

2401:

Professor Lowell Barrington

Section 101

Spring 2016, MWF 11:00-11:50; Wehr Chemistry 002

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This course provides an introduction to the comparative study of domestic politics in countries around the world. In this course, you will be introduced to some of the most important concepts, theories, and issues in this subfield of political science. There is some debate about what "comparative politics" means. Many see it simply as learning facts about countries outside the United States. Others believe that it is about comparing political systems in order to generate general statements about politics. In this course, you will be exposed to both of these ideas. You will learn about the domestic politics of a number of important countries. But,

POSC 2401 falls under the Individual and Social Behavior section of Marquette's Core of Common Studies. As a result, this course will contribute to your ability to understand central concepts, theories, and methods used to explain individual and social behavior in political science; to use knowledge of social scientific methods to analyze examples of individual and social behavior; and to evaluate the applicability of social scientific knowledge for understanding individual and social behavior in particular contexts.

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Office of Disability Services. If you are unsure of what you need, visit www.marquette.edu/disability-services or contact the Office of Disability Services at 414-288-1645.

While generally a nice person, I take academic dishonesty very seriously. Academic dishonesty violates the core principles (and Honor Code) of Marquette, and it is unfair to your fellow classmates. If you are caught copying during tests/quizzes, plagiarizing on assignments (i.e., representing someone else's ideas as your own, including by not adequately citing them), or helping someone do either of these, you will receive an F on that assignment, be reported to the Honor Council, and receive any other punishments that are warranted. Don't test me on this one! Just to be clear, if you take this course, you are expected to recognize the importance of personal integrity in all aspects of life and work. I commit myself to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, by which I earn the respect of others. I support the development of good character, and commit myself to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity as an important aspect of personal integrity. My commitment obliges me to conduct myself according to the Marquette University Honor Code. To provide additional incentives for this not to be an issue on the policy memo or early semester short assignment, I will be submitting them to turnitin.com for an originality check after you submit them via the D2L drop box.

Week 1 (Jan 18-22): Key Concepts: Politics, Power, Society, Nation, and State

Readings:

Lowell Barrington, *Comparative Politics: A Global and Cultural Approach*, 2nd Edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006), chapter 1 ("The Comparative Study of Politics"), pp. 1-13.

Week 4 (Feb 8-12): Economic Structure and Political Outcomes

Readings:

Barrington, *CPSC*, chapter 2 (“Economic Class, Development, Systems, and Globalization”).

D2L #1: “Forget the 1%,” *The Economist*.

D2L #2: “The Oil Price Plunge,” *The Nation*, 2/23/2015.

D2L #3: “‘The Looting Machine’ Explains Why Africa Isn’t Rising,” *Chicago Tribune*, 12/30/2015.

D2L #4: “Stress and Challenges: What’s Facing China’s ‘Nine Dragons of Water’,” *Global Asia*, March 2015.

Week 5 (Feb 15-19): Political Culture and Ideology

Readings:

Barrington, *CPSC*, chapter 3 (“Ideas as Structure: Political Culture and Ideology”).

D2L #1: “Weird Bedfellows,” *The Nation*, 3/23/2015.

D2L #2:

Week 10 (Mar 28-April 1): Interest Groups and “Civil Society”

Readings:

Barrington, *CPSC*, chapter 8 (“Political Participation and Approaches to Linking Masses and Elites”).

D2L #1: “Study: US is an Oligarchy, Not a Democracy,” BBC.

D2L #2: “Russia’s Stolen Future,” *Foreign Policy in Focus*

and issues we have examined? Does it fill a void, providing an example of something important that the other countries we are looking at do not?

While it will be tempting to do so, do *not* describe the countries' basic histories in your memo. Cover only the history, events, or facts about the countries that you need to make your points about which country we should study. Remember, I want to know why you believe that I and your fellow classmates should spend a week studying the country you choose, and simply having some interesting events in its history will not distinguish it from other potential countries we could study.

The majority of the grade on this assignment will be the effectiveness of the memo in convincing me that it is a great deal, spelling and grammar matter quite a lot, and the looks of your memo matter only a bit. Although it is common to use bullet point formatting in a research project, this is a research project. I expect you to find *current* information about the countries. You should look not only at news magazines like *The Economist* but also at academic journals that may carry articles on your country. Also, you can (and should) use the readings from class where appropriate.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in any form. Direct quotations must be in quotation marks, and you should use footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations for sources from which you have borrowed *any* ideas. We will discuss this more in class. While short and in *la Ya cī* form, this is a research project. I expect you to find *current* information about the countries. You should look not only at news magazines like *The Economist* but also at academic journals that may carry articles on your country. Also, you can (and should) use the readings from class where appropriate.

A References list should be included as an additional page of the memo. This page will not be included in the word count. It is reasonable to have *at least 10* sources that you actually reference in the memo