

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2: MODERN WORLD GOVERNMENTS 0350 (UC:CSU) (3 Units) Fall 08

Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry, MA	COMPLETELY ONLINE ETUDES-NG Website	(818) 364-7600 x 4149 chounlam@usc.edu
---	--	---

COURSE SYLLABUS (Revised Sept 2, 2008. Please check ETUDES-NG for latest version)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Comparative Politics is a beginning-level course intended to familiarize students with the study of politics in other societies. This class will focus on case study countries in the Rich Democracies and Less Developed Countries in terms of capabilities of their citizens to be maintain physical well-being, informed decision making, safety, and civil and political rights. Case studies will include the United States, Sweden, Germany, South Korea, Nigeria, Chile, Brazil, China, Russia, South Korea and. In analyzing the politics of these countries, the course will expose students to the diversity of the modern world and teach students methods for studying other countries, means to approach other nations both sympathetically and critically. Principle questions explored during the semester will include: How can political change be accomplished given the weight of history and political culture? How is political power maintained? What is the relationship between the political system and the economy? How do societies influence their political system, and specifically how do diverse social groups relate to the state?

This course is completely online and will be using the ETUDES-NG class management system. Tutorials can be found at the end of this syllabus. If you need further assistance with online component, please contact Mr. Kelly Scandlyn, Bungalow D, telephone: 818-364-7600 ext. 4129, email: kps70@hotmail.com

Required: Draper, Alan and Ansil Ramsay. The Good Society: An Introduction to Comparative Politics. New York: Pearson 2008.



II. COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Content Knowledge — Upon completion of this course the student will have an understanding of, or be able to apply, the following principles and concepts:

1. survey contemporary **politics** and political trends in selected countries and regions around the world;
2. compare and contrast the variety of ways that different countries have chosen to shape their political institutions and processes, and assess the costs and benefits of these choices;
3. analyze the variety of public policies different countries have adopted to address common problems, including the challenges of globalization, with an eye toward identifying processes, practices, and policies which might be “exportable” ideas for countries to borrow from one another;
4. gain exposure to some of the most important perspectives and theories which inform the understanding of **comparative politics**;
5. develop a basic understanding of the methods which political scientists use to understand **politics**.

Exit Skills — Upon completion of this course the student have the following skills:

1. To be able to critically analyze state, local and national news.
2. To be able to use of the **comparative** approach, and its limits, as one of our most important methods for deriving generalizations about **politics** and lessons about public policy.
3. To critically analyze global issues
4. To be able to analyze the impact of **globalization**
5. To be able to understand the various type of government and their impacts on **social policy**

II. GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS

Assessment & Date Due	Due Date	Points	%	Your Grade
10 Online Quizzes + 1 Extra-Credit	Various	100 points	20%	
Midterm Exam	Fri. 10/17/08	125 points	25%	
Research Paper	Fri. 12/5/08	100 points	20%	
5 Online Discussions + 2 Extra-Credit	Various	50 points	10%	
Final Exam	Mon. 12/13/08	125 points	25%	

Course Grade	Point Totals	Assessment Criteria
A	450-500 points	Indicates mastery of the relevant course standards
B	400-449 points	Indicates above average proficiency of the relevant course standards
C	350-399 points	Indicates satisfactory proficiency of the relevant course standards
D	300-349 points	Indicates partial proficiency of the relevant course standards
F	0-299 points	Indicates little or no proficiency of the relevant course standards

III. CLASS POLICIES

Policy on Late Work: Please keep an electronic copy of all your work. Late assignments will be penalized. If an assignment is not turned in by its deadline, 10% will be deducted for each week it is late for non-medical excuses.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy: As a college student, you are a member of an academic community that strives to maintain the highest standards of academic quality. When you joined this community, you willingly accepted that you would earn your grade based on your own work. Students engaging in cheating or plagiarizing, will receive zero (0) points for that assignment or exam. Further disciplinary action may be taken, including failing the class and/or reporting to the college. It is not appropriate to use any websites in constructing the research paper. The unauthorized use of paper databases or the cutting and pasting of pre-existing papers will be considered cheating. A general rule of thumb for the paper is: ***"If you use something to write it, then you must cite it."***

Disability Policy: The Students with Disabled Student Programs and Services can be reached on (818) 364-7732.

