

# Introduction to Comparative Politics: Origins and Development of the Nation-State System – People, Power, and (State) Authority CPO 2001, Spring 2013

Dr. Patricia J. Woods  
222 Anderson  
Office: 352-273-2370  
Email: [pjwoods@ufl.edu](mailto:pjwoods@ufl.edu)

Office Hours:  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> periods  
Friday 5 period

Course Description This class presents the origins and nature of the modern political system in which we currently live through attention to the development of the modern state as it evolved and expanded to the modern, bureaucratic apparatus that it is today. We will address a corollary process of centralization of authority in the move from local, communal economies to the modern, rationalized capitalism that has become the hallmark of the late modern economy. Indeed, these processes were closely tied together. According to some of the classic and influential scholars we will read in this class, they were able to expand and become the predominant forms of political and economic order that they have precisely through close collaboration and cooperation between the two.

There are no text books to purchase for this class. All of your readings are available in the SAKAI system for this class.

Three films are required, and one film is recommended each week. To see these, you will need to rent or purchase them. Most of them are available for rental through on-line and other sources.

## Grade Distribution

30%	Weekly Study Questions
30%	Take Home Essays I
30%	Take Home Essays II
5%	Required Film Assignments (3)
5%	Discussion Board

All readings for this course are available on e-reserves. You can access the e-reserves website through the “E-Reserves Website” tab at the bottom of the course page on your left on the SAKAI site for this course.

Note:

In reading schedule, recommended films are marked in green.

Required film assignments are marked in yellow

## Explanation of Assignments

### Weekly Study Questions

Please answer study questions in complete paragraphs and complete sentences. Please avoid answers that look like lists. Most study question assignments that are successful are around 1 to 1.5 pages total for all questions combined. Please double-space your answers. I prefer attachments, but if you have to submit in the text box for technical reasons, please make sure to double-space your answers. Writing for study questions should focus on clear, concise, direct writing in active voice (please avoid passive voice). The concepts are complicated enough; clear, concise, direct language is considered best in comparative politics for expressing and explaining them.

### Take Home Essays for Exams I and II

There will be two exams in this course. They will both be composed of take-home essays. You will receive the prompts for the essay questions two weeks before the due dates for the exams. (You will receive them by an email to the class.) Please double-space all answers, and be very careful to follow all space requirements. Please include a reference list and in-text citations (following Chicago Manual of Style reference guide for social science in-text citations). You *are* allowed to draw from your writing in your study questions and film assignments to construct your essays. Make sure to have a balance between new writing and drawing from your existing writing; and, if you do so, make sure to bring them together in a coherent manner, both analytically and in terms of style. Writing for essay questions should focus on clear, concise, direct writing in active voice (please avoid passive voice). The concepts are complicated enough; clear, concise, direct language is considered best in comparative politics for expressing and explaining them.

### Required Film Assignments

There are three required film assignments for this course. You will be asked to watch a film for each assignment and to answer film questions for that film. Please follow the same writing guidelines as weekly study questions in forming your answers.

### Discussion Board

You will be asked to post one comment and two responses to other people's comments each week. Comments should be regarding the week's readings, or comparing them with other readings in the class. This is a relatively informal place for you to post comments and queries for your fellow students about the readings. I will read your comments, but I will not respond to them; it is meant to be a student forum. If you have questions about the readings, please email, call, or come to office hours.

### Chat Room

You are not required to participate in the chat room, but you are welcomed to. It is an open forum not explicitly limited to the readings in class. Comments should be appropriate for a wide audience.

### Recommended Films

A recommended film (or, in some cases, two) is offered with every week's reading. These films are illustrative of the issues discussed in the readings in a more evocative and, typically, a real-world context. You are not required to see these films, but they may help to deepen your understanding of the readings through raising similar issues through the artistic format of cinema. Most of the films are feature films rather

than documentaries, so they are usually fictional accounts of the issues in question. Most of them can be rented or purchased at standard on-line venues.

