

University of Florida  
Department of Political Science

## **CPO 2001 – Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Course Instructor: Michael Webb

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Class Times: 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM (M, T, W, R, F)

### **Course Description**

This course aims to introduce students to the study of comparative politics. This proceeds in two ways: first, students will study real world country cases and contemporary issues at the center of the study of politics; second, students will be introduced to the critical thinking skills required to make sense of the great variation that exists across those cases. The cases and issues are the building blocks of more complex discussions in comparative politics. The critical thinking skills will hopefully be useful regardless of where life takes you.

Quizzes will be given in class on Fridays, the dates for the worksheets can be found in the class calendar.

The extra reading suggestions are more advanced texts on the topics we cover. In the longer form version of this course sections of these texts would be required reading. I list them here for those interested in taking their studies further.

Office Hours: TBA

### **Prerequisites**

None, this is an introductory course.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Assignments in this course will consist of six quizzes and three worksheets. There will be no cumulative exam! The quizzes will test students' knowledge of the cases and concepts covered in the course. The worksheets will encourage students to think critically, apply the comparative approach, and be creative. Each worksheet will consist of a series of questions, for which students will be expected to provide short answer responses. All worksheets will be made available on canvas.

Assignment	Grade Percentage (out of 100%)
Quizzes	60%
Worksheets	30%
Attendance	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

### **Required Textbooks**

O'Neil, Fields, and Share - Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

## Class Calendar

### Week 1 (June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>):

States and Institutions		
Monday, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 1 - Introduction	Pages 2-23
Tuesday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 2 – States	Pages 24-53
Wednesday, June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Case: United Kingdom	Pages 219-249
Thursday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Case: United States	Pages 251-275
Friday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Worksheet Discussion, Quiz	

Worksheet #1 – Available on Canvas (6/27)

<b>Week 1 Extra Reading (not mandatory):</b>
Lichbach, Mark I., and Alan S. Zuckerman. "Research traditions and theory in comparative politics: An introduction." <i>Comparative politics: Rationality, culture, and structure</i> 3.4 (1997).
King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. <i>Designing social inquiry: Scientific inference in qualitative research</i> . Princeton university press, 2021.
Mill, John Stuart. "Of the four methods of experimental inquiry." (1862).
Rogowski, Ronald. "The Rise of Experimentation in Political Science." <i>Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: An Interdisciplinary, Searchable, and Linkable Resource</i> (2015): 1-11.
Weber, Max. <i>From Max Weber: essays in sociology</i> . Routledge, 2013.
Herbst, Jeffrey. "War and the State in Africa." <i>International Security</i> 14.4 (1990): 117-139.
Rotberg, Robert I. "The new nature of nation-state failure." <i>Washington quarterly</i> 25.3 (2002): 83-96.
Krasner, Stephen D. "Sovereignty." <i>Sovereignty</i> . Princeton University Press, 1999.

### Week 2 (July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>):

Nations and Society		
Monday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday	No Class
Tuesday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3 – Nations and Society	Pages 55-87
Wednesday, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Japan	Pages 330-359
Thursday, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Case: India	Pages 514-544
Friday, July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Worksheet Discussion, Quiz	

Worksheet #1 – Due on Canvas (7/7)

<b>Week 2 Extra Reading (not mandatory):</b>
Hobsbawm, Eric. <i>Age of revolution: 1789-1848</i> . Hachette UK, 2010.
Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. "Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war." <i>American political science review</i> 97.1 (2003): 75-90.
Alesina, Alberto, and Eliana La Ferrara. "Ethnic diversity and economic performance." <i>Journal of economic literature</i> 43.3 (2005): 762-800.
Baldwin, Kate, and John D. Huber. "Economic versus cultural differences: Forms of ethnic diversity and public goods provision." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 104.4 (2010): 644-662.
Cederman, Lars-Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. "Horizontal inequalities and ethnonationalist civil war: A global comparison." <i>American political science review</i> 105.3 (2011): 478-495.

**Week 3 (July 11<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>):**

<b>Political Economy, Developed Democracies</b>		
Monday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4 – Political Economy	Pages 88-123
Tuesday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7 – Developed Democracies	Pages 188-217
Wednesday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Germany	Pages 304-329
Thursday, July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Mexico	Pages 570-599
Friday, July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worksheet Discussion, Quiz	

Worksheet #2 - Available on Canvas (7/11)

<b>Week 3 Extra Reading (not mandatory):</b>
Smith, Adam. <i>An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations...</i> T. Nelson and Sons, 1887.
Douglass, C. "Institutions." <i>The Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 5.1 (1991): 97-112.
Acemoglu, D. "A historical approach to assessing the role of institutions in economic development, root causes." <i>International Monetary Fund</i> (2003).
Rogowski, Ronald. "Political cleavages and changing exposure to trade." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 81.4 (1987): 1121-1137.
De Tocqueville, Alexis. <i>Democracy in America-Vol. I. and II.</i> Read Books Ltd, 2015.
Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes. "Endogenous democratization." <i>World politics</i> 55.4 (2003): 517-549.
Acemoglu, Daron, et al. "Income and democracy." <i>American economic review</i> 98.3 (2008): 808-42.
Ansell, Ben W., and David J. Samuels. <i>Inequality and democratization.</i> Cambridge University Press, 2014.
Duverger, Maurice. <i>Political parties: Their organization and activity in the modern state.</i> Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1959.
Iversen, Torben, and David Soskice. "Electoral institutions and the politics of coalitions: Why some democracies redistribute more than others." <i>American political science review</i> 100.2 (2006): 165-181.
Estevez-Abe, Margarita, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. "Social protection and the formation of skills: A reinterpretation of the welfare state." <i>Varieties of capitalism: The institutional foundations of comparative advantage</i> 145 (2001): 145-183.

