

**POL212R:
HONORS WORLD POLITICS
SPRING 2006**

Professor: Davidson-Schmich

Phone: (305) 284-2143

Class meets Tues., Thurs. 2:00 – 3:15, MM100

E-mail: davidson@miami.edu

Office Hours : Tues. and Thurs. 11:30 - 1:30 or
By Appointment (Room 314J Jenkins Building)

Class Web Site:
Blackboard

I. Course Objectives

“Politics is who gets what, when, and how” – Harold Laswell

Some of the most fundamental struggles that take place in any country are over the boundaries between politics and economics and between state and society. What role should the state play in the economy? Who should be able to decide this and other issues? What effects do the political and economic systems of a given country have on people's everyday lives? This course introduces students to study of comparative and international politics by examining how conflicts over these issues have played out in several different countries around the world.

In our analysis of the political and economic systems of Germany, Japan, Russia, Mexico, Singapore and Nigeria, we will see various combinations of authoritarian and democratic governance, as well as widely divergent types of government involvement in the economy. From these cases we will try to develop an understanding of what factors cause (or prevent) democratization and economic development. We will also apply ideas from class to current events.

In short, our objectives are:

1. Learn about various forms of democratic and non-democratic government.
2. Learn about factors that cause (or hinder) democratization and democratic consolidation.
3. Learn about various routes to economic development.
4. Learn about current events.
5. Learn about geography.
6. Practice analytical skills.
7. Practice public speaking skills.

II. Required Readings

Most of the readings for the course are in the following textbook, which is available at the University bookstore. You are expected to complete all reading assignments *before* the class period assigned so that you may contribute to class discussion and ask for clarification of issues you did not understand. We will supplement the textbook with the *New York Times* so we can observe how the issues discussed in class play out in the world today. In addition, you will be assigned articles, marked with an asterisk (*) on the syllabus, which are available in .pdf format on our course website.

Textbook

- ❖ Sodaro, Michael J. 2004. *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*. Second Edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

Newspaper

- ❖ *The New York Times*. You'll need to subscribe either to the electronic or paper version for the duration of the semester.
- ❖ **Articles**
 - ❖ Gilpin, Robert. 1987. *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 25-54.
 - ❖ King, Charles. 1998. "Battling the Six Evil Geniuses of Essay Writing." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Vol. XXX, No. 1: 59-63.
 - ❖ Lerner, Daniel. 1958. *The Passing of Traditional Society*. New York, NY: The Free Press: Ch.1
 - ❖ Sesser, Stan. 1994. "Singapore: The Prisoner in the Theme Park" in *The Lands of Charm and Cruelty: Travels in Southeast Asia*. New York: Vintage Books.

III. Course Requirements

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- ❖ An in-class mid-term exam (35%): This exam will include short answers and an essay. It will take place in our regular classroom on the day indicated in the syllabus.
- ❖ Current Events Log and Analysis (25%): Throughout the semester you will read the front section of the *New York Times* each weekday and chronicle current events in a country or region of your choice. At the end of the semester you will write a summary analysis of the events that occurred this semester and what you expect the future will bring.
- ❖ A final exam (35%): This exam will be cumulative, although it will be weighted toward the material after the mid-term.
- ❖ Class participation (5%): Come to class on time each day with the readings completed. Get involved when you are in class by contributing to discussions. Participation grades will be based on regular class attendance, routine *constructive* contributions to class discussions, and presentations of current events. I am interested in the quality of your comments, not just their frequency or volume.

NOTE: It is the Political Science Departmental policy that cheating on any exam or plagiarism on any paper will lead to a failing grade for the entire class. Ignorance of academic conventions is not an excuse. Furthermore, the University of Miami has an Honor Code and violations of it will be sent to the Honor Council.

IV. Schedule of Class Meetings, Readings, and Assignments

Readings marked with a * will be available on the course website.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
17 Jan	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Sodaro Chapters 1 and 3
19 Jan	What is democracy?	Sodaro pp. 31-34; Ch. 7
24 Jan ¹	What causes democracy?	Sodaro pp. 19-27; Ch. 9
	LONG-TERM DEVELOPED DEMOCRACIES	
26 Jan	Pre-Democratic Germany and Japan	Sodaro pp. 437-51; 484-494; 282-4
31 Jan ²	Parliamentarism in Germany and Japan	Sodaro pp. 123-127; 451-65; 494-6
2 Feb	Electoral Systems in Germany and Japan	Sodaro pp. 43-5; 196-205; 508-516
7 Feb	Political Parties in Germany and Japan	Sodaro pp. 230-41; 465-475; 496-501; 507-516
9 Feb	Political Economy in Germany: Corporatism and the Welfare State	Sodaro pp. 40-1; 242-7; 475-480
14 Feb	Political Economy in Japan: State-led development	Sodaro pp. 501-7
16 Feb	Contemporary social issues in Germany & Japan	Sodaro pp. 305-314; 516-522
21 Feb	Current Events in Long-Term Democracies	<i>New York Times</i>
23 Feb ³	Mid-Term Review	* King
28 Feb		Mid-Term Exam
	DEVELOPED, DEMOCRATIZING (?) COUNTRIES	
2 Mar	What is development and what causes it? Dinner at Heidi's Gasthaus 6PM	* Lerner; Sodaro pp. 316-28
7 Mar	3 Ideologies of Economic Development	* Gilpin; Sodaro pp. 48-50; 270-3
9 Mar	The Soviet Experience of Development and the Soviet Political System	Sodaro pp. 273-82; 530-45
	<i>Spring Break!</i>	

¹ Wed. 1/25 is the last day to add this class.

² Wed. 2/1 is the last day to drop course without a "W" and the last day to change to credit only.

³ Academic alert grades turned into EASY on Mon. 2/27.

21 Mar	The Mexican Experience of Development and the PRI's Rule	Sodaro pp. 631-646
23 Mar ⁴	Soviet/ Mexican Comparison, cont.	
28 Mar	Singapore's Political Development	*Sesser
30 Mar	Singapore's Economic Development	*Sesser
4 Apr	Mexican Economic Opening	Sodaro pp. 654-57
6 Apr	Mexican Democratization	Sodaro pp. 628-631; 646-654; 657-659
11 Apr	Russian Transition to the Market	Sodaro pp. 290-2; 300-5; 570-4
13 Apr	Russian Democratization (?)	Sodaro pp. 526-530; 545-570; 247-9
18 Apr	Current Events in Later Developers/ Democratizers	<i>New York Times</i>
	NEITHER DEVELOPING NOR DEMOCRATIZING	
20 Apr	Nigeria: Oil as a Curse	Sodaro pp. 687-706
25 Apr	Nigeria: Islam & Ethnicity & Politics	Sodaro pp. 284-90
27 Apr	Exam Review	Current Events Project Due
11 May		Final Exam 11— 1:30 MM100
18 May	Final Grades Available on EASY	

⁴ Last day to drop this class is Mon. 3/27.