
**Political Science 2012:
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2009
Professor Joseph Jupille**

*syllabus subject to change
last changed: January 21, 2009*

Class Meetings: MW 1000-1050, MATH 100
Office Hours: T 1400-1500, W 1100-1200, Ketchum 103
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Course Objectives

Comparative Politics is the subfield of Political Science devoted to studying countries other than the United States. It is the study of politics *within* countries, rather than *between* countries (which is the province of the subfield of International Relations). It typically addresses itself both to the specifics of individual countries and to very important general questions surrounding the origins, operation and effects of alternative political systems, and especially of democratic political systems.

This course introduces the vast subfield of Comparative Politics by placing special emphasis on democratic institutions alongside non-democratic and non-institutional factors and settings. After an introductory section, part II of the course introduces key concepts and issues in the scientific study of (democratic) political institutions. Part III surveys politics in *five* countries: the United Kingdom, Brazil, South Africa, Russia and China. Part IV considers a few selected issues of contemporary interest. Part V concludes the course.

After taking this course, students will (1) be more familiar with world affairs and be able to follow current events more knowledgeably; (2) be prepared for future coursework in political science and beyond; (3) be able to identify, rigorously analyze and engage themselves in solving global political and economic problems; and (4) be more knowledgeable citizens or denizens of the United States.

Required Materials

1. The main text for the course is Michael J. **Sodaro**, *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, 3rd edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007). It is available for purchase at the CU Bookstore. If you choose to purchase a copy from somewhere else, be sure to get the 3rd edition and not an earlier one.
2. I will require you to keep current with *The Economist* from week three of the class until the end of the semester. If you go to <http://www.economistacademic.com/> and enter my faculty number (5285), you can get a 12-week subscription for \$19.99. Disclosure: the *Economist* offers faculty a 25-week subscription if sufficient numbers of students subscribe; I will donate these issues to the course TAs.
3. Other required materials, which will occasionally be added to the course schedule below, will be posted electronically on CULearn.

Course Requirements and Grades

Examinations. There will be three in-class examinations. Guidelines will be posted in advance. There will be a midterm following part II of the course (10%), one following part III of the course (10%) and a final examination (25%). Examinations will not be given at any time other than that specified in the syllabus unless students have arranged in advance with me.

-Midterm #1 10%
-Midterm #2 10%
-Final Examination 25%

Research Paper. Each student will write a 1000-word (4-5 page) research paper on a topic to be defined. Guidelines will be posted. This will involve three submissions at various stages of the semester: topic (2%), annotated outline (6%), and final paper (15%). Late submissions (at every stage) will be penalized 10% the first day they are late (i.e., after the time they are collected by the TA) and 10% for each subsequent day they are late.

-Topic 2%
-Annotated Outline 6%
-Final Version 15%

Simulation. Students will participate in a group-based role-playing simulation exercise in their recitations. Guidelines and preparatory materials will be provided. They will write a short paper (9%) in advance of the simulation. The same lateness penalty as for the research paper applies here. Students will also be graded (1%) based on the results of the simulation.

-Short Paper 9%
-Game Result 1%

Clickers 2%

I will be presenting regular "clicker" questions in lecture, which will constitute 2% of students' final grades. Students receive four "freebie" clicker days, to be used for absences or poor clicker performances.

Recitation. Students will be graded both for attendance of (10%) and performance in (10%) recitations. TAs will keep track of recitation attendance, and students will be allowed one "freebie" absence *after week one of the course*. Further absences will result in a 10% reduction of the attendance component, per absence. Students with eight or more recitation absences will receive an 'F' for the course. The performance component of the recitation grade is based on preparation, engagement, participation and work quality overall and with respect to specific assignments given by the TA.

-Attendance 10%
-Performance 10%

A list of recitation sections, times and teaching assistants is provided below.