**Week 4 (July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup>):**

<b>Developing Countries, Democratic Regimes</b>		
Monday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 6 – Democratic Regimes	Pages 152-187
Tuesday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10 – Developing Countries	Pages 482-513
Wednesday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Brazil	Pages 600-627
Thursday, July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Case: South Africa	Pages 628-659
Friday, July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Worksheet Discussion, Quiz	

Worksheet #2 – Due on Canvas (7/21)

<b>Week 4 Extra Reading (not mandatory):</b>
Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. "What democracy is... and is not." <i>Journal of democracy</i> 2.3 (1991): 75-88.
Lijphart, Arend. "Constitutional choices for new democracies." <i>Journal of democracy</i> 2.1 (1991): 72-84.

Stepan, Alfred, Juan J. Linz, and Yogendra Yadav. "The Rise of" State-Nations"." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 21.3 (2010): 50-68.
Waylen, Georgina. "Engendering the 'crisis of democracy': Institutions, representation and participation." <i>Government and Opposition</i> 50.3 (2015): 495-520.
Foa, Roberto Stefan, and Yascha Mounk. "The danger of deconsolidation: The democratic disconnect." <i>Journal of democracy</i> 27.3 (2016): 5-17.
Easterly, William R. <i>The elusive quest for growth: economists' adventures and misadventures in the tropics</i> . MIT press, 2002.
Clark, Gregory. "A farewell to alms." <i>A Farewell to Alms</i> . Princeton University Press, 2008.
Collier, Paul, and Jan Willem Gunning. "Why has Africa grown slowly?." <i>Journal of economic perspectives</i> 13.3 (1999): 3-22.
Acemoglu, Daron, and Simon Johnson. "Disease and development: the effect of life expectancy on economic growth." <i>Journal of political Economy</i> 115.6 (2007): 925-985.

**Week 5 (July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>):**

<b>Political Violence, Communism and Post-Communism</b>		
Monday, July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5 – Political Violence	Pages 124-151
Tuesday, July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9 – Communism + Post-communism	Pages 390-425
Wednesday, July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Russia	Pages 426-449
Thursday, July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Nigeria	Pages 660-690
Friday, July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Worksheet Discussion, Quiz	

Worksheet #3 – Available on Canvas (7/25)
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<b>Week 5 Extra Reading (not mandatory):</b>
Skocpol, Theda. "France, Russia, China: A structural analysis of social revolutions." <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 18.2 (1976): 175-210.
Crenshaw, Martha. "The causes of terrorism." <i>Comparative politics</i> 13.4 (1981): 379-399.
Atran, Scott, and Robert Axelrod. "Reframing sacred values." <i>Negotiation Journal</i> 24.3 (2008): 221-246.
Walsh, James I., and James A. Piazza. "Why respecting physical integrity rights reduces terrorism." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 43.5 (2010): 551-577.
Marx, Karl, Friedrich Engels, and Samuel Moore. "Manifesto of the communist party." (1972): 1848.
Ekiert, Grzegorz. "The illiberal challenge in post-communist Europe." <i>Taiwan Journal of Democracy</i> 8.2 (2012): 63-77.
Hale, Henry E. "25 Years After the USSR: What's Gone Wrong?." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 27.3 (2016): 24-35.
Balzer, Harley. "Russia and China in the Global Economy." <i>Demokratizatsiya</i> 16.1 (2008).

**Week 6 (August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>):**

<b>Nondemocratic Regimes, Globalization</b>		
Monday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chapter 8 – Nondemocratic Regimes	Pages 360-389
Tuesday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chapter 11 – Globalization	Pages 690-715
Wednesday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Case: China	Pages 450-481
Thursday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Case: Iran	Pages 544-569
Friday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Worksheet Discussion, Quiz	

Worksheet #4 – Due on Canvas (8/4)
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<b>Week 6 Extra Reading (not mandatory):</b>
Linz, Juan J., Juan J. Linz, and Alfred Stepan. <i>Problems of democratic transition and consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and post-communist Europe</i> . Jhu Press, 1996.
Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. <i>Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the Cold War</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2010.
Diamond, Larry. "Progress and retreat in Africa: The rule of law versus the big man." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 19.2 (2008): 138-149.
Geddes, Barbara, Erica Frantz, and Joseph G. Wright. "Military rule." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 17.1 (2014): 147-162.
King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression." <i>American political science Review</i> 107.2 (2013): 326-343.
Rodrik, Dani. <i>The globalization paradox: why global markets, states, and democracy can't coexist</i> . Oxford University Press, 2011.
Bouguignon, Francois. "Inequality and globalization: How the rich get richer as the poor catch up." <i>Foreign Aff.</i> 95 (2016): 11.
Ferguson, Niall. "Populism as a Backlash against Globalization." <i>Horizons: Journal of International Relations and Sustainable Development</i> 8 (2016): 12-23.
Dryzek, John S. "Global civil society: The progress of post-Westphalian politics." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 15.1 (2012): 101-119.

## Disclaimers

### Plagiarism

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, please discuss them 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.

### 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).