

Peter Kingstone  
118 Monteith  
6-3244 (phone). 6-3347 (fax).  
[Peter.kingstone@uconn.edu](mailto:Peter.kingstone@uconn.edu)  
<http://vm.uconn.edu/~kingston/index.html>  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00, Thursday 11:00-12:00  
or by appointment.

## Political Science 1202: Introduction to Comparative Politics

213 Monteith, Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:45  
Spring 2009

Comparative politics is a broad, diffuse and very diverse field. It is essentially the study of politics everywhere outside of the United States (and often including the US through explicit or implicit comparison). As events in recent years show, knowledge of the world outside the US is vitally important. Comparative politics addresses many of the most critical and interesting issues facing the world and the US' relationship with it.

The enormous diversity of topics that comparativists can and do study presents a challenge for an introductory class: what to focus on? In this class, we will focus in particular on the challenge of establishing democracy and maintaining it. The class will open with some basic concepts and background and then we'll look at three specific and quite different cases. Japan is a rich industrial democracy that arose from a highly militarized monarchy. The democracy that emerged from defeat in World War Two is distinctive in at least two important ways: it was imposed on Japan by the US and it resulted in a virtual one-party rule that challenges the democratic character of the system. India is the world's largest democracy - defying the odds and expectations of almost all democratic theory and experience. Finally, Brazil has struggled to establish a democracy in a society characterized by some of the sharpest inequalities in the world.

### Course Requirements:

The readings for this course come primarily from three books for sale at the bookstore and on reserve at the library. The books are called:

*In Spite of the Gods: The Rise of Modern India*, by Edward Luce  
*Shadow Shoguns: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar Political Machine*, by Jacob Schlesinger  
*Democratic Brazil Revisited*, edited by Peter Kingstone and Timothy Power (won't be out until October).

A small number of additional readings will be available through the course VISTA site.

There are two midterms exams in the course: **Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and **Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>**. In addition, there will be four short, in-class writing assignments: **Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup>**, **Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>**, **Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Finally, there will be a take-home final exam due on the day of the scheduled final for this class. The four writing assignments are worth 15% of your grade. The two exams are worth 25% of your grade each. The take home final is worth 35% of your grade.

Mid-term exams are a mix of short answer and short essays based on the readings, class lectures, and films.

The syllabus will be posted on VISTA as well as any exam information and any other important announcements. The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail.

### **Section 1: Introduction and Basic Concepts**

Readings: Heilbroner, R. L. and Milberg, W. (2001). The emergence of market society. In *The making of economic society* (pp. 36-58). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Books.

Schmitter, P. C. & Karl, T. (1991). What democracy is ... and is not. *Journal of Democracy*, 2(3), 75-88.

Ishay, M. R. (2004). Human rights and the enlightenment: The development of a liberal and secular perspective on human rights. In *The history of human rights from ancient times to the globalization era* (pp. 63-98; 107-116). Berkeley: University of California Press.

January 20: Course Introduction

January 22: Classifying the World's Countries: Regimes, Economies, Institutions

January 27: The Origins of Markets and Democracy.

January 29: The Origins of Markets and Democracy, continued.

February 3: The Origins of Markets and Democracy, continued.

## **Section 2: A Tale of Two Brazils**

Readings on Brazil: *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, edited by Peter Kingstone and Tim Power, chs.

February 5: Overview of Brazilian Politics

February 10: Review of Brazilian History

February 12: Brazilian Political Economy

February 17: *Cidade de Deus* (movie)

February 19: *Cidade de Deus* (movie)

*In class writing assignment based on movie.*

February 24: Democratic Institutions

February 26: Contemporary Political Issues

March 3: **Mid-Term Exam One**

## **Section Three: India's Surprising Success**

Readings on India: *In Spite of the Gods: The Making of Modern India*, Edward Luce.

March 5: Overview of Indian Politics

March 17: *Earth* (movie)

March 19: *Earth* (movie)

*In class writing assignment based on movie.*

March 24: Indian Historical Review

March 26: Democratic Institutions

March 31: Indian Political Economy

April 2: Contemporary Political Challenges

April 7: **Mid-Term Exam Two**

#### **Section Four: The Rise (and Fall?) of Japan**

Readings: *Shadow Shoguns*, Jacob Schlesinger.  
"Japan, the Reluctant Reformer." Leonard Schoppa  
"How Able is Abe?" Richard Katz and Peter Ennis.

April 9: Overview of Japanese Politics

April 14: Japanese Historical Review

April 16: "Reinventing Japan" (movie)

*In class writing assignment based on movie.*

April 21: Democratic Institutions

April 23: "Inside Japan Inc." (movie)

*In class writing assignment based on movie.*

April 28: Japanese Political Economy

April 30: Contemporary Challenges