

POLS 305: COMPARATIVE GLOBAL POLITICS (95288, 3 Credits)

MW 3:00-4:15

Saunders 541

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**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** To provide students with a basic understanding of revolutionary and evolutionary change in government structures and policies, political responses to crisis, impacts of globalization on domestic policies, demographic politics, energy politics, Arab-Israeli conflict, the problem of North Korea, and the expected internal effects of China's rise as a world power. As a conceptual frame of reference, we will compare liberal and illiberal systems. The interplay of politics and economics will be a focus of this course. Our emphasis will be on a country's internal governance, and relationships with close neighbors, rather than evaluation of its conduct of overall foreign policy.

No textbook is assigned for this course. Readings are articles, and selected chapters from a variety of books. All readings are posted on laulima. Please consult with us if you are having trouble navigating through laulima, or finding the readings for the classes.

**Course Grading:** Grades will be based on your performance in the following areas:

**TAKE HOME EXAMS:** Take home midterm and take home final will be worth up to 30 points each on your final grade. These will be distributed on a Monday (see course outline for dates) and will be collected the following Monday. Questions will be based on the readings and class presentations. You may refer to the readings, to your notes, and to any other independent readings you may consider relevant. You may work in groups, but you are responsible for submitting your own paper, which may reflect group work, your work, or a combination of both.

**WEEKLY REFLECTION POSTINGS:** Each week (except the final sixteenth week), you will be expected to post an observation to laulima about some aspect you choose of the readings or class material of that week. You must post to the thread created for that week: "Week X Reflections Posting" thread. Ideally, the thread will end up reflecting some interesting conversations among you and your classmates. Meritorious participation will earn you one point each week. You may post at any time during the week. The weekly postings are due by end of day on Sunday at the close of the week. Postings after that for that week will not be credited. You can earn up to 15 points on your final grade from these postings.

**PRE-CLASS READING ASSIGNMENT POSTING:** Each student is responsible for selecting one reading (if from a book, one chapter), and posting a summary and analysis to laulima, identified by the reading title. The summary should be approximately 500 words. The analysis should state your supported opinion of the material in approximately 300 words.



2. Students can demonstrate an understanding of the key literature and issues on economics and politics in selected countries and regimes,

i. Demonstrate recognition of key literatures, views and debates on global politics

ii. Be able to develop a critical understanding on key issues

3. Students can develop an in-depth understanding of a selected topic in global politics.

i. Demonstrate the ability to develop a set of relevant literature on the selected topic.

ii. Be able to analyze the selected topic with appropriate method.

iii. Be able to develop a scholarly understanding and argument on the selected topic.

4. Students can develop writing skills in recording, presenting, and analyzing:

i. visual images.

ii. written materials.

iii. individual understanding and perception.

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COURSE OUTLINE:

MODULE ONE: COMPARATIVE REVOLUTIONS

Week One: January 11-13

Readings:

R.J. Rummel: American vs. French Revolution

Steve Kreis: The History Guide, Lectures 5-7

Dillon, Nara, and Jean Oi, eds. *At the Crossroads of Empires: Middlemen, Social Networks, and State-Building in Republican Shanghai* (2007) Introduction and conclusion.

Jennifer Cucchise: The Causes and Effects of the Chinese Civil War (pgs. 40-71)

M 1/11 Course Introduction

Concepts as Applied to US/French Revolutions#

W 1/13 Russian and Chinese Revolutions\*

Week One Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Two: Jan. 18-20

Readings:

Hasanen & Naruzzaman: The New Egypt

Pew Foundation: The World's Muslims: Executive Summary, Overview, &  
Chapter 4—Women in Society

M 1/18 Martin Luther King Holiday

W 1/20 Film: Cambodia—"The Crimes of Comrade Duch"

Egypt, Democracy, and Islam#

Week Two Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Three: Jan. 25-27

Readings:

Brafman & Beckstrom: Starfish and the Spider (Chapters 2, 4, and 9)

M 1/25 Revolutions of the Future? Unorganized Power & Networks\*

W 1/27 Film: Sir John Daniel—Higher Education Doesn't Do Revolution

Week Three Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

MODULE TWO: LIBERALISM AND ILLIBERALISM

Week Four: Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

Readings:

Brian Tamanaha: On the Rule of Law (Chapters 3, 5, 9)

Steve Zierak: Reviews of Hillsdale College Constitution 101

M 2/1 Rule of Law#

W 2/3 U.S. Founding vs. Progressivism/Modern Liberalism#

Film: Sackett v. EPA—How One Couple’s Battle Against the Feds Might  
Protect Your Land

Week Four Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Five: Feb. 8-10

Readings:

Friedrich Hayek: The Fatal Conceit (Chapters 2, 5)

The Road to Serfdom (Chapters 4, 5)

Hernando de Soto: Mystery of Capitalism in the Third World (Chapters 1, 3, 7)

M 2/8 Classical Liberalism: Why Markets Succeed & Government Planning Fails\*

John Stossel - Will The Shutdown Harm The Economy?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_0eYb9eX9iA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0eYb9eX9iA)

W 2/10 How Property Documentation Functions as a People’s Source of Capital\*

Film: Milton Friedman—The Escape From Collectivism

Week Five Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Six: Feb. 15-17

Readings:

Yang Jisheng: Tombstone—The Great Chinese Famine (Chapters 11, 12, 14)

M 2/15 Presidents’ Day Holiday

W 2/17 Maoism: Great Leap Forward& Cultural Revolution:Governing by Campaign\*

Week Six Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Seven: Feb. 22-24rd

Readings:

Janos Kornoi: Market Socialism Revisited

Roger Boshier and Yan Huang, Market Socialism Meets the Lost Generation: Motivational Orientations of Adult Learners in Shanghai.

