Department of Political Science

POSC 1020 - Fall 2010

Issues in World Politics

Instructor: Sherrill Pike

SN 2047, 864-3096

Email: sdpike@mun.ca

Office Hour: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Wednesdays

Section 56, Slot 30 (Mondays: 7:00-9:30 pm)

Location: SN 4068  * Note room change

Objectives This course is intended to “explore some of the world’s most pressing and interesting political issues”. This version of Political Science 1020 will examine controversial leaders, their countries, how these individuals came to power and, perhaps, how they stay there. Because much of how observers view these leaders is a matter of perception and indoctrination, the class will also consider democracy with reference to Afghanistan.

Text Books

*The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World* by Larry Diamond

*A Man of the People* by Chinua Achebe

Works to Note


JA 51  S7  2010  at the Library Information Desk

Marking

Map quiz 10% September 20
Test 1 20% October 13
Test 2 20% November 8
Final 40% TBA
Participation 10%

Please note that although attendance does not “count” in the marking scheme participation does, and by not being present you cannot participate.

A Man of the People is to be read over the course of the semester. It will be discussed in class on two occasions, at the middle and at the end of the semester. Reading this book is your responsibility. One half of the value of the final exam is based on this work.

Readings

Week 1 - Classes begin 8 September. There is no lecture this week.

Week 2 - September 13 Introduction

Readings:

The Spirit of Democracy, Ch. 1, 2, 3

Week 3 - September 20 Venezuela and Hugo Chavez

Map quiz (20 minutes)

Readings:

“Venezuela: The Character, Crisis and Possible Future of Democracy” by Levine and Crisp in Democracy in Developing Countries: Latin America - ON RESERVE

The Statesman’s Yearbook 2010 - Venezuela (JA 51 S7 2010) - LIBRARY INFORMATION DESK
Week 4 - September 27

Readings:


Gunson, Phil. “Chavez’s Venezuela.” *Current History* 105, no. 688 (February 2006): 58-63. - ON RESERVE

*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 4 and 8

Week 5 - October 4

Russia and Medvedev

Readings:


Zagorski, Paul W. *Comparative Politics: Continuity and Breakdown in the Contemporary World*. New York: Routledge, 2009. - ON RESERVE

The Statesman’s Yearbook 2010 - Russia

Week 6 - October 13 (Wednesday due to mid-term break)

Test 1 (50 minutes)

Putin’s Role: Past and Present

Readings:


*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 5 and 9

Week 7 - October 18

Readings:

*A Man of the People*

*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 11
Week 8 - October 25

Italy and Silvio Berlusconi

Readings:


*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 6

The Statesman’s Yearbook 2010 - Italy

Week 9 - November 1

Readings:

Ginsborg, Paul. *Silvio Berlusconi: Television, Power and Patrimony*, Ch. 5 and 6 - ON RESERVE

*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 7

Week 10 - November 8

Test 2 (50 minutes)

Hugo, Vladimir and Silvio

Readings:


Review the reading from Week 4 by Paul Zagorski - Ch. 12 “Hybrid Regimes”

Week 11 - November 15

Afghanistan

Readings:

TBA

*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 12

The Statesman’s Yearbook 2010 - Afghanistan
Week 12 - November 22
Readings:
TBA
*The Spirit of Democracy*, Ch. 15

Week 13 - November 29
A Man of the People
Review

Classes end 3 December

Final - See exam schedule