For students with disabilities the DSPS office provides special assistance areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals, and job placement.

Contacting Me: Your primary means for contacting me will be through email chounlam@usc.edu. Please identify yourself by the name under which you are enrolled and the class section number. For example: In the Subject line of your email write: LAMC PS2 and Section Number & Your Full Name. In the Body of the message include your Name and email address and Phone Number. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours. Please follow up with another email if there is no response.

II. ONLINE QUIZZES AND EXAMS

Online Quizzes: The graded quizzes are entitled Welcome Quiz, and 10 Chapter Quizzes. Each will be worth 10 point. Quizzes can be taken twice before the due date and the last score will be recorded. You must take it late, but you will only have one chance. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for late submissions. It is important to read the book and take the quizzes to do well in the class.

Online Exams: Both the Midterm and the Final Exam will be given online. You will have 3 hours to finish each exam once opened. You may use your textbook and lectures notes. However you must cite the source of the information that you are using to AVOID PLAGIARISM. You ARE NOT permitted to cut or paste ANY material from other sources or this will constitute CHEATING. Review sheets are in the MODULES Area. Please practice your outlines and essays and answer them completely and thoroughly. TAKE EACH ONLY ONCE. IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, EMAIL chounlam@usc.edu IMMEDIATELY.

IV. CALENDAR

PS2 CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS 1 of 5*

**subject to adjustments*

Week	Dates	Readings	Tasks to be completed by Friday 11:00 PM
Week 1	Sept 1 - 7	INTRODUCTORY CLASS Purchase the Book: The Good Society A. Login to ETUDES-NG B. Take the ETUDES-NG Tutorials C. Watch the 3 Jing Videos	WELCOME QUIZ
Week 2	Sept 8 – 15 September 12, 2008 Deadline to ADD full term classes.	Chapter 1: The Good Society Introduction Wealth is Not Enough The Good Society Physical Well-being Safety Informed Decision-making Civil and Political Rights The Capability Approach Responding to Criticisms of the Capability Approach Institutions and the Good Society Beyond the Institutional Approach Conclusion	DUE: DISCUSSION 1: SELF INTRODUCTION 1. Post Reply 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey
Week 3:	Sept 15 - 21	Chapter 2: Political Institutions and the Good Society Introduction Levels of State Power: Unitary and Federal Political Systems Unitary Systems Federal Systems Branches of State Power: The Legislature, Executive and Judiciary The Legislature The Executive The Judiciary Power and Constitutions Authoritarianism and Democracy Fascism Military Dictatorships Party Dictatorships Pathways to Democracy Presidential and Parliamentary Democracies Authoritarianism, Democracy, and the Good Society Political Institutions and Economic Growth Political Institutions and Citizens' Capability Conclusion	QUIZ Chapter 1 DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION 2: CAPABILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL APPROACHES 1. Post Reply 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey
Week 4	Sept 22 – 28 September 26, 2008 Last day to DROP classes, without a "W"(in person)	Chapter 3: States, Markets, and the Good Society Introduction States and Markets The Advantages of Market Systems The Dark Side of Markets The Shifting Balance of States and Markets Globalization Forms of State Intervention Fiscal Policy Monetary Policy Regulatory Policy Nationalization Markets and Capability Conclusion	QUIZ Chapter 2 QUIZ Chapter 3

PS1 CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS 2 of 5*

**subject to adjustments*

Week	Dates	Readings	Tasks to be completed by Friday 11:00 PM
Week 5	Sept 29 - Oct 5	Chapter 4: Rich Democracies Introduction Political Cleavages Interest Groups and Political Parties Interest Groups Political Parties Party Programs Radical Right-Wing Parties Conservative Parties Christian Democratic Parties Social Democratic Parties Green Parties Conclusion	DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION 3: GLOBALIZATION AND ANTI-IMMIGRATION MOVEMENTS 1. Post Reply 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey
Week 6	Oct 6 -Oct 12 October 10, 2008 Last day to file a petition for Credit/No-Credit.	Chapter 5: Regimes in Rich Democracies Introduction Social Democratic Regimes Politics Policies Institutions Conservative Regimes Politics Policies Institutions Christian Democratic Regimes Politics Policies Institutions Comparing Capabilities Physical Well-being Informed Decision-making Safety Civil and Political Rights Conclusion	QUIZ Chapter 4 QUIZ Chapter 5
Week 7	Oct 13 -Oct 19	REVIEW FOR ONLINE MIDTERM: CHAPTERS 1-5 & QUIZ CHAPTERS 1-5. ONLINE FINAL EXAM : Friday, October 17, 2008 by 11pm. 125 Points. Once opened, you must complete it within 3 hours.	MIDTERM EXAM

