

Professor C.L. McNeely  
Fall 2002

## **PUBP 800: Culture, Politics, and Public Policy**

This course provides a comparative overview of cultural and political factors relative to both differences and similarities in political institutions and policy environments around the world. An important aspect of the course is consideration of the crucial role of the political cultural environment for understanding public policy decisions and related structures in the contemporary global system. Moreover, special attention is given the ideological, institutional, and cultural structures on which political, social, and economic relations are dependent. Relevant issues are examined across a wide range of countries and regions to provide a foundation for developing a concrete understanding of the cultural dimensions of the policy process and of political institutions in general.

### **Requirements**

All students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed the required readings for each week, and to participate in class discussions. In addition, students are each required to make one class presentation, for which they will also facilitate discussion. Students must also complete an analytical research paper and take a comprehensive final examination. Grades are based on class participation (15%), the presentation/discussion facilitation (20%), the research paper (30%), and the final examination (35%).

### **Reading**

In addition to a wide variety of selected articles and chapters, required reading for the course includes the following books:

- Almond, G.A., G.B. Powell, Jr., K. Strom, and R. Dalton. 2000. *Comparative Politics: A Theoretical Framework*. New York: Longman.
- Diamond, Larry, and Marc F. Plattner, eds. 1996. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Held, D., and A. McGrew, eds. 2000. *The Global Transformations Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Sen, Amartya. 2000. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books.
- de Tocqueville, Alexis. 2000 [1835/1840]. *Democracy in America*, edited by J.P. Mayer, translated by G. Lawrence. New York: Harper Perennial.
- UNESCO. 1998. *World Culture Report 1998: Culture, Creativity, and Markets*. Paris: UNESCO.