

Name: _____

COMPARING FOREIGN POLITICAL SYSTEMS EXAMINATION #3, LONG-ESSAY COMPONENT

Please devote at least an hour of our final exam period to writing an essay in response to the questions below.

Your writing will be graded using the same criteria that I use for short-answer questions on exams, with the caveats that your organization and use of evidence should reflect the fact that you received this prompt several days in advance. As long as I easily understand and read what you are writing, do not worry about handwriting or modest grammar issues. You also do not need to quote material or provide specific citations; however, you should reference readings and authors when you can and provide significant evidence that you have carefully reviewed course assignments, including your non-text readings.

To assist you in focusing your writing, you may use the essay outline that you have prepared in advance provided that you adhere to the following rules:

- *Your essay's preparatory notes must be in outline form and address only the essay prompt listed below.*
- *Your preparatory notes are limited to one side of a single three-by-five-inch note card or a piece of paper of this same size.*
- *No other materials whatsoever are to be used during the exam, and you must turn in your note card with your completed exam.*

Essay topic:

One of the most important benefits to systematically studying the political systems and policy choices of other countries is that it allows political leaders to learn from the lessons of other societies. *Is there any evidence to suggest that this type of learning is making the world a better place for everyday people over time?* In answering this question, please address the following:

- Drawing evidence from the experiences of Britain and Germany, and your general readings on the state of democracy in the advanced democracies, what are some of the major ways in which advanced democratic political systems differ, and what are the consequences of these differences?
- Drawing evidence from the experiences of Russia and Iran, as well as your general readings on the topic, what are some of the major ways in which authoritarian political systems differ? What factors most influence the ability of non-democratic leaders to hold power over time even when their people want to live with more freedom?
- Drawing evidence from the experiences of China and your readings on development, what factors best account for the varied success that developing countries are having in addressing the needs and desires of their people?