Week	Dates	Readings	Tasks to be completed
Week 8	Oct 20 -Oct 26 October 24, 2008 Last day do file a petition to graduate, FALL 2008.	Chapter 6: Three Case Studies of Rich Democracies Introduction Sweden Background Politics Policies Institutions The United States Background Politics Policies Institutions Germany Background Politics Policies Institutions Conclusion	DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION 4: US EXTREMELY MARKET CAPITALISM AND SWEDEN'S WELFARE STATE 1. Post Reply 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey
Week 9	Oct 27 -Nov 2	Chapter 7: Less Developed Countries Introduction Economic Development and Human Development Three Features Shared by Less Developed Countries Citizens' Capability Poorer and More Vulnerable Economies Weaker and Less Democratic States How Did the Less Developed Countries Become Less Developed? Geography Culture Imperialism Conclusion	QUIZ Chapter 6 QUIZ Chapter 7
Week 10	Nov 3 -Nov 9	Chapter 8: Regimes in Less Developed Countries Introduction Authoritarian Developmental Regimes Politics Policies Institutions Predatory Regimes Politics Policies Institutions Summary of Authoritarian Regimes Democratic Developmental Regimes Politics Policies Institutions Fragmented Democracies Politics Policies Institutions Summary of Democratic Regimes Comparing Capabilities Physical Well-being Informed Decision-making Safety Civil and Political Rights Conclusion	QUIZ Chapter 8

PS1 CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS 4 of 5* **subject to adjustments*

Week	Dates	Readings	Tasks to be completed by Friday 11:00 PM
Week 11	Nov 10 – Nov 16	Chapter 9: Case Studies of South Korea, Nigeria, Chile and Brazil Introduction South Korea Background Politics Policies Institutions South Korea After the Authoritarian Dev. Regime Nigeria Background Politics Policies Institutions Nigeria in the Aftermath of Predatory Rule Chile Brazil Conclusion	DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION 5: REGIMES IN LDCs AND BRAZIL 1. Post Reply 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey
Week 12	Nov 17 – Nov 23 November 21, 2008 Last day to DROP classes, with a "W"(in person). November 23, 2008 Last day to DROP classes, with a "W"(Internet /STEP /phone))	Chapter 10: Russia and China Introduction The Institutional Bases of Communism The Soviet Union Russia Background Politics Policies Institutions The Future of Russia China Background Politics Policies Institutions The Future of China Comparing Capability in Russia and China Conclusion Conclusion: The Color of the Cat Introduction Political Institutions Economic Institutions Conclusion	QUIZ Chapter 9 QUIZ Chapter 10
Week 13	Nov 24 – Nov 30 November 27 & 28, 2008 Thanks-giving	COMPLETE ALL THESES STEPS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER P1: Topic Proposal and Outline (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour P2: Preliminary Research (35 Pts) ~ 6+ hour P3: Detailed Outline with Sources (20 Pts) ~ 4 hours	DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION 6: RUSSIA'S FUTURE AND CHINA'S ONE CHILD POLICY 1. Post Reply 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey

PS1 CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS 5 of 5* **subject to adjustments*

