

POLITICAL SCIENCE 340

POLITICS IN ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES

University of Arizona, Fall 2007

CORRECTED VERSION 08/24/2007

(corrections in red below)

Instructor:	Greg Dixon	Office:	Social Sciences 320
Email:	gcdixon@email.arizona.edu	Office Hours:	Mon – 3pm – 6pm, Wed 3 – 5pm
Course Web Page:	http://www.u.arizona.edu/~gcdixon		or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the political issues and challenges that face advanced industrial states in the contemporary world. We will discuss the sources of policy pressure on states in general and how this affects advanced industrial societies differently from their less industrialized counterparts. We will examine the various political institutions found in advanced industrial states and how these affect the political process. We will explore how social, cultural, historic, and institutional factors affect policy outcomes.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Lijphart, Arend (1999). *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*. ISBN: 0300078935 Yale University Press
- Adolino, Jessica and Charles H. Blake (2001) *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Six Industrialized Countries*. ISBN: 1568024495 CQ Press
- Castles, F. G. (1998). *Comparative public policy: patterns of post-war transformation*. ISBN: 1858988233 Edward Elgar Publishing
- Rose, Richard (2004) *Learning From Comparative Public Policy: A Practical Guide* ISBN: 0415317428 Routledge
- Wilson, Julius Q. (1991) *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It* ISBN: 0465007856 Basic Books
- Students are expected to subscribe to the Economist Newspaper. This will be the favored source for the current events we will use to apply the information we have learned. Student discount rates are available; go to www.economistacademic.com. The faculty ID number for Dr. Dixon is 4313. This will take you to the student subscription page. The 12 issue subscription will do for the duration of the course and is \$19.95 (as of 8/1/07). *Be sure to use the student subscription as it is offered at a discounted rate compared to the standard subscription.*

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

- Pressman, J. L. and A. B. Wildavsky (1984). *Implementation: how great expectations in Washington are dashed in Oakland*. ISBN: 0520053311 Berkeley, University of California Press.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Survey the history of industrialization and its legacy for the AIS
- Explore the impact of different types of democratic institutions on policy-making
- Survey the major issue areas that confront political leaders in AIS
- Examine the policy making process in AIS and the various roles played by key actors in the process
- Engage our theoretical understanding of the issues with real-world applications through the integration of current events in class discussion (Friday Forums)

GRADING:

	Final Exam	No Final Exam		
Exam 1 (due 9/24/07)	25%	35%	90 and up%	A
Exam 2 (due 11/05/07)	25%	35%	80 - 89%	B
Exam 3 (optional final – due 12/07/07)	25%	n/a	70 - 79%	C
Friday Forum Paper	25%	30%	60 - 69%	D
			59 and under	E

NATURE OF THE EXAMS:

There are three take-home exams in this course. The exams will be a mix of short answer and essay questions.

NATURE OF FRIDAY FORUM ASSIGNMENTS:

Beginning September 28th we will begin a series of “Friday Forums” on particular topics. A list of these topics and a schedule for discussion will be posted on the course web site. A group of students will be assigned as discussion leaders for the day and shall be responsible for leading the class discussion forum. The topics will be based on important real-world issues facing AIS (for example: Do AIS have a moral responsibility to promote development in less developed states? Can AIS maintain high levels of welfare benefits in the face of changing demographics? Do AIS need immigrants to survive?) Each student will submit an individual 5 – 7 page paper on their Forum topic one week AFTER the date of their assigned forum. This paper will follow the Friday Forum Paper Guidelines on the course web page.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

It is expected that students will participate in the class discussion. Education is not simply a one-way process. Further, the subject matter in this course is complex at times and may require clarification. Students are encouraged to ask questions regarding material in the lectures and the readings. Students are STRONGLY encouraged to attend and participate in the Friday Forums as good attendance and participation will make it easier on their fellow students who are responsible for moderating the discussion.

MISSED EXAMS:

The exams are in a take-home format and ample time is given for their completion. Students are expected to complete their exams on time. Late exams will be penalized one letter grade (10 points on a 100 point scale) for each business day late. Exceptions will be made for University business in accordance with University policies. Extensions will be given only in case of dire emergency or “acts of the gods”. All such extensions may or may not be granted solely at the discretion of the professor.

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL ACADEMIC NEEDS:

Students with special needs as identified by the University of Arizona will be accommodated in accordance with University policy. Please inform the instructor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE of any special needs that will require accommodation. Please note that accommodation in the group project may be problematic without informing group members of the nature of the special need. If the special need includes issues of privacy that cannot be accommodated within the framework of the Friday Forums, students must inform the professor, in writing, no later than September 21, 2007. In such cases, an alternative assignment will be used for the relevant portion of the student's grade.

ATTENDANCE:

This course will move very quickly. Attendance is vital to success in this course. If it is necessary to miss a class, it is the responsibility of the student to get the notes from that day of class from another student in the class.

EXTRA CREDIT:

There will be NO extra credit assigned in this course.

CELL PHONES, PAGERS, AND OTHER CURSES OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY:

When a cell phone or pager goes off in class it is highly disruptive. Please either turn off all such infernal devices or set them to vibrate while you are in class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All students should be aware of the University rules regarding academic honesty. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating on any assignment will receive an E *in the course* and will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct in accordance with University policy. **The professor reserves the right to seek the harshest possible penalty (expulsion from the university) for any and all violations of the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity.** If you are unsure as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity. Ignorance of the Code will not be accepted as an excuse for violations of it.