

**POL 300W, Comparative Politics,
Department of Political Science and International Relations, Fall 2018**

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: **Dr. M.M. Mottale**

Instructor's Email: **mmottale@fus.edu**

Office Hours: **W. 8:00-12:00 F. 9:00-11:00 or by appointment, OFFICE 5, MV.**

Class location: **No. 5 Main Villa**

Class meeting times: **MON & THU, 8:30 – 9:45**

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The development of the modern nation-state will be analyzed from a variety of theoretical viewpoints. The approaches and methods of major social theorists will be examined in detail.

III. RATIONALE

This course is a Capstone course requirement for Political Science and International Relations. This class is writing intensive. The analysis of the dynamics of the contemporary state will be the primary goal of this class. Students will be gaining an insight into the aspects of the modern industrial and post-industrial state that are relevant to comparative analysis and valid and testable generalizations that can be in return applied to the analysis of developing and modernizing socio-political and economic systems.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The analysis of the dynamics of the contemporary state will be the primary goal of this class. Students will be gaining an insight into the aspects of the modern industrial and post-industrial state that are relevant to comparative analysis and valid and testable generalizations that can be in return applied to the analysis of developing and modernizing socio-political and economic systems.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

A solid understanding of the methodology of Political Science, as well as the ability to carry out systematic research on topics related to modern political systems and the revelation.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Texts:

Anthony Giddens, *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*

Barrington Moore Jr., *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. (On reserve)

J.Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*

Liah Greenfeld, *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Additional readings to be assigned with scheduled lectures.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Midterm examination, Research paper and Presentation (University of Chicago Writing Manual Style), Final examination, Attendance and Participation.

Final examination will count as 40% of overall grade. Research paper and presentation will be worth 30% midterm examination, 20% of overall grade. Attendance and participation 10%. Late papers may be penalized through a lower grade except for medical or emergency reasons. Cheating and plagiarism will be severely punished. See attached guidelines

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and plagiarism will be severely punished. See official policy in the College Catalog.

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Library, Writing Learning Center

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Midterm Examination: October 12 Take Home Exam

Final Examination: Monday December 11, 8:30 to 10:30

Research Paper is due Thursday November 15

Presentations to begin Monday November 6 (Schedule to be arranged)

Schedule of lectures

Week 1 Method and Theory in Comparative Analysis

Week 2 Introduction to Major Theories: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Week 3 Introduction to Major Theories: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Week 4 Introduction to Major Theories: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Week 5 Modernity and Tradition: Development and Underdevelopment

- Week 6 The Modern Industrial State
- Week 7 Ideology in the Modern State
- Week 8 Imperialism, Colonialism, and War
- Week 9 The Rise and Fall of Communism
- Week 10 Islam
- Week 11 Africa
- Week 12 Latin America
- Week 13 The Search for Theory: Some Conclusive Remarks

Schedule of Readings:

- Week 1 Moore, Chapters 1, 2. Giddens, Part 1. Greenfeld, Chapters 1, 2, 3,
Diamond, (entire opus)
- Week 2 Giddens, Part 2. Weber, The Protestant Ethic (entire opus).
- Week 3 Giddens, Part 2.
- Week 4 Additional readings to be arranged by Prof. Mottale
- Week 5 Moore, Chapter 3. Greenfeld, Chapter 4
- Week 6 Greenfeld, Chapter 5, Giddens, remaining parts
- Week 7 Additional readings to be arranged by Prof. Mottale on political sociology and elite theory: Mosca, Pareto, Michels.
- Week 8 Mottale, entire opus
- Week 9 Moore, Chapter 4
- Week 10 Moore, Chapter 5
- Week 11 Moore, Chapter 6, Part 3, and Epilogue
- Week 12 Presentations
- Week 13 Some conclusive remarks.

Additional readings to be arranged for Final Examination.

Study Questions for Midterm Examination:

- 1) What is a Revolution?
- 2) Compare and contrast the beginning of modernization in France and England.
- 3) What are the salient aspects of Weber's notion of The Protestant Ethic?
- 4) Compare and contrast feudalism and patrimonial. What are their similarities and differences and their significance for modernization?
- 5) What is Liberalism? Does it have a relationship with modern capitalism?
- 6) What are the salient points in Louis Hartz's theory of the fragment in his approach to the study of settler societies?
- 7) Compare and contrast the role of the Samurais and the Junkers in the modernization processes of Prussia and Japan.

Students are expected to research midterm topics in preparation for the midterm examination.

Study Questions for Final Examination:

- 1) According to prof. Mottale, what are the causes of radical Islamism?
- 2) To what extent is the notion of The Protestant Ethic relevant to the study of

Modernization and Underdevelopment?

- 3) What could have been the reasons for the demise of the Soviet economic-political system?
- 4) What are the problems of the modern welfare state and what are the critical issues that confront its existence?
- 5) What is historical materialism?
- 6) Describe and analyze the notions of totalitarianism and authoritarianism in comparative politics.

Additional questions to be arranged.