Week	Dates	Readings	Tasks to be completed by Friday 11:00 PM
Week 14	Dec 1 – Dec 7	<p>COMPLETE ALL THESES STEPS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER</p> <p>P4: First Draft (25 Pts) ~ 5+ hours IF YOU WOULD LIKE EXTRA-CREDIT, POST YOUR FIRST DRAFT IN THE DISCUSSION FORUM BY TUESDAY</p> <p>P5: Final Draft (10 Pts) ~ 2+ hours</p> <p>SUBMIT ALL THE RESEARCH PAPER COMPONENTS IN THE ASSIGNMENTS AREA.</p>	<p>TUESDAY: DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION 7: FIRST DRAFT FOR +10 EXTRA-CREDIT POINTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. POST FIRST DRAFT IN DISCUSSION FORUM FOR REVIEW 2. Quote 3. Take Assessment in Tasks, Tests & Survey <p>DUE: RESEARCH PAPER AND ALL COMPONENTS.</p>
Week 15	Dec 8 – Dec 13	<p>Review all chapters in <i>THE GOOD SOCIETY</i> and ALL QUIZZES</p> <p>December 13, 2008 ALL CLASSES END (semester length).</p>	
Week 16		<p>ONLINE FINAL EXAM : Monday, December 15, 2008 by 11pm. 125 Points. Once opened, you must complete it within 3 hours.</p>	

You may go ahead of class. *Penalty for late work.

V. ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Online Discussions of Readings and Videos

Students are required to participate in online discussions. It is required that you post an Original Posting consisting of at least an 3-paragraph reaction to the questions posed in the Discussions and Private Messaging. It is suggested that you compose your response in a word processor and then cut and copy your response to the Assignment section and also the Discussion Forum. Please read other students comments and reactions. It is required each students QUOTE and comment on another student's reaction.

To receive credit, students will simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) their original response to the question and their reply of another student's posting into the REASON area of the appropriate ASSIGNMENT in the TASK, TESTS AND SURVEYS AREA. It will appear like a quiz, but will require a reason. Your REASON will be the proof that you copy and paste into the text box. The grading rubric is below. The instructor will review your submission and re-grade them.

Online Discussions of Readings and Video Rubric

	Quality	Relevance	Contribution	Bigger Picture	Quote
Excellent 100%	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.	Clear reference to assignment or prior posting being discussed	Furtheres the discussion with questions, or statements that encourage others to respond.	Clearly connects the posting to text or reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.
Fair 75%	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,	Some reference but taken out of context, the reader would not understand.	Participates, but does not post anything that encourages others to respond to the posting.	Vague or possible connection to reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,
Poor 50%	Responds, but with minimum effort or detail. (i.e. "I agree with the statement")	Posting is attached to the right discussion board, but does not clearly reflect the assignment.	Less than required number of postings. Does not further any discussions	Mentions the videos, text or previous activity without logical link to topic.	Responds, but with minimum effort. (i.e. "I agree with Bob")

VI. ETUDES-NG Tutorials

ETUDES-NG: Students are required to access the ETUDES-NG site for this course.

<http://www.lacitycollege.edu/online/menu.htm>

Tutorials Courtesy of Sarah Phinney at Porterville College.



The ETUDES-NG Portal is located at <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

Access to classes is determined by semester start date and/or instructor preference. Student user IDs and *initial* passwords are automatically generated.

Your unique username is:

*First two letters of your first name, plus the

*First two letters of your last name, plus the

*Last five digits of your NEW student identification number.

Your password is: * The Month and Day of your birthday, *as given in the school records*, with the format MMDD

This password information applies to students accessing Etudes for the first time. Changes you make to your account, including your password, will persist to new semesters.

Each tour will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. For Tours 1- 5, you will need the Flash player plug-in to take these tours. If you don't have the Flash player, you can [download the free Flash player here](#).

- [Tour 1 - Logging In](#)
- [Tour 2 - Reading Modules and Participating in Discussions](#)
- [Tour 3 - Taking a Test](#)
- [Tour 4 - Submitting an Assignment](#)
- [Tour 5 - Sending a Private Message](#)
 - Note: This is for communicating with other students. Please email instructor at chounlam@usc.edu
- [Tour 6 - Discussion Forums Overview](#)
- [Tour 7 - Test Center Overview](#)

VII. CLASS VIDEOS

I just recorded a series of videos to welcome you to the course and give you a quick tour of ETUDES-NG. This will help you with the course. These were for Political Science 1, so most of the content applies to PS2 also.

