

GOV. 20: FOUNDATIONS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Fall 2014

Section Information and Expectations

TF: Rakeen Mabud

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Office Hours: Fr. 11:00am-12:00pm in CGIS Cafe, or by appointment

PURPOSE OF THE SECTION:

In section we will discuss the readings and debate topics that arise in lecture and the readings. Section should be the place where you present your doubts, ideas, opinions and questions about the lecture and the readings. In order to fully participate and get the most out of section, it is imperative that you do all the readings every week.

Contacting Me: My office hours are from 11-12pm on Fridays, and I encourage you to stop by with any questions, comments, or concerns. I can also meet by appointment, but please contact me 24 hours in advance. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours.

Section Attendance and Participation: Sections are an important part of this course and participation in section constitutes 15% of your overall grade.

I am looking for you to both express your opinions and be able to discuss and analyze the readings. Participation in the discussion will be graded from 0 to 4: “0” will be given only if you do not come to section and you do not have a valid justification for the absence (see below); “1” if you show up but do not participate at all in the discussion; “2” if you participate only partially and/or do not make any kind of reference to the readings; “3” if you participate effectively, give important contributions to the discussion and make reference to the readings. Group exercises in class will contribute toward this grade.

Absences should be officially excused with written justification (i.e. doctors note, note from Resident Dean). One no-questions-asked absence will be allowed in the semester; unjustified absences beyond this will affect your participation grade. Upon missing your second section, I will also ask you to write a 1-2 page memo about the readings. If possible, please email me in advance if you will not be attending section.

Laptops: Laptops are not permitted for use in section except during pre-exam review sessions. If you take notes on your laptop during lecture, I recommend printing them prior to section for reference and annotation.

Lecture Attendance: Section discussion will often make reference to the lecture so it is very important that you will always attend the lecture as well. The teaching staff will monitor students’ attendance.

Papers: There are two 6-8 page papers required for the course, each worth 15% of your grade. These papers will be evaluated based on the strength of your argument and the supporting evidence you bring to bear (*not* how well you summarize). Papers will be graded down one third of a letter grade for each day late (e.g. A to A- for the first period).

Please come talk to me about your papers. I am happy to discuss ideas and read outlines, thesis statements, or intro paragraphs. I also encourage you to consult with Colin Brown (brown4@fas.harvard.edu), the Gov. Department Writing Fellow and/or the Harvard Writing Center (<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr>). Try to plan ahead for papers, as I will stop answering questions at 5pm the night before the paper’s due date.