

POSCI 125: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2006
Office: Comenius 104
Office Ph.: 610-861-1418

Professor Lisa Fischler
Email: fischler@moravian.edu
Class: T, TH 5b (12:50-2:00 pm)

Office Hours: T, Th 9:30-11:30 pm and other times by appointment.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to comparative politics through an exploration of politics and society in the nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Using the theme of revolutions and resistance movements, the course will offer the theoretical tools and empirical information to critically evaluate contentious politics in China, Peru, and Nepal. The course begins with a discussion of what constitutes revolutions and resistance movements. It then moves on to consider the diverse types of contentious politics in these different countries. This class fulfills the **M5 LinC** requirement.

Goals and Objectives

- a) Broaden knowledge about the possible range of political institutions, political behavior, political groups, and political problems in the world regions of Latin America, Asia, and Africa.
- b) Comprehend enough about revolutions and resistance movements in a number of countries to offer intelligent, critical, and well-informed explanations for similarities and differences in the political life of countries in these regions and to better understand the significance of these similarities and differences.
- c) Develop understanding of comparative questions and criticism as concerns the relationship between developed and developing nations.
- d) Improve critical reasoning about politics in non-European and non-American contexts
- e) Enhance research abilities and oral and written communication skills.

Course Guidelines

1. All work must be submitted on due date for full credit. **Late assignments are NOT accepted.**
2. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, printed, stapled, use complete sentences, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All assignments must be personally handed to the instructor. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments will be accepted **except in case of emergencies and not without prior permission of the instructor.**
3. Regular attendance is expected. Assigned work can only be made up 1) after an in-person discussion with the instructor AND 2) in cases of **appropriately documented** family emergencies, extended leave, or school sponsored-commitments. **Health Center notes are NOT considered appropriate documentation.** If an emergency should arise, you must notify me prior to an assignment's due date and not after. If you plan to miss a class please notify me in advance. Students are allowed a maximum of three absences within this semester. If you miss class more

than the allowed times, 5% will be deducted from your final course grade. Another 5% will be deducted from your final course grade for each additional absence. Two late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence. Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class is counted as an absence.

4. In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform your professor through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

5. Learning disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Learning Services (x1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

6. These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of the instructor's expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances the instructor reserves the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations

- 1) Respect for others' answers and views. Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 2) Equal time for opposing opinions.
- 3) Please turn off cell phones in class. If yours rings during class, you will be dismissed from class and counted as absent.
- 4) Non-alcoholic drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.
- 5) Attention to course related material only.
- 6) Necessary breaks at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore-

- Goldstone, Jack. Ed. *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies*. Third Edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson, 2003.
- Hutt, Michael. *Himalayan People's War: Nepal's Maoist Revolution*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004.
- Palmer, David Scott. Ed. *Shining Path of Peru*. Second Edition. NY, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1994.
- Bianco, Lucien. *Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-1949*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1971.

Course Requirements

A. Graded Requirements

Class Participation-20% of your final grade. Class participation includes coming to class on a very consistent basis, keeping up with assigned readings by thoroughly reading and thinking

about the readings before coming to class, active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. For class participation, **effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion are all part of participation.** I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a) attend class regularly; b) discuss the videos and readings I make available; c) raise relevant questions/offer thoughtful comments; d) demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. **If you do not participate actively in each class, you will reduce your participation grade by 50% for each given day.**

Exams-There will be two take home exams in this course. Each of the exams is 25% of your final grade. These essay exams will strongly emphasize critical reflection on course readings and discussions, rather than memorization of names, dates, and places. Exam questions will be passed out one week prior to each exam's due date in class. **Rules governing academic honesty apply.** I expect that you will study with other students for the exam, and I encourage such study groups. Discussing answers to questions with fellow students can help you to think through class topics. However, make sure not to write answers that resemble those of the classmates with whom you have studied and expect to get credit. Writing up answers to the questions independently will help you succeed in keeping your work your own and not borrowing someone else's. The exams will be due in class during the sixth and the twelfth weeks. Check the syllabus for exact dates. **Exam format:** each exam will consist of one short essay and two long essay questions. The exam must be 11 or 12 point font (10 point font will not be accepted), double-spaced, stapled, spell-checked for grammar and spelling, have clearly numbered questions, have a works cited page, and contain appropriate citation of sources for ideas, paraphrases, summaries, and direct quotations. Style of citations is to be either MLA, APA, or *Chicago Manual of Style* format. The exam should have a cover sheet with your name, the date, and the course number. The entire exam, **not including the cover sheet**, is to be no less than 6 pages and no more than 8 pages long. **Exams over 8 pages will not be accepted.** Be sure to follow these guidelines when preparing your exam.