VIDEO 1 of 3

<http://www.screencast.com/users/ProfSom/folders/Jing/media/15fad7e2-c469-43ef-b51e-e788ea45c5a2>

VIDEO 2 of 3

<http://www.screencast.com/users/ProfSom/folders/Jing/media/d7f12f4d-809b-4ae9-951e-1c79e6b6eb0b>

VIDEO 3 of 3

<http://www.screencast.com/users/ProfSom/folders/Jing/media/ceabebac-340b-493b-8e0d-cb82bb70f02b>

VIII. THE RESEARCH PAPER

Research Paper Integrating At Least 10 Articles

Each student will write a 5 to 7 page research paper. All papers must be double-spaced, and paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), have standard margin, and use MLA or APA citations.

Research Paper Topic

Pick a country not used in the Case Studies in *The Good Society*. Using Sen and Nussbaum's capability approach (Physical Well-Being, Safety, Informed Decision-Making, and Civil and Political Rights) evaluate the capability of its citizens. You must research for at least 10 articles. You may wish to model your research paper like the case studies in the book. You must cite all sources properly.

PROFESSOR SOM'S WAY: COMPONENTS

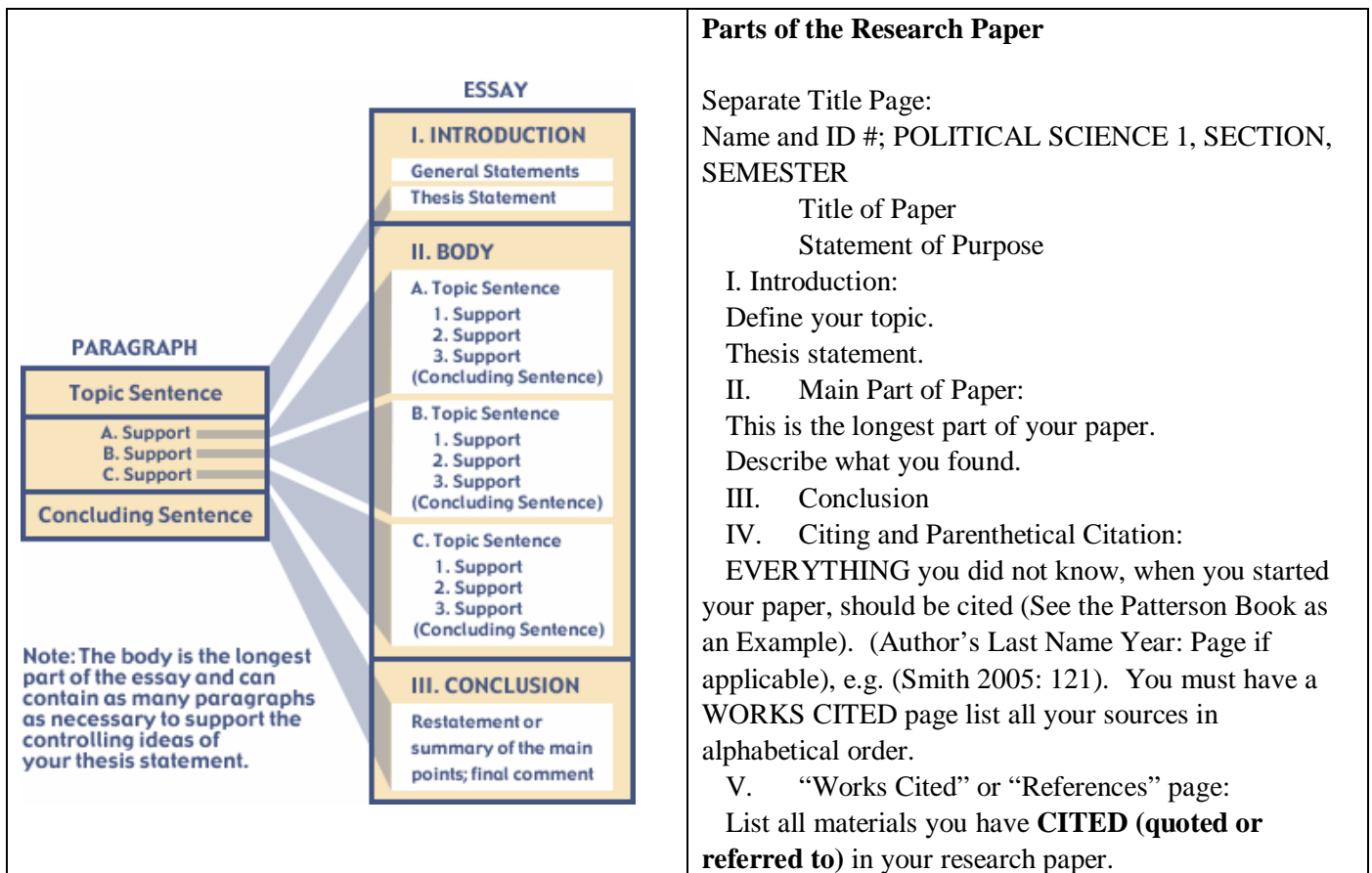
This method will give you up to 90 points prior to submitting the final draft portion. Copy and paste the text of your FINAL DRAFT of your Research Paper followed by the ALL PREVIOUS COMPONENTS. Please ensure you have cited and documented your scholarly sources and have a bibliography. The Final Draft will be graded on a scale of 10 possible points. Please ensure that you completed the previous components if you chose this option. The method ensures that the student will maximize their points. For example, an A grade Final Draft and all the components will equal 99 or 100 Points (90 for the components + 9 or 10 for the A grade on the Final Draft). C grade Final Draft and all the components will equal 97 Points. **Taking the sting out of writing research papers!**

