

Objective. This course is an introduction to the study of political science and comparative politics. We focus on how citizens may be able to control public policies in different modern democracies. We begin by briefly applying some of these ideas to the American political system. We then turn explicitly to the politics of contemporary Britain, Russia and Germany. We shall comparing these systems with each other, the US and occasionally with other countries.

Organization. The course meets three times a week. Mondays and Wednesdays will be devoted primarily to lectures and Fridays usually to discussion--of both lectures and reading. You will be assigned to a specific discussion section; all discussion sections meet on Friday at the regular class time. The syllabus indicates the main themes of the two lectures and required readings for that week. **A midterm examination on February 24 covers lectures and required reading to that point, including all of Britain and Northern Ireland.** In the period after the midterm we shall turn to Russia and Germany. **There is an optional quiz after the six lectures on each of these countries.** The final examination covers all lectures and required reading; it is scheduled by the Registrar on May 4 at 12:30. This date cannot be changed. Do not arrange to leave for summer vacation before taking the examination on this date.

Grades. Grades will be based on the midterm examination (20%), two brief optional quizzes (10 % each,) class discussion (10%,) and the final examination (50%). Skipping a quiz increases the midterm and final weights by 5% each. Students interested in writing an optional paper (for 25% of final course grade), about ten pages long, applying the concept of citizen control/influence through elections to another country, should talk with the instructor. Only papers on this topic are acceptable. It is acceptable to use other countries in the text. Papers due Wednesday, April 27.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at:www.rochester.edu/college/honesty Be prepared to sign the Honor pledge on all exams and papers.

Assigned Readings: The assigned readings are important part of the course and will be discussed in the Friday section meetings and covered in the exams.

Purchase: Most of the required readings in the course are from G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell Dalton, and Kaare Strom *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*, 11th ed., 2015, Ch. 1-8, 10, 12, 19 (*CPT* in the syllabus.) The readings each week are short, but dense. The country chapters will repay careful rereading; the syllabus is designed to allow for this rereading.

Reserve: Some articles and book chapters are linked to the syllabus. Powell "Elections" is Chapter 1 from *Elections as Instruments of Democracy* (2000.) Optional: if you wish to learn more about US, Britain, Northern Ireland, Germany and Russia, it may be helpful to supplement the *CPT* chapters by reading Valelly, *American Politics: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford 2013;) Budge, *et al.*, *The New British Politics* on Britain; McKittrick and McVea, *Making Sense of the Troubles* on Northern Ireland; David Conradt, *The German Polity*; M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia*. All of the books are on Reserve in Rush Rhees Library. The electronic book by Dalton, *Politics in Germany* on line

<http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~rdalton/Pgermany.htm> is also recommended.

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Themes</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Jan. 13	Democratic Systems Today	Syllabus; CPT Ch.1, all; (CPT, Ch.2, skim;)
Jan. 15	Comparing Democracies	CPT,96-106; Powell , "Elections."
Jan. 18	NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	
Jan. 20	U.S.A. in Comparative Perspective:Const & Culture	CPT Ch 3:39-42; Ch. 19: Kousser:US,esp.687-699,719-723
Jan. 22	<u>Section meetings begin.</u>	Discuss: why gov?, concepts, citizen control, US democracy.
Jan. 25	USA in Comparative Perspective: Parties, Polarization & Policy	CPT Ch. 19: Kousser: US esp 704-719
Jan 27	The European Union	Blackboard: Sbragia , Politics EU
Jan. 29	Discuss: Inclusive Constitutions; US, European Union	
Feb. 1	Britain as Majorit- arian Democracy	CPT, Ch. 8: Rose, "Britain," esp. 159-170, 183-185.(Ch.6, 96-106)
Feb. 3	British Political Culture	CPT, Ch. 8, esp. 149-159, 170-174.(Reread Ch.3)
Feb. 5	Discuss: British political system (Compare to US)	
Feb. 8	Britain: Party Competition	CPT, Ch. 8, "Britain," esp.152-156,179-183.
Feb. 10	Britain: Issues, Voters, 1983, 1997, 2010, 2015 elections	CPT, Ch. 5, 78-88.
Feb. 12	Discuss: British party competition; interest aggregation & competitive parties	
Feb. 15	Britain: Consensual Style -Majoritarian System	CPT, Ch. 8, "Britain," esp.174-178,183-191.
Feb. 17	Britain & US: Elections, Citizens & Policy	CPT, Ch. 4, 60-70; Ch. 7, 122-140.
Feb. 19	Discuss: Interest groups; policymaking and citizen control--US and Britain	
Feb. 22	Majoritarian Failure: Tragedy in Northern Ireland	http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/ (CAIN project), 1 st 3
Feb. 24	NI: Search for Accommodation	background essays
Feb. 26	Discuss: Northern Ireland	(Darby, Darby, Fitzduff)

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Themes</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Feb. 29	Review for midterm exam	No Additional Reading
Mar. 2	MIDTERM EXAM	Exam covers all lectures
Mar. 4	NO CLASS TODAY	and required reading.
SPRING BREAK MARCH 7-11 NO CLASSES		
Mar. 14	Russia: Transition from Dictatorship to ... Democracy?	CPT, Ch. 12: Remington, "Russia" 337-344.
Mar. 16	Russia: Constitutional Arrangements	CPT, Ch. 12:344-354,378-379. (Also, Ch. 2, 33-36).
Mar. 18	Discuss: Russian "transition" & current constitution	
Mar. 21	Russian Political Culture	CPT, Ch.12, Russia,354-361.
Mar. 23	Russia: Parties, Elections	CPT, Ch. 12, 366-372;also Website www.freedomhouse.org
Mar. 25	Discuss: Russian culture, party competition, elections	Freedom in the World: Russia
Mar. 28	Russia: Presidential Domination of Policy-making	CPT, Ch.12, 344-354, 361-366, 372-380; also 118-119.
Mar. 30	Russia: Elections and Limits of Citizen Control	Schliefer "Normal Country?" <u>Foreign Affairs</u> M-Apr 2004
Apr. 1	Discuss: Russian Democracy	Optional Quiz on Russia
Apr. 4	Germany: Development of a Democratic Culture	CPT, Ch. 10, Dalton: "Germany," 245-254,260-268.
Apr. 6	Germany: Constitutional Arrangements	CPT, Ch. 10, 255-260, 280-284; CPT, Ch. 6:109-116 (& 96-106)
Apr. 8	Discuss: German history, culture, constitution	
Apr. 11	Germany: Competition & Coalition	Reread CPT: Ch 5,78-88. Blackboard: Taylor , Different Democracy 242-244
Apr. 13	Germany: Issues and Voters,	CPT, Ch. 10: "Germany" 272-280, 245-246. Fass Germany 2009, <i>WEP</i> 2010.
Apr. 15	Discuss: German party system, elections, government	
Apr. 18	Germany: Consensual Style, Mixed System	CPT, Ch. 10, 268-272,280-290; Reread CPT, Ch. 4, 60-70.
Apr. 20	Germany: Elections and Citizen Control	
Apr. 22	Discuss: German Democracy	Optional Quiz on Germany
Apr. 25	Elections & Citizen Control	Powell, "Elections."
Apr. 27	Discuss: Focus Points.	CPT ch. 7 Optional paper due.

The examination on May 4 at 1230 covers all lectures and readings.