Course Description
Welcome to Non-Western Politics! This is an introductory political science course that satisfies both the Social Sciences and International categories of the General Education requirements. This course introduces students to politics in the Non-Western world. It begins by considering what we actually mean by “West” and “Non-West” and whether there is anything distinctive about either. We will first compare the Non-West explicitly to the West and then focus on institutions, ideologies, development strategies, and political processes in a small sample of cases: Brazil, India, and Japan. We will focus on understanding the rise of democracy, the concern with human rights, and the emergence of market economies in the West. And we will consider the challenges that these events posed for our case studies of Non-Western countries.

Overall the course encourages students to appreciate the range of experiences in the world that relate to the issues of democracy, political violence, and economic development. The main goal of the seminar is to give students the empirical and conceptual basis for thinking critically about the world as well as the role that our own society plays in the global community. Although this is an online course, much of our work in this class will be cooperative and collaborative, so our success will largely rely on active, earnest participation from each of you. Because we will be discussing challenging, often sensitive topics this semester, it is also of vital importance that you use respectful academic communication at all times. I look forward to getting to know all of you in the coming weeks! PLEASE let me know if you have questions.

Required Texts
1. All readings are posted on HuskyCT either on the course page or through electronic course reserve (ERC) with the UConn Library.

Basic Online Support
For information and support visit the Learning Resource Center: http://www.lrc.uconn.edu/. For technical requirements, success tips, and online tutoring see the Center for continuing studies: http://continuingstudies.uconn.edu/onlinecourses/student/index.html.
Learning Goals for the Seminar

1. You will think critically and creatively about democracy and economic development while demonstrating understanding of alternative ways of defining and promoting each.

2. You will demonstrate an understanding of some of the central challenges facing Non-Western countries and a familiarity with the specific experiences of Brazil, India, and Japan.

3. You will engage in academic discussions about the differences between the West and the Non-West.

4. You will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate contemporary issues.

5. You will seek to understand and appreciate the impact of your own culture as well as cultures of people of various places and perspectives.

Course Requirements

The course is divided into six modules. Three are conceptual modules, and three are focused on Non-Western case studies: Brazil, India, and Japan. Each module has a set of assigned readings and a lecture. And each week I will provide topics for on-line discussion. These will be opened up the Sunday before each week begins. The modules and discussions will remain open to read after the week is finished; however, it will not be possible to add posts to the previous week’s threads after Saturdays at noon. In addition, each week you will have a quiz or brief assignment based on the readings. You will also have two short papers, one for each half of the course that are due at the end of the third week and the end of the course respectively. You can move through each module at your own pace throughout the week, but you must remain engaged with the week’s discussions and complete the assignments by the deadlines.

Assignments and Grading

Grades in this course will be based on the following:

- Course Introduction Quiz and Intro: 10 pts.
- HuskyCT Discussion Participation: 90 pts. Total (6 weeks x 15 points each)
- Everyday Comparative Politics: 60 pts. Total (FB Posts and response)
- Module Quizzes: 50 pts. Total (5 quizzes x 10 points each)
- Midterm Paper: 30 pts.

Extra Credit Opportunities

- Additional Everyday Comparative Politics Posts: 5 e.c. pts. each (Up to 10 e.c. pts.)

Total Points for Grade: 240 pts.

Course Introduction Quiz and Intro: 10 pts.

There is a short introductory module that you need to go through to prepare yourself to be successful in this course and introduce yourself to the class. (You may actually be reading this syllabus now as a part of your participation in the module. If you are, consider yourself on track and give yourself a pat on the back.) There is a quiz at the end to check your comprehension and to help you practice taking a HuskyCT quiz. For this quiz only you will be able to take it as many times as you choose, so I encourage you to take it until you get 100% on the assignment. Due Date: Week 1 by Saturday at Noon
HuskyCT Discussion Participation: 90 pts. Total (6 weeks x 15 points each)

For this course to be meaningful you need to participate actively and thoughtfully in the online discussions. **You are required to post at least five times per week. You are encouraged to agree with and extend an argument posed by another student; however, you will not get credit if you simply repeat what has already been said.** I want to see you thinking critically, really engaging with each other, and being willing to take a chance and put ideas out for discussion, even if they might be wrong. In most cases, the online discussions will not have a “right” answer, so willingness to interact with your peers and refine your thinking in response to others’ comments over the course of the week is critical to a good grade. Similarly, you will be expected to try and respond to each others’ comments and build/elaborate on others’ comments. You will also be expected to respond when I submit follow-up questions. Your grade will depend on responsiveness to my comments. See HuskyCT for specific grading guidelines.