NOTE: FAILURE TO SUBMIT ALL COMPONENTS WILL RESULT IN FINAL DRAFT BEING GRADED OUT OF 100 POINTS TRADITIONAL GRADING SCALE.

Research Paper Requirement

1. 5 to 7 pages of typed, double-spaced, paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), standard margin and proofread paper on select topics.
2. Your paper shall be graded based on substance and form. Please refer to the grading rubric and guidelines.
3. Your research should focus on **scholarly journal articles**. (These articles cite other authors and must have a WORKS CITED or REFERENCE PAGE). Check the Discussion Area for Research Tips and Passwords to Journal Databases.
YOU MUST GET AT LEAST TEN (10) SOURCES FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:
1. www.bbcnews.com 2. EBSCOhost* 3. Country Watch* (*LA Mission College Library has the Passwords)
4. I accept any type of styles — MLA, APA, Chicago, etc. — Please be consistent with a single style throughout your paper.
5. **Every component of the research paper: topic selection and outline (10 pts), preliminary research (35 pts), detailed outline with sources (20 pts), first draft (25 pts), and final paper (10 pts) must be submitted online. Late Submissions will be penalized 10% for each week they are late.**

Parts of the Research Paper



IX. POLITICAL SCIENCE 2 0350 MIDTERM REVIEW SHEET

Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry, MA	PS2 0350 MIDTERM REVIEW SHEET	(818) 364-7600 x 4149 chounlam@usc.edu
--	--	--

THE MIDTERM EXAM will have objective parts (from the quizzes) and a choice of essays. The objective questions may be multiple choice, matching and true/false. The essays will require students to outline and write their answers directly into the textbox. Both the Midterm and the Final Exam will be given online. You will have 3 hours to finish each exam once they are opened. Review all previous chapter quizzes.

OUTLINE AND WRITTEN ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create an outline to respond to the specific question (20% of grade will be for the outline.)

The outline of the essay is the body of your paper. It can be presented either in the form of diagram or in the point form. The point form gives you opportunity to evaluate the order of presentation of the main ideas, to attest the logic of your presentation and to spot down gaps or facts that are irrelevant for your assignment. See: <http://www.bestessaytips.com/> for more tips.

The typical outline should comprise:

- The statement of your thesis.
- The most important points of your argument.
- Sub-points of your topic.
- The evidence for each topic of the argument.

2. Write your Essay. (80% of total)

An "A" essay: (see http://www.cs.unc.edu/~pozefsky/COMP380_F06/rubric.html)

- * Answers the specific central question that was asked
- * Incorporates pertinent and detailed information from assigned readings (whenever applicable), providing needed evidence.
- * Maintains focus & avoids being sidetracked by tangents
- * Presents all information clearly and concisely and in an organized manner
- * Does much more than merely restate the question and offer a brief response
- * Avoids distracting grammar/spelling/etc. problems
- * Cite sources properly

POSSIBLE ESSAY TOPICS. You must OUTLINE and WRITE on ONE from a choice of THREE.

