PS 101 Modern World Governments
Spring 2015, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-9:50am, 208 DEA

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11:30am, 828 PLC

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers an introduction to political systems, institutions, economies and cultures in a variety of countries. Throughout this course, we will explore ten countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia, China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Iran and Nigeria. These countries could vary in their structures of political institutions and levels of economic development, but could also share similar political identities and cultures. By using a comparative approach, we will examine similarities and differences of political experiences among these countries. The basic objectives of this course are to provide a clear understanding of the political systems in different countries and to serve as foundation for further study in International Relations and Comparative Politics.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION
One book is required and available at the UO bookstore. All other readings will be available on the Blackboard (http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/). Two copies of the required book are also reserved at the Knight Library.

Required book

Expectations
This is an introductory course with a mixture of lectures and discussions. Throughout the term I expect you come to class already having read the assigned readings thoroughly and critically, to demonstrate an understanding of the material. During class I expect you to actively participate in the class discussions, and make thoughtful contributions.

Your attendance is essential to your learning and to the success of the course. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to submit work on a timely basis in order to received full credit for taking this course. If you cannot attend a class for medical, personal reasons, or for unforeseen circumstances, please notify me as soon as possible.
Assignment

- **Discussion sections attendance and participation (15%).**
- **Discussion paper (25%).** 6-8 page paper (double-space). Paper instructions will be handed out at the end of week 2.
- **Midterm exam (30%) and Final exam (30%).** The exams will draw on assigned readings, lectures and other materials presented in the class. Details will be announced in class.

**Academic Honesty**
Any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. When you hand in an assignment, make sure that everything in it is your own work and that you have made the appropriate references where necessary. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on your assignment. Please review the following UO websites for clarification:
http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/

**Accessible Education Center**
The University of Oregon is committed to creating inclusive learning environments. If any aspects of my instruction or course design result in barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. If you have a disability or require special accommodation, I encourage you to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or uoaeC@uoregon.edu. If you have already been in contact with Accessible Education Center and have a notification letter, please provide me with a statement from Accessible Education Center during the first week of class so that we can make appropriate arrangements. University policy requires that students present a notification letter from AEC to receive testing accommodations (see http://aec.uoregon.edu/students/current.html).

**Classroom Etiquette**
Cell phones: Please silence your cell phone before class. If you need to make an important call or make a text please leave the classroom so as not to disrupt the learning environment.

Laptops: Feel free to bring your laptops to class for taking notes. However, please refrain from sending emails, surfing the net or playing online games during lecture.

**LECTURES AND READINGS**

**Week 1**
Mar. 30: Introduction to class/ Syllabus review

Apr. 1: United Kingdom: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 1 & chapter 2 (p39-64)

Apr. 3: United Kingdom: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 2 (64-93)
**Week 2**  
Apr. 6: France: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 4 (149-171)


Apr. 10: Film: Young, Muslim and French (2006)

**Week 3**  
Apr. 13: Germany: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 5 (201-227).

Apr. 15: Germany: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 5 (227-256)

Apr. 17: Current issue: Germany and Euro crisis

**Week 4**  
Apr. 20: Russia: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 7 (315-338).

Apr. 22: Russia: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 7 (338-365)

Apr. 24: Current issue: Russia: a wounded economy

**Week 5**  
Apr. 27: Brazil: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 12 (576-600)

Apr. 29: Brazil: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 6 (601-627)

May. 1: Midterm

**Week 6**  
May. 4: China: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 8 (364-391)

May. 6:  
  - China: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 8 (391-421)

May. 8: Film: China inside Out (2008)

**Week 7**
May. 11: India: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 9 (422-445)


**Week 8**
May. 18: South Africa: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 13 (628-650)

May. 20: South Africa: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 13 (651-681)

May. 22: Nigeria: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 12 (682-706)

**Week 9**
May. 25: Memorial Day – No class

May. 27:
• Nigeria: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 12 (706-730)

May. 29: Iran: historical development and political institutions. O'Neil et al. chapter 10 (473-498)

**Week 10**
Jun. 1: Iran: domestic politics, foreign relation, and key issues. O'Neil et al. chapter 10 (498-521)

Jun. 3: the emerging economy: the BRICs

Jun. 5: course review

**Final Examination:** Friday, June 12. 10:15-12:15