

Jennifer Brick  
Introduction to Comparative Politics (PS106)  
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122 North Hall  
Office Hours: Wednesday 12-1, Friday 10-11

**Sections:**

106-306	Tuesday	9:55am	434 Education
106-317	Wednesday	9:55am	55 Bascom
106-310	Wednesday	11:00am	249 Education
106-314	Thursday	9:55am	290 Van Hise

**Course Guidelines:**

- 1) The title of the class indicates that it is an introductory level course. As we may cover some contentious issues in contemporary world politics, never hesitate to raise questions that have provoked you as you read or think about materials we cover during the course of the semester. This will be the first priority of discussion sections.
- 2) In addition to answering your questions, the basic structure of each section will be a brief lecture review followed by a review of the readings. *Note:* This will not be a repeat of the lecture.
- 3) **Reading:** Consider readings for sections to be mandatory. You should read all of the week's assigned readings by the time section meets for that particular week.
- 4) **Section Attendance:** Section attendance is mandatory. It is essential to attend section in order to gain a greater understanding of concepts outlined and in the readings. If you wish to attend any of my other sections due to inability to make your assigned section feel free to simply go to another section
- 5) **Exams/Essays:** There are not any objectively "correct" answers for the essay exams. *The best answers are the ones with the strongest argument based on the aspects of the readings most relevant for the particular question.* Essays are due in lecture on Tuesdays of the week indicated on the syllabus.
- 6) **Email:** Please use email as your primary means of communication with me outside of section/lecture. I promise you a prompt response.
- 7) **Writing:** As an introductory class with several written response papers and limited space, clear writing is an important aspect of doing well. If you have questions or doubts about your writing abilities please talk/email me. You may find Strunk and White's Elements of Style helpful.
- 8) Each week one of you will be responsible for presenting *general* materials on the country given below. The presentation should be no more than 10 minutes basically outlining features of the country that we should know about as we think about the week's readings. Tell us the basics, but don't be shy to let us know what surprised/fascinated you about the country in your research.
- 9) **Have fun.** There are no right or wrong answers just convincing or unpersuasive arguments. Do not hold back your views because every argument based on the readings is feasible and I expect most will have different takes on the issues.

Week 1 (January 20):	Why Compare?: Introduction
Week 2 (January 27):	Modern Polities: Cambodia
Week 3 (January 3):	The Modern State: Vietnam ( <i>essay 1 due</i> )
Week 4 (February 10):	Totalitarianism I: Yugoslavia ( <i>essay 2 due</i> )
Week 5 (February 17):	Totalitarianism II: Germany
Week 6 (February 24):	Comparative Political Culture/Muslim Societies I: Egypt ( <i>essay 3 due</i> )
Week 7 (March 3):	Comparative Political Culture/Muslim II: Iran
Week 8 (March 17):	Comparative Political Culture/Muslim III: Nigeria
Week 9 (March 24):	Democratic Welfare State: France ( <i>essay 4 due</i> )
Week 10 (March 31):	Failed States/Failed Development I: Liberia
Week 11 (April 7):	Failed States/Failed Development II: India ( <i>exam</i> )
Week 12 (April 14):	Post-Communist Transitions: Russia
Week 13 (April 21):	Democracy and Globalization: Mexico
Week 14 (April 28):	Post-Modern Politics I: South Africa
Week 15 (May 5):	Post-Modern Politics II: South Korea