A) Describe in detail the four criteria for judging what constitutes a "GOOD SOCIETY" as described by economist Amartya Sen and Philosopher Nussbaum. If you had to choose one of the four criteria from the capability approach that you would like your government to provide which would it be and why?

B) How does the capability approach relate to the institutional approach? In particular, how can institutions shape a country's ability to achieve the good society? Refer to specific sections of the text in your response.

C) What kind of impact will continued globalization have on the ability of states to regulate and control their economies? Does the force of globalization make any discussion about the proper level of state intervention in the economy moot? Why would this be? Are there things that states can do to control the pace and impact of globalization? Explain what these measures might be?

D) Do you think opposition to immigration is enough of an issue to sustain the existence of a political party? What other elements must be in place for a party to survive by emphasizing this issue? What factors, perhaps not discussed directly in the chapter, do you think may eventually weaken the influence of immigration as political cleavage?

X. OLITICAL SCIENCE 2 0350 FINAL REVIEW SHEET

Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry, MA	PS2 0350 FINAL REVIEW SHEET	(818) 364-7600 x 4149 chounlam@usc.edu
--	--	--

THE FINAL EXAM will have objective parts (from the quizzes) and a choice of essays. The objective questions may be multiple choice, matching and true/false. The essays will require students to outline and write their answers directly into the textbox. Both the Midterm and the Final Exam will be given online. You will have 3 hours to finish each exam once they are opened. Review all previous chapter quizzes.

OUTLINE AND WRITTEN ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create an outline to respond to the specific question (20% of grade will be for the outline.)

The outline of the essay is the body of your paper. It can be presented either in the form of diagram or in the point form. The point form gives you opportunity to evaluate the order of presentation of the main ideas, to attest the logic of your presentation and to spot down gaps or facts that are irrelevant for your assignment. See: <http://www.bestessaytips.com/> for more tips.

The typical outline should comprise:

- The statement of your thesis.
- The most important points of your argument.
- Sub-points of your topic.
- The evidence for each topic of the argument.

2. Write your Essay. (80% of total)

An “A” essay: (see http://www.cs.unc.edu/~pozefsky/COMP380_F06/rubric.html)

- * Answers the specific central question that was asked
- * Incorporates pertinent and detailed information from assigned readings (whenever applicable), providing needed evidence.
- * Maintains focus & avoids being sidetracked by tangents
- * Presents all information clearly and concisely and in an organized manner
- * Does much more than merely restate the question and offer a brief response
- * Avoids distracting grammar/spelling/etc. problems
- * Cite sources properly

POSSIBLE ESSAY TOPICS. You must OUTLINE and WRITE on ONE from a choice of THREE.

A) In the United States, the effects of “extreme market capitalism” have been mixed. What is extreme market capitalism? What are the two key features that define it? Explain how it has impacted economic life in the United States. Why have the results been mixed? What have been the positive aspects of the policy and what have been the negative outcomes of the policy.

B) Discuss the evolution of Sweden’s welfare state. What is it and how has it helped and hurt the SAP politically? Why was the welfare state originally started in 1930s? How did it change in the 1960s? What happened in the 1990s that caused it to change significantly? Describe how the current welfare state differs from the past and how it compares with welfare states in other rich democracies.

C) Which of the four regime types found in less developed nations has a better record of improving the capability of its citizens in terms of physical well-being, informed decision-making, safety, and civil and political rights? For each category, explain which regime type performed the best and the worst and provide an example.

D) Large inequalities exist between Brazilian citizens and the Brazilian political system makes it difficult for these to be decreased. Describe the factors that keep poor people from organizing and working together to improve their situation and improve their position in society. What political factors make it difficult for Brazilian presidents to institute policies that would help the poorer citizens in Brazilian society?

E) Analysts differ over the outlook for Russia’s future. Describe why some analysts predict a bright future for Russia. Then, describe the reasons given by analysts who predict a bleak future. Whose predictions are more likely to come true? Why?

F) Perhaps, China’s most controversial social policy was the one-child policy. What was this policy, why was it instituted, how was it enforced, what were the consequences of the policy, and why has it been relaxed?