

Schirmer
CPO 2001
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2013
McCarty Hall C, 001
M, W 12:50-1:40 (Period 6)

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Office Hours M 10-11, T 10-12

Teaching Assistants:

Sections 7331 and 7337: Ross Cotton (rdcotton@ufl.edu)
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Sections 7360 and 7583: Ryan Whittingham (ryanpwhittingham@ufl.edu)

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:

- Our main reference is C.A. Drogus and St. Orvis, *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*, Sage/CQ Press, 2nd edition. The book is available at the usual outlets.
- 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:

Midterm Exam	30 %
Final Exam	30 %
Attendance Record	10 %
Section Performance	20 %

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.

Week 1 Introduction

W, 8/21 What Is, and to What End Should We Study Comparative Politics?

Week 2 Still: Introduction

M, 8/26 Class Themes, Class Format, and Course Mechanics

W, 8/28 What Comparativists Do

Readings: Textbook chapter 1; Peter Hall, "Beyond the Comparative Method," APSA- CP vol. 15, issue 2; Pippa Norris, "The Proliferation of Comparative Survey Research," APSA-CP, vol. 15, issue 2.

The State

Week 3 The Modern State

M, 9/2 no class (Labor Day)

W, 9/4 The Origin and Spread of the Form 'State'

Readings: Textbook, chapter 4, 38-51; Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in: Evans, Rueschemeyer, Skocpol, *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 169-187.

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

Hendrik Spruyt, "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (2002), 127-149 (electronic resource); Textbook, chapter 4, 51-93; Jeffrey Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," *International Security* 14/4 (Spring 1990), 117-139 (electronic resource).

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

Readings: Textbook, chapter 4; Rogers Brubaker, "National Minorities, Nationalizing States, and External National Homelands," *Daedalus* 124/2 (1995), 107-132 (electronic resource); Mark R. Beissinger, *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State* (Cambridge UP 2002), chapter 2.

Political Systems and Systems Change

Week 6 Democratic Regimes: The Basics

M, 9/23 What Is Democracy?

W, 9/25 Institutions of Democratic Governance

Readings: Textbook, chapter 6; Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1971), chapters 1 and 2 (1-31).

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"

Readings: Textbook chapter 8 (369-421), Linz and Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), chapter 3 (38-54); Levitsky and Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13/2 (April 2002), 51-65 (electronic resource).

Week 10 Regime Change

M, 10/21 Democratic Transition

W, 10/23 Democratization and De-Democratization

Readings: Textbook, chapter 9; Samuel P. Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 2, no. 3, Spring 1991, pp. 12-34 (electronic resource).

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

Readings: G. Esping-Andersen, "Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism," in: Ch. Piersons and F.G. Castles, eds., *The Welfare State Reader* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2000), 154-169. J. Pontusson, *Inequality and Prosperity* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005), chapters 1 and 7 (1-14 and 142-181).

Week 13 Varieties of Capitalism

M, 11/11 no class (Veterans Day)

W, 11/13 Liberal and Coordinated Market Economies

Readings: Peter Hall and David Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2001), chapter 1.

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

Readings: Textbook, chapter 10.

Week 16

M, 11/25 Developed, Developing, and Underdeveloped Nations: Convergence or Divergence?

W, 11/27 no class (Thanksgiving)

Readings: Lant Prichett, "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11/3 (Summer 1997), 3-17 (electronic resource); t.b.a.

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

Readings: J. Linz and A. Stepan, "Comparative Perspectives on Inequality and the Quality of Democracy in the United States," *Perspectives on Politics* 9/4 (Dec 2011), 841-856 (electronic resource); Sarah Glazer, "Social Welfare in Europe," *CQ Researcher*, August 2010.