

Liberty University

From the Selected Works of Steven Alan Samson

1996

Comparative Political Systems

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/steven_samson/257/

Hardy 10 Office Hours: MWF 8-10, MF 2-3, TH 8-9:30, 2:30-4 Phone: 4551

DESCRIPTION

A comparative study of the political and governmental systems of selected nations with that of the United States.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for assigned readings and should keep a looseleaf notebook of class materials. A separate notebook or folder of reading materials will be kept on reserve on the library, along with a few other resources.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Reading assignments should be completed before the class meets. Be prepared to discuss textbook material, report on assigned articles (selected from Comparative Politics 96/97), and review current events.
3. Attendance is required. A week's absence may be excused, but lengthy absences or erratic attendance will have a detrimental effect on grades (possibly 10% of the grade or more). If you expect to miss class, please notify me through the school before class meets.
4. Students will be tested on the lecture, reading, and discussion material through seven quizzes (the lowest score will be dropped) and two essay and short answer exams. Final grade: quizzes = 60%, exams = 40%.
5. Each student will make two brief (10-12 minutes) oral presentations on two countries (each from different continents) in class. Short outlines or abstracts should be provided at the time of presentation. Textbook case study countries are not eligible.
6. Each student will take a pass/fail political geography quiz.

READING LIST

Textbooks

Magstadt, Thomas M. Nations and Governments, 2nd ed. [M]
Johnson, Paul. Modern Times, revised edition [J]

Reserve Desk

Comparative Politics 96/97 [C]

SCHEDULE

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION; THE AMERICAN SYSTEM (January 14-22)

Required: M. 1-3; J. 1, 18, 19 (pp. 659-74); C. 64; United States Constitution

Handouts: Ryn, "Cultural Diversity and Renewal;" Estrada, "From El Paso to Plymouth"

Reports: C. 31, 32 & 35, 36 & 38, 39, 40-41

PART TWO: WESTERN EUROPE (January 24-29)

Required: M. 4-6; J. 17

Handouts: Kopff, "Commentary on the Gallic Culture War;" Brown, "Regression and Renewal"

Reports: C. 3-4, 7-9, 10, 11, 13 & 15, 16-17, 20, 22, 26, 28

PART THREE: RUSSIA AND SLAVIC EUROPE (January 31-February 5)

Required: M. 7-9; J. 12 (pp. 429-31), 13, 19 (pp. 674-96)

Handouts: Harrigan, "Allied Crimes Against Humanity;" Fleming, "Ghosts in the Graveyard"

Reports: C. 43, 44, 45, 46, 48-49

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ: February 5

PART FIVE: ASIA (February 7-14)

Required: M. 13-15; J. 14 (pp. 466-480), 16; C. 68

Reports: C. 57, 58, 59, 60

MIDTERM EXAM: February 10

PART FOUR: THE MIDDLE EAST (February 14-19)

Required: M. 10-12; J. 14 (pp. 480-505); C. 69

PART SIX: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (February 21-26)

Required: M. 16-18; J. 15; C. 67

Reports: C. 54, 55

PART SEVEN: LATIN AMERICA (February 28-March 5)

Required: M. 19-21

Reports: C. 52, 53

FINAL EXAM: March 7

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Other

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