

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Course Day & Times:

- Lectures: Monday / Wednesday 6th period, CSE A101
- Sections: Various (Thursdays and Fridays)
- Office Hours: M,W,TH 11:30am – 12:30pm, Anderson Hall Rm. 211
- Final exam scheduled slot 16B (Wednesday December 16th, 10:00am – 12:00pm)

Course objectives, description and goals:

This course is designed to provide students a comprehensive introduction to Comparative Politics through the discussion of a broad range of thematic topics. These are supplemented with a selection of academic readings and real world case studies from various regions of the world. In general, Mondays will be dedicated to the basic concepts of the week's readings (ECP), Wednesdays to the related scholarly readings (ERCP) and Thursdays/Fridays (sections) will focus on the comparative cases (CCP) as a platform for applying what was learned in the other readings.

Prerequisites

None – this is an introductory course

Attendance

Note that class attendance is required for this course. This includes attendance at lectures and weekly discussion sections. Attendance will be monitored as necessary during lectures (roll) and through participation in in-class assignments/quizzes. During lectures the professor may also occasionally provide insider information for exams and otherwise incentivize regular attendance. Attendance and participation grades in sections will be determined by the section instructor and may vary between sections.

Repeated absences will unquestionably affect your performance on exams since they will be based on class lectures, section discussions, as well as readings. Lecture notes and other related course materials discussed or distributed during class will NOT be posted online or otherwise distributed (except in the case of an *excused* absence).

According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

For further information about the University of Florida's attendance policy, please see the current Undergraduate Catalog (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>).

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and what the university policies are.

If you have doubts, we please discuss with the professor immediately (after the infringement is too late). Please refer to the current Undergraduate Catalog for more information on the Student Honor code (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). Students who have questions about these policies, should contact the undergraduate advisement center for additional information.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office so that special arrangements can be made to accommodate you. It is your responsibility to do so at the beginning of the semester and to communicate directly with the professor during the first week of classes (or as soon as the disability occurs).

Grading & Assessment

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class. Short quizzes on assigned readings will be held most weeks. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes; however students may drop their two lowest quizzes.

- Midterms (20% each = 40%)
- Final Exam (35%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- Attendance (5%)
- Participation in discussion sections (10%)

Grading Scale

94% - 100% = A
90% - 93% = A-
87% - 89% = B+
84% - 86% = B
80% - 83% = B-
77% - 79% = C+
74% - 76% = C
70% - 73% = C-
67% - 69% = D+
64% - 66% = D
60% - 63% = D-
< 60% = F

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. AS MUCH ADVANCE WARNING AS POSSIBLE WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS. CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO THE SCHEDULE, ASSIGNED READING OR OTHER ASPECTS AS DEEMED NECESSARY. NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO GRADING SCALE OR CORE UF POLICIES AS NOTED ABOVE. *****

REQUIRED BOOK & MATERIALS

- O'Neill, P., Essentials of Comparative Politics (5th Edition) **ECP**
- O'Neill, P. and R. Rogowski, Essential Readings in Comparative Politics (4th Edition) **ERCP**
- O'Neill, P., K. Fields, and D. Share, Cases in Comparative Politics (5th Edition) **CCP**

COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

WEEK 1 (August 24 & 26): Introduction to the Course and Comparative Politics

- What is comparative politics
- The comparative method

Readings:

- ERCP Chapter 1 (1) Lichbach and Zuckerman; (2) King, Keohane and Verba
- CCP Chapter 1

WEEK 2 (August 31 & September 2nd): The Origin and Role of States

- What is a state?
- The 'modern' state
- Comparing states

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 2
- ERCP Chapter 2 (1) Weber, (2) Herbst, (3) Rotberg
- CCP Chapter 2

WEEK 3 (Labor Day & 9): Nations, Nationality & Identity

- Ethnic identity vs. national identity
- Citizenship

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 3
- CCP Chapter 3

WEEK 4 (September 14 & 16): Nations, Nationality and Identity (Cont.)

- Ethnic and nationalist conflict
- Political identity and ideology

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 3
- ERCP Chapter 3 - (1) Fearon and Laitin; (2) Hobsbawm; (3) Baldwin and Huber
- CCP Chapter 3

WEEK 5 (September 21 & 23): Political Economy

- Systems of political economy
- Evaluating political-economic systems

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 4
- ERCP Chapter 4 - (1) Smith; (2) North; (3) Mankiw
- CCP Chapter 6

WEEK 6 (September 28 & 30): Review and Midterm I

- Catch-up & Review

WEEK 7 (October 5 & 7): Democracy and Democratic Regimes

- Democracy and democratization
- Institutions and political systems (variations on a theme)

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 5
- ERCP Chapter 5 - (1) Lijphart; (2) Schmitter and Karl; (3) Stephan, Linz and Yadav
- CCP Chapters 4

WEEK 8 (October 12 & 14): Non-Democratic Regimes

- Origins and characteristics of non-democratic governance
- Types of non-democratic systems

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 6
- ERCP Chapter 6 - (1) Linz and Stapan; (2) Levitsky and Lucan; (3) Diamond
- CCP Chapters 10 & 13

WEEK 9 (October 19 & 21): Political Violence

- Origins of political violence
- Types of political violence

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 7
- ERCP Chapter 7 - (1) Skocpol; (2) Kuran; (3) Goldstone
- CCP Chapter 14

WEEK 10 (October 26 & 28): Developed Democracies I

- Defining and understanding 'advanced democracies'
- New modes of sovereignty, identity and political values

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 8
- ERCP Chapter 8 - (1) Przeworski; (2) Duverger; (3) Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson and Yared
- CCP Chapter 5

WEEK 11 (November 2 & 4): Developed Democracies II

- Defining and understanding 'advanced democracies'
- New modes of sovereignty, identity and political values

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 8
- ERCP Chapter 8 - (1) Przeworski; (2) Duverger; (3) Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson and Yared
- CCP Chapter 5

WEEK 12 (November 9 & 11): Review and Midterm II

- Catch-up & Review

WEEK 13 (November 16 & 18): Communism and Post-Communism

- Communism: ideal versus reality
- Post-communism – political, economic and social transformations

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 9
- ERCP Chapter 9 - (1) Marx and Engels; (2) Bunce and Wolchik; (3) Gat
- CCP Chapters 7 & 8

WEEK 14 (November 23 & Thanksgiving Holiday): Developing Countries

- Defining and understanding 'less-developed' countries (origins and implication)
- Industrialization and democracy

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 10
- ERCP Chapter 10 - (1) Collier and Gunning; (2) Krugman; (3) Acemoglu and Johnson
- CCP Chapter 9 & 12

WEEK 15 (November 30 & December 2): Developing Countries (Cont.) and Globalization

- Defining 'globalization'
- Evaluating globalization

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 11
- ERCP Chapter 11 - (1) Florida; (2) Jiang; (3) The Economist
- CCP Chapter 11

WEEK 16 (December 7 & 9): Conclusions and Review

- Catch-up & Review for final exam