Due Date: Every Week by Saturday at Noon

Everyday Comparative Politics: 60 pts.

This is an interactive project for the entire semester. In week 1 you should request to join the Facebook group “Everyday Comparative Politics.” This is a closed group, so while “[a]nyone can see the group and who’s in it. Only members see posts” (Facebook). If you do not feel comfortable joining the group using your personal Facebook account please feel free to create an alias. Just be sure to let me know if you are not using your real name so that I can be sure to assign you all of the points you earn. This is your opportunity to connect the course to things that are happening in the real world and to shape the course for yourselves. While I will be choosing the topics in the HuskyCT discussions, you will you able to choose what to share with the class in this space. As with all course discussions, it is vital that this space remains free of discriminatory or inappropriate language and conduct. However, it can be an informal and fun space to discuss the world today, particularly what interests you about contemporary politics.

Postings: Each student is required to post **two new articles** about one of our three case studies (Japan, India, or Brazil) from a reputable news source with the following in the comment:

1) A 3 – 4 sentence summary of the article.
2) A 3 – 4 sentence explanation of how it is relevant and interesting to the class.

(12 points possible)

Each student is also required to post at least **three thoughtful responses** to articles (at least one response to three different articles) over the course of the semester. **(4 points possible each)**

During week 6 the class will vote on the best article post for the semester. **The student who posted the article will earn 5 points of extra credit for the assignment as well as bragging rights.**

Paper (5-7 pages): The final paper for the course (full prompt and grading guide on HuskyCT) will require you to reflect on what you’ve learned over the course in the context of one of our three case study countries, incorporating a contemporary news article and the course readings as evidence. You are strongly encouraged to use these “Everyday Comparative Politics” postings as well as our HuskyCT discussions to help you write this final reflection.

Posting Due Date (20 Points): You may post any time over the semester. However, you are strongly encouraged not to wait until the end of the semester. **Note that only one post will be accepted in week 6, so do not put them both off to the end.**

Paper Due Date (40 Points): Week 6 by Saturday at Noon
**Module Quizzes: 50 pts. Total (5 quizzes x 10 points each)**
In order to be successful in the course you need to do the readings carefully enough that you can respond to quiz questions and participate in and incorporate the readings in your online discussions. The quizzes will focus on central, important issues: I will not try and trick you with obscure references. There will be a reading quiz each week beginning in week 2 of the course. The quizzes will be available on HuskyCT for the dates indicated for the weeks in the course calendar.

**Due Date: Weeks 2-6 by Saturdays at Noon**

**Midterm Paper (3-5 pages): 30 pts.**
Your first paper (full prompt and grading guide on HuskyCT) will ask you to consider the large topics from the first half of the semester. The writing assignments for this course will ask you to show that you have understood subjects and are able to write an argument that is well organized and well supported. Your grade on the writing assignments will be based on the quality of your understanding of the material, the quality of the argument you develop, and the quality of your writing. I’m happy to offer you feedback as you go through the writing process, and I’m available to respond to drafts as long as you send them to me by Thursday of week 3.

**Due Date: Week 3 by Saturday at Noon**

**Optional Extra Credit Assignments (These are NOT required.)**
**Additional Everyday Comparative Politics Posts: 5 e.c. pts. each (Up to 10 e.c. pts.)**
If you choose to do so, you may post up to two additional Everyday Comparative Politics articles following the parameters above for extra credit. These will be graded in the same way as the required assignment, except that you do not need to offer additional comments on other students’ posts.