**CLASSROOM AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

- **Attendance & makeup policy:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. You are not required to attend any class room lectures or discussions for this course. The entire course is web-based. All assignments fall under this policy as well as the student honor code.
- **Late Policy:** NA – Since you have no class room meetings for this class, tardiness is not an issue.
- **Cell phone and texting policy:** NA – This should not be relevant for this web-based course.
- **Grade Disputes:** Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors, for which you should contact the instructor), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

**A** 100-93 (4.0)

**A-** 92-90 (3.67)

**B+** 89-87 (3.00)

**B** 86-83 (3.0)

**B-** 82-80 (2.67)

**C+** 79-77 (2.33)

**C** 76-73 (2.0)

**C-** 72-70 (1.67)

**D+** 69-67 (1.33)

**D** 63-66 (1.0)

**D-** 62-60 (0.67)

**E** 59- (0)

**Note:** A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#hgrades>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

**Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code

(<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>)

specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

**Counseling and Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Online Course Evaluation Process:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

## Reading Schedule

### Module 1: The Origins of States and Capitalism in Europe

Weeks I and II : Capitalism and Bureaucratization

- Max Weber, Chapter 4, “The Religious Foundations of Worldly Asceticism,” Parts A and B (Calvinism and Pietism) in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Dover, 2003.
- Max Weber, Chapter XI, “Bureaucracy” in *Economy and Society* Volume II. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1978.
- VIDEO Lectures on Weber and E.P. Thompson: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended Film: *Rob Roy*.

#### Weeks III and IV: Bureaucratization, Centralization of the State, and the State's Role in Industrialization

- Michael Mann, Chapter 14, "The Rise of the Modern State: The Expansion of the Civilian Scope" in *The Sources of Social Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- James Scott, Chapter 1, "Nature and Space" in *Seeing Like A State*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.
- VIDEO Lectures on Bureaucratization and Scott: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended television Series: *North and South* (BBC). Episodes 2 and 4.

#### Week V: Nationalism-Based Resistance to the Old State

- Benedict Anderson, Chapter 2, "Cultural Roots" in *Imagined Communities*. London and New York: Verso, 2006.
- Theda Skocpol, Chapter 5, "The Birth of a 'Modern State Edifice' in France" in *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979.
- VIDEO Lectures on Anderson and Skocpol: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended television series: *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (BBC). Episode 3.

#### Week VI: Resistance to the Old and New State

- Eric Hobsbawm, Chapter 1, "The Springtime of the Peoples," in *The Age of Capital, 1848-1875*. New York: Vintage, 1996.
- Marx and Engels, Chapter 1, "The Communist Manifesto," pages 1-39 in *The Communist Manifesto*. Oxford World Classics. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- VIDEO Lecture on Marx: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended film: *Amistad*.

### Module 2: Issues in Comparative Politics

#### Week VII: Judicial Politics (Cases include: U.S. and Europe)

- Carlos Guarnieri and Patrizia Pederzoli, *Introduction to The Power of Judges: A Comparative Study of Courts and Democracy*. London: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Peter Russell, Chapter 1, "Toward a General Theory of Judicial Independence" in *Judicial Independence in the Age of Democracy: Critical Perspectives From Around the World*. Peter Russell and David O'Brien, eds. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2002.
- Susan Thomson and Rosemary Nagy, "Law, Power and Justice: What Legalism Fails to Address in the Functioning of Rwanda's *Gacaca* Courts" in *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 5:1 (2011): 11-30.
- Brief video lectures
- Film Assignment: "A TIME TO KILL" Study Questions are Required Assignment to be submitted for this week.