Critical Reasoning Paper-20% of your grade. The critical reasoning paper will be due in week thirteen. See the syllabus for the exact date. The paper will be based on material chosen from **one** of the following books assigned for this course—1) *Shining Path* or 2) *Himalayan People's War*. Whichever one of these books you chose, the complete reading of a chosen chapter of this book (approved by the instructor) needs to be finished by week eleven so that you will understand the book chapter well before the paper is due. The paper is to be 2-3 pages, typed, single-spaced, size 12 font. The paper must be at least two full pages and no more than three full pages, single-spaced type. The paper will consist of seven paragraphs and is designed to answer a set of critically analytical questions about the chosen book chapter in relation to the topic of the course, contentious politics, as it is covered in the assigned readings. Critical reasoning papers will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided below. Detailed instructions for the paper format and content will be passed out and discussed in class during the first several weeks of the term. On this paper, I encourage you to seek help from the Writing Center. Although short, the assignment asks you to think clearly and to write concisely about a given subject. Writing Center tutors can be very helpful in this process. You will also be expected to

proofread the paper and use correct citations according to either MLA or *Chicago Manual of Style* formats. Points will be deducted for grammar errors, spelling mistakes, incorrect citations, and failure to cite material. While the topic of plagiarism and examples of correct quotation and citation format, paraphrasing, and summarizing will be covered in some class sessions, seeking help from the Writing Center can only improve your work.

Bi-weekly email questions-10 % of your final grade. Every other week, beginning in the second week, you will be required to email me a critical question based on the assigned readings in that two week period. The question must be in the form of a “how,” “why,” or “in what way(s)” question. It cannot take the form of a “who,” “what,” “when,” or “where” question. You are not asked to provide the answer to the question, only the question itself. However, because many of these questions will be used in class discussions, it would be useful for you to have some sense of what a possible answer to the question might be when you come to class. This will help your active participation in discussion. Remember, in discussion it is effort rather than always giving a correct answer that counts. Email questions to me at: fischler@moravian.edu. These questions are due by 4:30 p.m. on each Thursday of weeks beginning with even numbers, but see the syllabus for specific due dates (they are all marked). I will end my office hours on these Thursdays by 4: 30 p.m. and will check my email at that time. Make sure your email is in by then. The best way to approach this is not to wait until the Thursday the question is due, but to email it to me well in advance. I will accept emailed questions at any time within each two week period. So, if an intriguing question catches you in the reading, email it to me. This will insure that you avoid any computer malfunctions (which are not an accepted excuse for late emailed questions). Emailed questions will be worth 10 points each and will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided below.

Pop quizzes-If class discussions do not yield evidence of careful reading and thought, I may administer unannounced (“pop”) quizzes. These quizzes will be factored in as part of your participation grade (20 points each). These quizzes will help me determine if quiet students are keeping silent because they are shy or because they are not keeping up with the reading assignments. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

B. Grade Components

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Bi-weekly email questions	10%
Class Participation	20%
Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Critical reasoning paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Guidelines (Rubric) for Written Assignments

(Written by Ben Slote and modified slightly by Ann Bomberger)

1) Written work in the A range is based on an original, logical and coherently organized set of ideas; it makes a clear and persuasive argument (even if the reader disagrees with its argument);

it brings in specific, relevant examples to back up its assertions; its points, at each turn, are clearly articulated: the words carry precise meaning, they don't obscure it; its sentences use only the words their ideas require, not any more; its paragraphs have distinct though related roles in the essay's cohesion as a whole, each holding one thoroughly asserted idea (not two competing ideas, not one idea half-asserted); if appropriate it accurately and thoughtfully uses other sources; and its sentences are without the grammatical, spelling, or typographical mistakes that exacting proof-reading would catch. (All of this takes a lot of work. If it is all very nearly accomplished, the essay usually earns an A-.)

2) Written work in the B range: a very good paper, the writing of which is clearly, thoughtfully, and effectively executed. What sometimes prevents an "A" is a lack of originality, thorough thinking or careful proofreading. If two of these virtues are absent and the other areas of the paper are strong, the essay will usually earn a B-.

