

University of Maryland
Department of Government and Politics

SYLLABUS

**GVPT 280 – Comparative Politics and Governments
Summer Session-II, 2008 (7/14/08 – 8/22/08)**

Class Location: TYD 1101
Class Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Class Time: 12:30 PM – 3:50 PM
Professor: Ambassador Tariq A. Karim
Office Hours: TBA
E-mail/Phone Number: Tkarim@gvpt.umd.edu/(TBA)
Credit Hours: 3

Required textbooks:

1. *Comparative Politics – Domestic Response to Global Challenges*, by Charles Hauss, (Sixth edition 2008), Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN 13:978-0-495-50109-1; ISBN-10:0-495-56552-0

2. *Political Science – A comparative Introduction* (5th Edition 2007 or later), Rod Hague & Martin Harrop; Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN-13: 0-978-0-230-60000-3 / isbn-10: 0-230-60000-X

Course Notebook and Supply Requirements:

Students are expected to be properly equipped to take notes from lectures in class.

Course Description:

Designed to provide an introduction to the basic concepts, methods and issues of comparative government and politics, this course introduces students to some of the fundamentals of domestic-level politics in a variety of countries around the world, and asks some of the big questions in comparative politics: what is the state, and what is power? What are some of the major institutions that comprise a state? What are ideologies; what is political culture and what is nationalism — how do ideas matter in politics? What do we know about political transitions, and when do they lead to democracy or authoritarianism? It introduces the student who has to deal with an increasingly complex and globalized world to similar and different political systems and methods of government, in the process helping them to better understand these systems. A major objective of the course will be to examine the different types and structures of political systems in today's world (USA, Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa), how they participate in the political process, and formulate and implement public policies.

Course Objectives:

The course will provide both the discussion of specific cases, as well as a more general discussion of key conceptual and theoretical issues within the field. Upon successful completion of the course, the student should have a better understanding of the world in which he lives and of key issues confronting societies across the world.

Other Reference Materials:

Additional readings will be provided electronically by the instructor from time to time. It will be students' responsibility to ensure access to these materials electronically by maintaining an operational e-mail account at which she/he can be regularly contacted by the instructor, and downloading/printing hard copies for use in class.

Instructional Methods:

The course will be conducted through lectures as per schedule, in which the instructor may use Power Point or overhead projector from time to time, as may be necessary. Course work will include readings and written assignments, as well as active class participation through discussions and presentation.

I. Readings

The instructor will assign reading material for each class. Students are expected to read the assigned material in advance. This will not only exponentially enhance the student's comprehension of the subject material but also enable the student to participate meaningfully in class discussions on a given subject.

In addition, since this will be an interdisciplinary course that will be driven both theoretically and by current events, students are encouraged to:

- read at least one internationally known newspaper, e.g. International Herald Tribune (<http://www.iht.com/>), and
- view regularly, if not daily, BBC World Service newscasts (National and regional Public Service Television channels, including University of Maryland TV telecast this) and PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

II. Class participation

Students are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and presentation of their work when so required.

III. Outputs and Grading

Students will be given one mid-term examination mid-way through the semester, and the final examination at the end of the semester. In addition, they will be expected to write and present to the class one major semester research paper.

Grades in the course will be allocated as follows:

- 10%** Attendance
- 25%** mid-term examination
- 30%** semester research paper (25% for paper and 5% for presentation)
- 35%** final examination

All assignments and tests must be completed as per schedule to receive final grades at the end of the semester. Late submission of papers is liable to be penalized.

Attendance Policy:

It is important to attend lectures regularly in order to keep abreast of the class. A fully functioning *learning community* depends on the presence and contributions of every one of its members in class.

According to the University's guidelines, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance and that prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester. Absences, unless for legitimate reasons that are supported by acceptable documentation, will result in students losing valuable marks that could impact adversely on their final grades.

Academic Integrity:

The University is one of a small number of universities with a student-administered [Code of Academic Integrity](#) and an [Honor Pledge](#). The Code prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course, and be aware of the consequences of violating them. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

We are happy to provide appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2007 semester.

As per University policy, I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by DSS

If you have any questions or concerns regarding UMCP disability documentation, please contact Disability Support Services at 314-7682 who will determine and implement appropriate academic accommodations.

Navigating the Course:

Details of the schedule of classes will be posted later.

Please be advised that the syllabi topics, readings, and related activities, may be subject to change and readjustment as may be required by circumstances.