Comparative Public Administration - Spring 2011  
(PA 580, section 1, Schedule Number 22178)  
Mondays: 7:00 pm to 9:40 pm at Com-105

CONTACT INFORMATION
Dr. Mounah Abdel-Samad, Instructor
Email: msamad@mail.sdsu.edu
Office number: 619-594-4724
Office location: Professional Studies and Fine Arts (PSFA), Room 175
Office Hours: Monday from 2:00 to 4pm, or by appointment

You can contact me using email or phone; however, for a fast response please use my email. Use an appropriate description of your email in the subject line and add to the subject line “Course number” in order for me to recognize the email and not mistakenly consider it spam.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Course Description: Administrative organization and process of selected foreign and American governments. Analysis of the cultural basis of administrative systems.

This course will explain why and how to engage in comparative research, describe different forms of governments and their impact on public administration. It will also analyze the impact of culture as well as political systems on the work of public administration in developing and developed countries. This course will use the US public administration literature as a basis for comparison with those of the different chosen countries (Asia, Middle East, North Africa, and Europe).

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The objectives of this course are as follows:

• Students will pinpoint the benefits of comparative research
• Students will articulate and classify different political systems
• Students will critically examine challenges facing public organizations, and the impact of political systems on these organizations.
• Students will examine the impact of culture on public organizations.
• Students will apply theories and concepts of comparative public administration to real-world situations during class discussion and through analysis of text and film.

REQUIRED READING and ELECTRONIC MATERIAL
Articles for this class are found on blackboard

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES
Students are expected to be punctual for classes and exams. They are also expected to turn off their cell phones and to be courteous to their fellow students by not being disruptive. Failure to do so will result
in reduced grades and/or dismissal from class. Students are also expected to read the assigned readings before coming to class.

On the other hand, students can expect the instructor to be on time for class, to be well prepared, and to be ready to explain and re-explain any point that is not clear for students. The instructor will also be present during his office hours and by appointment to help students in any area related to the course.

**GRADING and TEACHING**
Teaching methods will combine lecture, the use of movies, and class discussion. Students are expected to participate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Component</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>Summary of two articles assigned for this class. You will be assigned two articles randomly in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>Summary of one country’s political system from the list assigned for this class. In this paper you will describe the nature of the political system, the main political institutions, and analyze what are the most important factors affecting public administration. No Wikipedia is allowed. You will need at least four references (Only two online references are allowed and the rest have to be peer reviewed articles). A grading rubric will be available under Turnitin assignment. <strong>Due April 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>Group leading discussion. You will receive an email with a date and a list of group members that you need to coordinate with to come up with discussion questions for leading the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline for final paper</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>A rough yet specific draft of what you are going to do in your final paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>This is a group project. You will choose a topic from the list of topics provided for this Class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>This grade is based on you sharing your ideas and comments about the readings. Please be advised that attending the class will not insure your participation grade.</td>
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**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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ACCOMMODATIONS
Students who need accommodations of their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

In addition, I will make every effort to accommodate difficulties in attendance arising from religious observance. You are asked to bring any possible conflicts to my attention as soon as possible. Students should not expect, if they do poorly on an assignment/exam, to claim at that time the need for an accommodation. This statement is to preclude that problem, and allow people with a need for accommodations to be treated fairly and appropriately.

STANDARDS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT
The following behavior is subject to disciplinary sanctions:
• Dishonesty, including:
  o Cheating that is intended to gain unfair academic advantage.
  o Plagiarism that is intended to gain unfair academic advantage.
  o Other forms of academic dishonesty that are intended to gain unfair academic advantage.
• Disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior at a University related activity, or directed toward a member of the University community.
• Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including
  o physical abuse, threats, intimidation, or harassment.
  o sexual misconduct.

* These Standards for Student Conduct are adapted from the full version of SDSU’s Standards for Student Conduct, Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities: [http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html).

COURSE SCHEDULE:
P.S: This schedule is subject to change. When a change occurs, I will email you using blackboard, please make sure you provided a working email to blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td><strong>Accountability</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2- Tsai, Lily L. “Accountability without Democracy: Solidarity Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China.” Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics. Chapters 1, 4, and 7


4- “The Storm”

February 6

Political Systems
Reading: Chapters 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11 in Lijphart

February 13

Class Cancelled

February 20

Centralization, Decentralization and Performance


February 27

Local Governments:
Readings:


March 5

Problems Facing Bureaucracies
Administration in the Arab World.” *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 52, 201-222


March 12

**Public Private Partnership**

Readings:


March 19

**Legislators**

Readings:


March 26

**Spring Break**

April 2

**Service Delivery:**

Readings:


April 9

**Authoritarianism and Administration**


April 16  
**Culture and Public Administration**


2- Identity by Amin Maalouf

April 23  
**Public Administration Reform**

Readings:


April 30  
**Presentations**

May 7  
**Presentations**

May 14  
**Final Paper due**