Michael Boskin: Picking Losers, Killing Winners

M 2/22 Market Socialism#

W 2/24 Japanese Industrial Policy\*

Film: Pop! Goes the Bubble! The Japanese Economy

Week Seven Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

*DISTRIBUTE TAKE HOME MIDTERM MONDAY, 2/29*

*BASED ON CLASSES 1/11-2/24*

*DUE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, 3/7*

MODULE THREE: ECONOMIC CRISIS & POLITICAL RESPONSE

Week Eight: Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Readings:

Roger Myerson: Political Economics and the Weimar Disaster

Calvin Hoover: Dictator's March

William Niskanen: Reaganomics

Douglas McWilliams: Thatcherism-20 Years On

Steve Zierak: Notes on Terms&Timelines (Based on Morgenson&Rosner's  
Reckless Endangerment)

M 2/29 Post WWI Germany and Rise of National Socialism\*

Thatcher and Reagan\*

W 3/2 2008 U.S. Financial Crisis#

Week Eight Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

MODULE FOUR: POLITICAL/ECONOMIC TRANSITIONS

Week Nine: March 7-9

Readings:

Zhou & Gregory: Why China Won & Russia Lost

Zhou & Zierak: Two Models of Economic Development in China

M 3/7 Russia vs. China: Reform from Below and Above#

W 3/9 Two Chinese Capitalisms#

Week Nine Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Ten: March 14-16

Readings:

Susan Nello: The European Union (Chapters 2, 10)

M 3/14 The European Union#

W 3/16 Monetary Union and Its Discontents#

Film: The European Debt Crisis Visualized

Week Ten Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

*SPRING BREAK: WEEK OF MARCH 21.*

Week Eleven: March 28-30th

Readings:

Milada Vachudova: Europe Undivided (Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 4)

M 3/28 Eastern Europe After 1989#

Film: The Czechoslovak Velvet Revolution in Olomouc 1989/1990

W 3/30 Guest Speaker, Zsuzsa Rastegar, a former resident of Eastern Europe

Week Eleven Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

MODULE FIVE: CRONY CAPITALISM

Week Twelve: April 4-6

Readings:

Peter Schweizer: Throw Them All Out (Chapters 2, 5, 9, 10)

M 4/4 U.S. Crony Capitalism#

Film: Capitalism and Management's Core Responsibilities

W 4/6 Guest Panel on Hawaiian Crony Capitalism

Week Twelve Reflections Postings due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

MODULE SIX: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ISSUES

Week Thirteen: April 11-13

Readings:

Susan Hainsworth: Sovereignty, Economic Integration, & WTO

Barry Rubin: Israeli-Palestinian Negotiating Positions

IEA: World Energy Outlook

Bill Kovarik: Oil Reserve Fallacy

Joanne Nova: The Skeptic's Hand Book

M 4/11 WTO & Economic Integration\*

The Impossible Negotiation#

W 4/13 Energy & Global Warming#

Week Thirteen Reflections Postings are due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

Week Fourteen: April 18-20

Readings:

Ben Wattenberg: Fewer (Chapters 1, 13)

George Magnus: The Age of Aging (Chapter 4)



Zhang Li, SHANGHAI COMING TO GRIP WITH ITS  
AGING POPULATION PROBLEMS

Reading on 2016 Election to be announced.

M 4/18 The New Demographics#

W 4/20 The Election of 2016\*

Week Fourteen Reflections Postings are due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

*DISTRIBUTE TAKE HOME FINAL MONDAY, 4/25*

*BASED ON CLASSES 2/29-4/20*

*DUE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, 5/2*

MODULE SEVEN: NORTH KOREA, STALINIST RELIC

Week Fifteen: April 25-27

Readings:

Andrei Lankov: The Real North Korea (Pgs. 4-49, 67-74, 102-123, 135-142,  
146-157, 203-212, 234-242)

M 4/25 Hyper-Stalinist Governance#

W 4/27 Survival Problems & Strategies#

Film: North Korea Documentary—The Defectors

Week Fifteen Reflections Postings are due no later than midnight Sunday. Late postings will not be credited.

MODULE EIGHT: CHINA AS A RISING POWER

Week Sixteen: May 2nd to 4th

Readings:

Bergère, Marie-Claire. *Shanghai: China's Gateway to Modernity* (Stanford University Press, 2009) Introduction and conclusion.

Martin Jacques: The Eight Differences That Define China

Zhou

M 5/2 China's Military & Foreign Policy Goals#

W 5/4 The Eight Differences That Will Define A Rising China\*