Week VIII: Institutional Competition Within the (New) State (Cases include: Africa, Egypt)

- Joel Migdal, Chapter 3, “A Model of State-Society Relations” in *New Directions in Comparative Politics*. Howard J. Wiarda, ed. Boulder: Westview Press, 1985.
- Nathan Brown, “Brigands and State Building: The Invention of Banditry in Modern Egypt” in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (Apr., 1990), pp. 258-281.
- Brief video lectures
- Recommended film: *Lawrence of Arabia*.

EXAM I, TAKE HOME ESSAYS DUE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

SPRING BREAK, MARCH 1 – 8, 2014

Week IX: Democratization (Authoritarianism and Democratic Theory)

- Juan Linz, Chapter 1, “Introduction” in *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO and London: Lynn Reiner Publishers, 2000. Second edition.
- Guillermo O’Donnell, “Democracy, Law, and Comparative Politics” in *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36:1 (2001): 7-36.
- Brief video lectures
- Film Assignment: “SARAH’S KEY” Study Questions are Required Assignment to be submitted for this week.

Week X: Political Economy (Cases include: Eastern Europe, Central Asia, East Asia and South America)

- Scott Radnitz, Chapter 1, “Institutional Uncertainty and Elite-Led Mobilization” in *Weapons of the Wealthy*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2010.
- Jessica Alina-Pissano, “Introduction to Land Reform in Post-Communist Europe” in *The Post-Soviet Potemkin Village: Politics and Property Rights in the Black Earth*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Peter Evans, “States and Industrial Transformation” in Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995.
- Brief video lectures
- Recommended film: (1) *Ordinary Decent Criminals*.

Week XI: Gender Politics (Cases include: South Africa, Germany, Israel, Lebanon)

- Sabine Lang, “The NGO-iation of Feminism: Institutionalization and Institution Building Within the German Women’s Movements” in *Global Feminisms since 1945: A Survey of Issues and Controversies*, edited by Bonnie Smith. London and New York: Routledge, 2000.
- Patricia J. Woods, “Gender and the Reproduction and Maintenance of Group Boundaries: Why the ‘Secular’ State Matters to Religious Authorities in Israel” in *Boundaries and Belonging: States and Societies in the Struggle to Shape Identities and Local Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Brief video lectures
- Film Assignments: (1) “CARMEL” Study Questions are Required Assignment to be submitted for this week.
- Recommended second Film: (2) *The Pagan Queen*.

### Module 3: People and Politics: A Range of Approaches

#### Week XII: European Social Theorists: The New State and The People

- Emile Durkheim, “A Fragment” (the power of the new state over family)
- Emile Durkheim, Chapter 2, “Mechanical Solidarity, or Solidarity by Similarities” in *Division of Labor in Society*. New York: Simon and Schuster,
- VIDEO Lecture: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended film: *Goodbye Bafana (also known as, The Color of Freedom) (2007)*.

#### Week XIII: European Social Theorists: Power Over Words and Culture

- Antonio Gramsci, “Intellectuals” in *Prison Notebooks* (the power of economic, political, military, and media elites over cultural norms and values)
- Pierre Bourdieu, “Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field” in *Sociological Theory* 12:1 (Mar 1994): 1-18.
- VIDEO Lecture: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended film: *The Milagro Beanfield War (1988)*.

#### Week XIV: U.S. Social Theorists

- Timothy Mitchell, Chapter 1, “Egypt at the Exhibition” in *Colonising Egypt*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1991.
- Samuel Huntington, Chapter 7 in *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1968.
- VIDEO Lectures: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended film: *The Battle of Algiers*.

#### Week XV: American Social Theorists

- Ronald Inglehart, Chapter 1 in *Modernization and Postmodernization: Cultural, Political, and Economic Change in 43 Societies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1997.
- Robert Dahl, Chapter 1, “The Nature of the Problem” in *Who Governs?* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1974.
- VIDEO Lecture: Dr. Patricia J. Woods
- Recommended television series: *Lillyhammer*, first two episodes.

EXAM II, TAKE HOME ESSAYS DUE, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014