**Due Date: Weeks 1-6 You may only get credit for one post in week 6. So if you put off posting the two required you will be passing up your opportunity to earn extra credit.**

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>53 – 58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59%</td>
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**Track Your Progress**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Introduction Quiz and Intro</td>
<td>___/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HuskyCT Discussion Participation</td>
<td>___/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday Comparative Politics</td>
<td>___/60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>___/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper</td>
<td>___/30</td>
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**Extra Credit Opportunities**

| Additional Everyday Comparative Politics Posts | ___/5 e.c. pts. each |

**Total Points for Grade:**

___/240 pts. = ____% ___
Course Policies

Late Work Policy
Except under extenuating circumstances, these are my standard policies: I cannot accept late discussion posts because they will not contribute to the class discussion for the week. And I will not accept late quizzes because I need to make sure everyone However, I may accept late papers if you make arrangements with me before the work is due. Late papers lose 10% off the final grade for every day that they are late. Do not leave them until the last minute. Please contact me in advance if you are having a problem with an assignment so that I can help.

Individual Conferencing
My office hours are noted above, and you can always talk to me on HuskyCT chat or Skype during those times, or you can e-mail me to set up an appointment at another time. I especially encourage you to come to see me before work is due if you are feeling stressed or confused about an assignment.

Students with Disabilities
Students who think that they may need special accommodations because of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For more information, please go to http://www.csd.uconn.edu/.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize you will fail this course. You are encouraged to study together, discuss course topics outside of class, and go to the online tutors with your drafts. In this course those activities are well within the bounds of academic honesty. However, when you use another’s ideas or language directly, in summary, or in paraphrase, you must formally acknowledge that debt by signaling it with a standard form of academic citation. For University policies on academic honesty please see UConn’s Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code: http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code.html. Ignorance of the policy will not serve you as an excuse. If you find yourself with additional questions about the policy, contact me immediately. If you are desperately tempted to plagiarize, stop. Come see me or e-mail me. There are much better solutions to the problem.

Civil Discourse, Rights, and Responsibilities
In our discussions, in our readings, and in our writing throughout the semester, we will examine ideas from diverse perspectives. At this university, students and faculty are afforded an academic environment that allows for intellectual expression. Challenging issues and ideas may arise, but none of these should be expressed in an inappropriate manner either verbally or in writing. One of the goals of a university is to challenge us to think again about what we know (and all that we don’t know). This demands that we all share responsibility for creating and maintaining a civil learning environment in our classrooms and in the larger university community. We will be conscious of and accept responsibility for what we say and do, how we act, how our words and actions have consequences, and how our words and actions affect others. As part of this awareness, we will avoid sexist, racist, and heterosexist language.

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***I reserve the right to alter this syllabus; however, if I do I will give you notice on HuskyCT.***
### POLS 1207

**Summer Session One 2012**

**Course Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Class Topic(s)</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</table>
| 1    | 5/29 – 6/02 | 1) **Course Introduction**  
2) **Module 1:** Defining the West and the Non-West | 1) Course Introduction Quiz and Intro (of Self to Class)  
2) Module 1 HuskyCT Discussion  
3) Begin Everyday Comparative Politics Assignment (Facebook) |
| 2    | 6/03 – 6/09 | **Module 2:** Key Concepts – Democracy, Markets, and Capitalism  
**Module 3:** Europe Sets the Agenda – The Enlightenment, Industrial Revolution, and Colonialism | 1) Module 2 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 1  
1) Module 3 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 2  
3) **Midterm Paper** |
| 3    | 6/10 – 6/16 |  
**Module 4:** Brazil | 1) Module 4 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 3 |
| 4    | 6/17 – 6/23 | **Module 5:** India  
**Module 6:** Japan | 1) Module 5 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 4  
1) Module 6 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 5  
3) **Everyday Comparative Politics Paper** |
| 5    | 6/24 – 6/30 |  
**Module 5:** India  
**Module 6:** Japan | 1) Module 5 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 4  
1) Module 6 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 5  
3) **Everyday Comparative Politics Paper** |
| 6    | 7/01 – 7/07 |  
**Module 5:** India  
**Module 6:** Japan | 1) Module 5 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 4  
1) Module 6 HuskyCT Discussion  
2) Quiz 5  
3) **Everyday Comparative Politics Paper** |

***I reserve the right to make changes to this calendar. However, I will notify the class and update HuskyCT if I need to do so.***