Course Syllabus for Political Science 2 – Modern World Governments

Course Description: This is an introduction to the comparative method of cross-national political analysis with emphasis on the political institutions of Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, and China, the developing countries of India, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran, and Brazil.

Student Learning Objectives: At the end of the course, students will have
(1) read Michael G. Roskin’s textbook Countries and Concepts,
(2) listened to lectures on the politics and governments of selected countries,
(3) completed twelve assignments outside of class,
(4) answered multiple-choice questions in six unit tests and a final examination,
(5) written answers to essay questions in three or four unit tests;
(6) discussed issues on comparative politics;
(7) met Harbor College Course Outline Student Objectives for Political Science (see addendum)


Class Schedule: Section 0769 – Monday/Wednesday 12:35 to 2:00 pm – NEA 122

Program Schedule:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Topic</th>
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<td>Iran</td>
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<td>6: 12/3 (mc/e)</td>
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<td>12/3-5</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Monday @ 1:00 am – 3:00 pm</td>
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*Labor Day Holiday; **Veteran’s Day Holiday

Unit Tests: Test 1 is 10 multiple-choice questions; Tests 2-4 are 40 multiple-choice questions and one 10 point essay question each; Test 5 is 30 multiple choice questions; and Test 6 is 20 multiple-choice questions and possibly one 10 point essay question.

Final Exam: The final exam is 90-100 comprehensive multiple-choice questions (possibly including one map problem). The final exam is mandatory. Failure to take the final exam will result in a grade of F for the class.
Make-Up Test Policy: If good cause can be shown why a test was missed, a “make-up test” may be permitted. If permitted, the instructor will decide the time, format, and increased difficulty of the test.

Unit Assignments: There are twelve assignments outside of class; each assignment is 15 true/false questions. Assignments are due on the date of the unit test; any assignment turned in late will be penalized with a three point deduction.

Class Participation: Participation in discussions can be an enriching experience. It can add knowledge, stimulate interest, and make the class fun. No one will be penalized for not participating, but the instructor may award up to 20 extra credit points to students who deserve special recognition for their contribution to the class. Any award of extra credit for class discussions is subject to the sole discretion and judgment of the instructor.

Attendance: Attendance is vital. Lacking proof of a valid excuse, a student will be excluded from class on his or her third absence. Also, a student will be excluded following the third time he or she arrives after roll has been taken or leaves before class has been dismissed. Readmission to class may be permitted, subject to no further absence, late arrival, or early departure. No one will be readmitted a second time. If a student has perfect attendance, he or she will be awarded 10 extra credit points.

Honors Credit: Students wanting honors credit for this class must do a research project designed by the instructor and the student jointly. The project will consist of a paper and an oral presentation to the class. The paper will follow recognized term paper/thesis format (e.g. MLA, Turabian, or Chicago), typed or printed, #12 Times New Roman or Courier fonts, double-spaced, 2000 words or eight pages long. The oral presentation will be 15 minutes long, with five minutes to answer questions from the class. This project is in addition to all tests and assignments and will be worth 50 points.

Extra Credit Work: No extra credit work will be allowed and no extra credit will be given except for class discussion and attendance.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to act legally and ethically. Cheating and plagiarism are wrong and will be reported to the college administration. Also, students will be respectful to the instructor and fellow students. Students should be sensitive to the feelings of others and tolerant of opinions different from their own. Profanity is unacceptable. Threats of violence will be reported to campus law enforcement. Any misconduct will be grounds for exclusion from the class.

Classroom Etiquette: All cell-phones or pagers must be turned off while class is in session. Unless shown to be medically required, no food or drink (except water) is permitted in the classroom.

Grading Standard: Student grades will be based on percentages of the points on tests and assignments weighted by the top and/or average scores of all active students in Political Science 2 this semester. The percentage scale to be used this semester is:

- 90-100% = A
- 79-89% = B
- 61-78% = C
- 50-66% = D
- 0-49% = F

Notice: The instructor reserves the right to make any adjustment to this syllabus that is reasonable and just following notice to and with the advice and consent of the students.
Addendum to Syllabus for Political Science 2

Student Learning Objectives
(Source: Los Angeles Harbor College Course Outline)

(1) Apply key concepts of comparative political study to the examination of political institutions, political processes and public policy across diverse states of the world.

(2) Compare the structures and behavior of legislative, executive and judicial institutions across diverse states.

(3) Analyze the conditions that create and sustain democratic and non-democratic systems in the Western and non-Western worlds.

(4) Examine the relationship between economic centralization and decentralization and governing systems in industrial and developing states.

(5) Compare and contrast the political institutions, political processes and public policy outcomes in three European industrial democracies—Great Britain, France, and Germany.

(6) Compare the Russian political system with the totalitarian system of the Soviet Union. Analyze the conditions that created and sustained the totalitarian dictatorship and their impact on the political institutions, political processes and policy outcomes in Russia today.

(7) Compare and contrast the political institutions, political processes and public policy outcomes of a state in Asia, Africa (or the Islamic Middle East), or Latin America with a European industrial democracy or with the uncertain democracy of Russia.

Withdrawal Dates for fall semester 2012:
(1) Last day to drop and receive a refund or not pay a fee: September 10
(2) Last day to drop without a grade of “W”: September 6 (in person); September 9 (online)
(3) Last day to drop with a grade of “W”: November 15 (in person); November 18 (online)
STUDENT PROFILE
(please print your responses)

Student Name:__________________________________________

Telephone Number (optional): __________ e-mail address (optional): ____________

High School Graduate: Yes Name of High School: ____________________________

No Do you have a GED certificate? Yes No

Harbor College Status (1st year, 2nd year): ________ Number of units this semester: ________

Other Colleges Attended/Attending: ____________________________________________

Major/Minor: __________________________________________

Educational Goal (AA, BA, BS, Ph.D): ________________________________

Planning to transfer to (e.g. CSULB, UCLA): _____________________________

Career Goal: ______________________________________________________

Previous coursework in political science: ___________________________________

Have you taken or are you taking College Reading and Composition 1 (English 101)? Yes No

Do you need to make arrangements with Special Programs and Services? Yes No

Employment: No Yes full-time part-time Employer: __________________________

Apart from a good grade, what do you hope to get from this class? ________________________________