues and Methods of Comparative Politics: An Introduction, 2nd edition (London: Routledge), Ch. 1-3.**

*Part I: State Structures – Comparing Political Institutions*

17 Jan. 2007  Legislative-Executive Relations: Presidentialism and Parliamentarism
  - Hague & Harrop, Ch. 14+15
  - Newton & van Deth, Ch. 6
  
  [Take-home test is due.]

24 Jan. 2007  Participation Regimes: Representative and Direct Democracy
  - Hague & Harrop, Ch. 9

31 Jan. 2007  Levels of Government: Unitary States and Federations
  - Hague & Harrop, Ch. 13

7 Feb. 2007   Implementation and Adjudication: Bureaucracies and the Courts
  - Hague & Harrop, Ch. 12+16

*Part II: State-Society-Relations – Comparing Political Processes*

14 Feb. 2007  Political Culture: Citizen Attitudes and Behavior
  - Newton & van Deth, Ch. 8
  - Hague & Harrop, Ch. 6+8
  
  [Paper outlines are due.]

28 Feb. 2007  Interest Intermediation: Parties, Interest Groups and the Media
  - Hague & Harrop, Ch. 7+10+11
Part III: State Activity – Comparing Public Policy

7 March 2007  Public Policy: Policy Cycles, Styles and Regimes
  ▪ Hague & Harrop, Ch. 17

  ▪ Newton & van Deth, Ch. 16

21 March 2007  Immigration Policy: Citizenship Regimes and Social Integration

[Papers are due.]

Conclusion

28 March 2007  Conclusion: Industrialized States in an Age of Globalization
  ▪ Newton & van Deth, Ch. 17

---

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: November 6th, 2006 for fall and fall/winter term courses, and March 9th, 2007 for winter term courses.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).
For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure - No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.