2013

389-01 Department of Political Science

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I. Course Description:
This course examines the classic literature and major topics in comparative politics and seeks to integrate them into a more comprehensive understanding of the field. It also offers a step-by-step introduction to the process of research design in the study of political science. Students are required to apply the knowledge and methodological skills they learn to complete a term paper. In this process, students should select a research question, review the related literature, and produce a research design that builds upon the existing body of scholarly literature.

II. Course Objectives:
The objectives of the course are:
- To survey some of the most influential and classical literature in the field of comparative politics
- To identify a research question and develop a research design
- To learn and practice the procedures of doing a research design
- To enhance critical thinking ability

III. Required Textbooks:


IV. Important Dates:
September 11 (Wednesday): Sign up for individual meetings and paper presentations
September 23rd (Monday): Topic ideas due
October 4 (Friday): Midterm Exam
October 11 (Friday): Citations due today
October 23 (Wednesday): Annotated bibliography due
November 4 (Monday): Literature review due
November 22 (Friday): Rough draft of paper due
December 16 (Monday): Final draft of paper due

V. Tests and Writing Assignments:

Your grade is comprised of five parts—class participation and presentations, a midterm exam, a paper topic, a literature review, and a final paper.

- Class Participation and Presentations (15%)
  Participation is an integral part of this course. Students are expected to attend class and be prepared to discuss the readings and answer questions raised in lectures. I encourage you to contact me after class with any questions, concerns, and ideas about this course. Throughout the semester, you are allowed to have two unexcused absences. The instructor reserves the right to lower the course grade if there are more than two unexcused absences.
  During the first half of the semester, each student is going to choose two chapters from *Essential Readings* and present the assigned readings. All students are expected to prepare three questions for discussion, as well as turning in a one-page overview of the assigned readings.

- Midterm Exam (20%)
  The midterm exam will be comprised of short answer and essay questions. The midterm is on October 4th (Friday).

- Paper Topic (5%)
  The topic includes a research question and an annotated bibliography.

- Literature Review (10%)
  The literature review should survey between 20 and 30 pieces of scholarship related to your topic.

- Final Paper (50%)
  Students are required to apply the knowledge and methodological skills they learn to complete a term paper. In this process, students should select a research question, review the related literature, and produce a research design that builds upon the existing body of scholarly literature. Unlike the traditional approach, the writing process will proceed in stages. In each stage, students will turn in their work in order to get the instructor’s feedback and revise their work accordingly.
  The length of the term paper should be AT LEAST 18 pages.
  The final paper must be submitted in both hard and electronic copies. Electronic copies must be sent to my e-mail address: Yub@Xavier.edu. The format specifications are as follows: font size=12; Times New Roman; double space; APA (American Psychological Association) style; other styles must be approved by the professor. The due date of the completed final paper is December 16 (Monday). Late papers will be penalized.
VI. Course Schedule and Readings:

**Week 1**
Monday 8/26.
- Introduction
- Syllabus

Wednesday 8/28 & Friday 8/30.
- Chapter 1 in *Research Design*

**Week 2**
Monday 9/2.
- Labor Day (No class)

Wednesday 9/4
- Chapter 1 in *Readings*

Friday 9/6
- Chapter 2 in *Readings*
- Chapter 2 in *Research Design*

**Week 3**
Monday 9/9.
- Chapter 3 in *Readings*
- Chapter 3 in *Research Design*

Wednesday 9/11
- Chapter 4 in *Readings*
- Chapter 4 in *Research Design*
- Sign up for Individual Meetings and Paper Presentations

Friday 9/13
- Lab

**Week 4**
Monday 9/16.
- Chapter 5 in *Readings*
- Chapter 5 in *Research Design*
- Sign up for individual meetings and paper presentations

Wednesday 9/18
- Chapter 6 in *Readings*
- Chapter 6 in *Research Design*

Friday 9/20
- Chapter 7 in *Readings*
- Chapter 7 in *Research Design*
Week 5
Monday 9/23.
- Chapter 8 in *Readings*
- Topic Ideas Due
Wednesday 9/25
- Chapter 8 in Research Design
Friday 9/27
- Chapter 9 in *Readings*

Week 6
Monday 9/30.
- Chapter 9 in *Research Design*
Wednesday 10/2
- Chapter 10 & Chapter 11 in *Readings*
Friday 10/4
- Midterm Exam

Week 7
Monday 10/7.
- Fall break (No class)
Wednesday 10/9
- Chapter 10 in *Research Design*
Friday 10/11
- Presentation of Paper Outline
- Citations Due Today

Week 8
Monday 10/14 & Wednesday 10/16 & Friday 10/18
- Individual Meetings

Week 9
Monday 10/21 & Wednesday 10/23 & Friday 10/25
- Individual Meetings
- Annotated Bibliography Due on 10/23 (Wednesday)

Week 10
Monday 10/28 & Wednesday 10/30 & Friday 11/1
- Individual Meetings
**Week 11**  
Monday 11/4 & Wednesday 11/6 & Friday 11/8  
- Individual Meetings  
- Literature Review due on November 4 (Monday)

**Week 12**  
Monday 11/11 & Wednesday 11/13 & Friday 11/15  
- Individual Meetings

**Week 13**  
Monday 11/18 & Wednesday 11/20 & Friday 11/22  
- Individual Meetings  
- Rough Draft of Paper Due on November 22 (Friday)

**Week 14**  
Monday 11/25  
- Individual Meetings  
Wednesday 11/27 & Friday 11/29  
- Thanksgiving Holiday (No class)

**Week 15**  
Monday 12/2 & Wednesday 12/4  
- Individual Meetings  
Friday 12/6  
- Presentations of Research Design

**Week 16**  
Monday 12/9 & Wednesday 12/11  
- Presentations of Research Design  
- Final Draft Due on December 16 (Monday)

**VII. Grading Policy**  
The following grade scale will be used in this course:  
A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89,  
B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, and F = Below 60. There is no curving or dropping of grades in this class. For a reference to the standards for these grades, see the Department of Political Science and Sociology Grading Guidelines.