This course is concerned with systems and states. Beginning with a consideration of Democracy and its preconditions, it then moves to a consideration of institution building and the function of ideology, both in theory and in practice. The first part of each week begins with a theoretical discussion of basic issues and ends with its application to case studies. The course then moves to a discussion of state construction and from there to a discussion of the effect of the international economy on nation-states; their role and function. From here the course returns to the issue of nation building in a globalized world through a consideration of modern forms of nationalism in Europe and the former Soviet bloc. The design is to give a thorough overview of the basic issues in Comparative Politics in this contemporary moment.

**Required Readings**

There is only one required text – two copies of which will also be on reading room reserve. To cut down on cost in this economic climate most of the readings will be based on class handouts.


**Course Readings**

**Week One**

1. Democracy: What is it?
   - Ten Conditions- Valerie Bunce, “Rethinking the Post Communist Experience” World Politics 55 no.2 Jan.2003 162-92

2. Democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq
   - Toby Dodge, *Inventing Iraq: the Failure of Nation Building and a History Denied*
   Columbia U. Press 2003 1-40 Class Handout

3-4. Case studies: Countries U.K. Germany

5. Exam
Week Two

1. State and Institutions.
   Raymond Guess, The state in *History and illusion in Politics* Cambridge U. Press 2001 14-69
   Class Handout

2. Ideology
   Joseph Frewsmith, *Inner-Party Democracy: Developments and Limitations* China Leadership
   Monitor Winter 2010 Class Handout

3-4. Case studies China and Russia

5. Exam

Week Three

1. Political Economy

2. International Trade

3-4. India and Brazil

5. Exam

Week Four

1. Nationalism Reframed

2-3. The “Old New Europe” and the new
   Brubaker pp.79-179

4. Papers Due Last class

There will be three exams and a small 5-7 page paper due at the end of class on the 24th. The paper topic may be drawn from any topic covered in the course, and may be on any country of one’s choosing. The topic has to be approved. Grading is on the best of three out of the four in any combination.

Attendance is basically mandatory, though an absence a week is allowed and will not affect the final grade. Exams are based upon the readings and class discussion. And in a short summer session a missed class is rather significant.