3) Written work in the C range: some conspicuous flaw usually earns an essay a C; its argument is really underdeveloped, it contains only minimal textual support, it has problems with organization and/or sentence clarity, it is in dire need of proofreading.

4) Written D work either contains more than one of the large problems cited in the "C" description or finds another way to convince its reader that the author has not spent nearly enough time on the thinking or writing in the essay.

5) Written work that earns an F misses on all criteria (originality, articulateness, persuasiveness, organization, the absence of mechanical mistakes).

Final Grade Scale (in percentage, not points)

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C
70-72.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
63-66.9	D
60-62.9	D-
less than 60	F

Note: It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the course final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such),

and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; advance notice will be given)

*You will be expected to spend 2 1/2-3 hours on work outside of class for every hour in class.

*Be sure to bring assigned readings to class each day. We will use them for in-class assignments, some of which will be graded. Your grade for the day may depend on your remembering to bring your book to class.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
1: Tues. 1/17	Introduction	None
1: Thurs. 1/19	Debating Revolution	Goldstone, pp. 1-36
2: Tues. 1/24	What Constitutes a Revolution?	Goldstone, pp. 37-53
2: Thurs. 1/26	The Origins of Revolution & China's Republican Revolution	Goldstone, pp. 55-69 Bianco, pp. 1-26 Email question due by 4:30 pm
3: Tues. 1/31	Republican Revolutions	Goldstone, pp. 157-181
3: Thurs. 2/2	Intellectual Origins of the Chinese Revolution	Bianco, pp. 27-52 Critical reasoning paper theme choice due in class
4: Tues. 2/7	Marxist Revolutions	Goldstone, pp. 183-211
4: Thurs. 2/9	Early Years of Chinese Communism	Bianco, Ch. 3 Email question due by 4:30 pm
5: Tues. 2/14	Social Causes of Revolution	Bianco, Ch. 4
5: Thurs. 2/16	Other Causes of Revolution	Bianco, Ch. 5
6: Tues. 2/21	Revolution & Resistance in China	Bianco, Ch. 6
6: Thurs. 2/23	Exam I due in class	No assigned readings Email question due by 4:30 pm

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
7: Tues. 2/28	Modern Revolution & Resistance	Goldstone, pp. 69-84
7: : Thurs. 3/2	Outcome of the Chinese Communist Revolution	Bianco, pp. 167-198
March 4-12, 2006	Spring Break	No classes
8: Tues. 3/14	Peruvian Politics	Palmer, Ch. 1
8: Thurs. 3/16	Peru: Revolution or Resistance	Palmer, Ch. 2 Email question due by 4:30 pm
9: Tues. 3/21	Nepalese Politics	Hutt, pp. 1-20
9: Thurs. 3/23	Nepal: Revolution or Resistance	Hutt, pp. 21-57
10: Tues. 3/28	Revolution Against Dictatorships	Goldstone, pp. 213-223 Palmer, pp. 51-77
10: Thurs. 3/30	Outcomes of Revolutions	Goldstone, pp. 120-136 Palmer, pp. 101-123 Email question due by 4:30 pm
11: Tues. 4/4	All-College Service Day No classes	No assigned reading
11: Thurs. 4/6	Urban Centers and Maoist Resistance Movements	Goldstone, pp. 120-135 Palmer, Ch. 7
12: Tues. 4/11	Counter- Revolution Exam II due in class	Goldstone, pp. 136-140 Hutt, pp. 58-78
12: Thurs. 4/13	Ethnography of a Maoist Movement	Goldstone, pp. 107-120 Hutt, pp. 79-104 Email question due by 4:30 pm
April 14-17, 2006	Easter Break	No classes
13: Tues. 4/18	Guerilla & Ethnic Revolts	Goldstone, pp. 310-322 Hutt, pp. 112-135 Critical Reasoning Paper due in class

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
13: Thurs. 4/20	Gender and Revolution	Goldstone, pp. 94-107 Palmer, Ch. 9 Hutt, pp. 152-165
14: Tues. 4/25	Maoism, Society, and Violence	Hutt, pp. 136-151 Palmer, pp. 225-239
14: Thurs. 4/27	Revolution and Resistance in Comparative Perspective	Goldstone, pp. 150-153 Hutt, 225-242 Palmer, 243-254 Email question due by 4:30 pm
Finals: May 1-6, 2006		