

Introduction to Comparative Politics (CPO 2001)

Spring 2015

Professor Conor O'Dwyer

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I. Course Day & Times:

- Lectures: Monday / Wednesday 3rd period (9:35 – 10:25am), WM 100
- Sections: Various (Thursdays and Fridays)
- Office Hours: M 10:45am – 11:35am, W 12:50 – 1:40 pm, and by appointment in Anderson Hall 311
- Final exam scheduled slot: 30E (Thursday April 30th, 5:30 – 7:30pm)

II. 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.

III. Attendance

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 Catalogue (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>).

I will only schedule exam make-ups for students who are physically unable to take the exam at the normally scheduled time.

IV. 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.

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

V. Grading Scale

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	E	Below 60
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

VI. Required Books

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

VII. Schedule of Class Meetings & Readings

WEEK 1 (January 7) Introduction to the Course and Comparative Politics I

- What is comparative politics?

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 1
- ERCP Chapter 1 (1) Lichbach and Zuckerman

WEEK 2 (January 12 & 14) Introduction to Comparative Politics II & The Origin and Role of States I

- What is the Comparative Method?
- What is the state?
- What is the modern state?

Readings:

- ERCP Chapter 1 (1) King, Keohane and Verba; (2) Bartels; (3) Rogowski
- ECP Chapter 2
- CCP Chapter 1

WEEK 3 (MLK Holiday & January 21) The Origin and Role of States II

- Comparing states

Readings:

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

WEEK 4 (January 26 & 28) Nations, Nationality & Identity I

- Ethnic identity vs. national identity
- Citizenship

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 3
- CCP Chapter 3

WEEK 5 (February 2 & 4) Nations, Nationality & Identity II ** Feb 2 is Brussels trip

- Ethnic and nationalist conflict
- Political identity and ideology

Readings:

- ERCP Chapter 3 - (1) Hobsbawm (2) Fearon and Laitin
- CCP Chapter 3

WEEK 6 (February 9 & 11) Review and Midterm I

- Catch-up & Review

WEEK 7 (February 16 & 18) 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 8 (February 23 & 25) Democracy and Democratic Regimes

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

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 5
- ERCP Chapter 5 - (1) Schmitter and Karl; (2) Lijphart; (3) Putnam
- CCP Chapter 4

SPRING BREAK (March 2-6)

WEEK 9 (March 9 & 11) 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 Stepan; (2) Diamond; (3) Levitsky and Way
- CCP Chapters 10 & 13

WEEK 10 (March 16 & 18) Political Violence

- Origins of political violence
- Types of political violence

Readings:

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

WEEK 11 (March 23 & 25) Review and Midterm II

- Catch-up & Review

WEEK 12 (March 30 & April 1) Advanced Democracies

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

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 8

- ERCP Chapter 8 - (1) de Tocqueville; (2) Iversen and Soskice; (3) Estéve-Abe, Iversen, and Soskice
- CCP Chapter 5

WEEK 13 (April 6 & 8) 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 Chapter 7

WEEK 14 (April 13 & 15) Less developed and Newly Industrializing 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
- CCP Chapter 9

WEEK 15 (April 20 & 22) Globalization & Final Review

- What is globalization?
- Final catch-up and review

Readings:

- ECP Chapter 11 & ERCP Chapter 11 - (1) Florida
- CCP Chapter 11

VIII. 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 Catalogue 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.

IX. 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).