Course Content and Objectives:

The objective of this course is twofold: First, to introduce students to the rationale, research strategies, and methods of Comparative Politics as an academic (sub) discipline; and second to provide students with substantive knowledge of the main themes in Comparative Politics today. It should be noted that the course does not provide a country survey; instead, it is organized systematically around a series of concepts, categories, and themes. The main topics of the course are, first, the state as the institutional site of political authority; second, political systems, both democratic and non-democratic, and systemic change; and third, political economy, i.e. the ways in which the political system and government policies influence (facilitate, prohibit, regulate, coordinate, etc.) economic transactions.

This course is intended to provide students with analytical skills and cognitive frames that allow them to be more astute and less parochial observers of and participants in political processes. Democracy, in the end, is about broad political empowerment, which requires that citizens are able to formulate and express their political preferences. By default, most of us live our political lives as provincials: We may have fairly good knowledge of our own political system and domestic political discourses. But this is a limited universe that can be greatly broadened and enriched by inquiring into political arrangements and processes elsewhere. This is where Comparative Politics comes in.
Reading Materials:

- See the syllabus for additional readings. Texts that are marked as “electronic resource” are part of UF Library’s electronic holdings. Students are expected to obtain these texts in time. Readings that are neither drawn from the textbook nor marked as electronic resource will be provided electronically via Sakai.
- Students are expected to have completed each week’s readings before Section. It is up to students’ own decision whether they do readings prior to or after lecture, depending on personal learning style.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<td>Attendance Record</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section Performance</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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Conduct:

Regular attendance in lecture and section is expected. Please make sure to be on time; this is a large class, and hordes of latecomers streaming into the lecture hall after lecture has begun are extremely disruptive.

Feel free to use a notebook or tablet in class. However, do not use electronic devices for unrelated purposes. Social networking during class not only subverts your learning, it also is rude in the extreme.

Please remember to switch cell phones to silent.

Plagiarism:

Unfortunately, plagiarism continues to be a concern. If you are uncertain about what constitutes or does not constitute plagiarism, approach your professor or TA, or seek out another source to bring yourself up to date. The basic rule is simple enough: There is nothing wrong in academia with making use of other peoples’ work – as long as you fully disclose your sources and give credit where credit is due.

Be aware that it doesn’t take undisclosed verbatim quotations to commit plagiarism. Paraphrases, too, constitute plagiarism if they remain undocumented.

Plagiarism charges are an extremely serious affair in the academic world. Please keep in mind that plagiarism may bring your academic education to a sudden end.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>W, 8/21</td>
<td>What Is, and to What End Should We Study Comparative Politics?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Still: Introduction</td>
<td>M, 8/26</td>
<td>Class Themes, Class Format, and Course Mechanics</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W, 8/28</td>
<td>What Comparativists Do</td>
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| Week 3  | The Modern State                         | M, 9/2     | no class (Labor Day)                                                   |
|         |                                          | W, 9/4     | The Origin and Spread of the Form ‘State’                              |


| Week 4  | Still: The Modern State                  | M, 9/9     | The Nation-State and the Expansion of State Capacity                   |
|         |                                          | W, 9/11    | Strong States, Weak States, Failed States                              |


| Week 5  | Nationalism Against the State           | M, 9/16    | Dynamics of Nationalism and State Break-Up I: Yugoslavia              |
|         |                                          | W, 9/18    | Dynamics of Nationalism and State Break-Up II: Soviet Union           |

**Political Systems and Systems Change**

**Week 6**  
**Democratic Regimes: The Basics**  
M, 9/23  What Is Democracy?  
W, 9/25  Institutions of Democratic Governance  

**Week 7**  
**Democratic Regimes: Parties and Elections**  
M, 9/30  Electoral Systems  
W, 10/2  Party Systems  
Readings: Textbook, chapter 7; Lijphart

**Week 8**  
**The Structure of Political Space**  
M, 10/7  Midterm Exam  
W, 10/9  Cleavages  
Readings: Lijphart

**Week 9**  
**Non-Democratic Regimes**  
M, 10/14  Types of Contemporary Non-Democratic Regimes  
W, 10/16  “Competitive Authoritarianism”  

**Week 10**  
**Regime Change**  
M, 10/21  Democratic Transition  
W, 10/23  Democratization and De-Democratization  

**Comparative Political Economy**

**Week 11**  
**The Basics**  
M, 10/28  The State and the Economy
W, 10/30  Globalization: Great Transformation Or Old Wine in New Bottles?
Readings: Textbook, chapter 5.

**Week 12  Prosperity vs. Equality?**
M, 11/4  Types of Welfare State
W, 11/6  Welfare Statism and Economic Performance

**Week 13  Varieties of Capitalism**
M, 11/11  no class (Veterans Day)
W, 11/13  Liberal and Coordinated Market Economies

**Week 14  Economic Development**
M, 11/18  The First World and the Rise of China: Why are Americans So Worried About China’s Economic Muscle, and Europeans Aren’t?
W, 11/20  Models of Development Policy

**Week 16**
M, 11/25  Developed, Developing, and Underdeveloped Nations: Convergence or Divergence?
W, 11/27  no class (Thanksgiving)

**Week 17  Current Issues**
M, 12/2  Arab Spring (and Arab Fall?)
Reading: Roland Flamini, “Turmoil in the Arab World,” CQ Researcher, May 2011; t.b.a.
W, 12/4  Inequality in the US and Europe