Comparative Politics Recitation Leaders Spring 2009		
101 RECITATION	M 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	Ceren Altincekic
102 RECITATION	M 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Brian Bernhardt
103 RECITATION	T 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Jami Nelson Nunez
104 RECITATION	T 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Ceren Altincekic
105 RECITATION	W 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Duncan Lawrence
106 RECITATION	M 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Lindsey Richardson
107 RECITATION	W 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Lindsey Richardson
108 RECITATION	W 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Katja Vermehren
109 RECITATION	R 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Jami Nelson Nunez
110 RECITATION	M 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Brian Bernhardt
111 RECITATION	W 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Duncan Lawrence
112 RECITATION	F 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Katja Vermehren
113 RECITATION	W 7:00 PM - 7:50 PM	Gabrielle Lubisich
114 RECITATION	R 7:00 PM - 7:50 PM	Gabrielle Lubisich
115 RECITATION	T 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Amber Curtis
116 RECITATION	T 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Amber Curtis

Policies

(1) Disabilities

- If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your Teaching Assistant (TA) a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (**by the end of week two**) so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>
- If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

(2) Religious Observances

- Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you must notify your TA **in writing (e.g., by email) by the end of week two** if a religious observance or practice will conflict with course attendance or other requirements. For more information, see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religh.html

(3) Classroom Behavior

- Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to

discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise your TA of this preference early in the semester so that we may make appropriate changes to our records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

(4) Discrimination and Harassment

- The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

(5) Academic Integrity and Honor Code

- All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Course Schedule (subject to change)

WK	MTG	DOW	YYYYMMDD	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
I. Course Introduction					
1	1	M	20090112	Welcome and Organizational Issues	None.
1	2	W	20090114	What is Comparative Politics?	Sodaro, pp. 3-8, 31-43.
2	xx	M	20090119	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	None
II. The Science of (Democratic) Political Institutions					
2	3	W	20090121	The Scientific Method	Sodaro, ch. 3.
3	4	M	20090126	The State	Sodaro, ch. 5.
3	5	W	20090128	Authoritarianism and Democracy	Sodaro, chs. 7, 9.
4	6	M	20090202	Presidentialism	Sodaro, pp. 194-196; **Research paper topics due in week 4 recitations.
4	7	W	20090204	Parliamentarism	Sodaro, pp. 196-203; Sodaro, pp. 520-535 (on Germany).
5	8	M	20090209	Semi-Presidentialism	Sodaro, pp. 203-205, 467-473; Sodaro, pp. 467-476 (on France).
5	9	W	20090211	Electoral Systems	Sodaro, pp. 205-219.
6	10	M	20090216	Parties and Party Systems	Sodaro, pp. 274-280.
6	11	W	20090218	Midterm #1	None.
III. Selected Politics and Politics					
7	12	M	20090223	Section Introduction; United Kingdom	Sodaro, pp. 395-410.
7	13	W	20090225	United Kingdom	Sodaro, pp. 410-431.
8	14	M	20090302	United Kingdom	Sodaro, pp. 431-440. **Simulation exercise in week 8 recitations. **Short papers due in week 8 recitations.
8	15	W	20090304	Brazil	Sodaro, pp. 733-745.

9	16	M	20090309	Brazil	Sodaro, pp. 745-758.
9	17	W	20090311	South Africa	Sodaro, pp.780-786.
10	18	M	20090316	South Africa	Sodaro, pp. 786-793. **Research paper annotated outlines due in week 10 recitations.
10	19	W	20090318	Interim Assessment/Catch-Up	None.
11	xx	M	20090323	Spring Break	None.
11	xx	W	20090325	Spring Break	None.
12	20	M	20090330	Russia	Sodaro, pp. 593-629.
12	21	W	20090401	Russia	Sodaro, pp. 629-646.
13	22	M	20090406	China	Sodaro, pp. 652-674.
13	23	W	20090408	China	Sodaro, pp. 674-698.
14	24	M	20090413	Midterm #2	None.
IV. Selected Topics					
14	25	W	20090415	The Politics of Development	Sodaro, ch. 15.
15	26	M	20090420	Islam and Politics	Sodaro, pp. 325-336.
15	27	W	20090422	Democratic Iraq?	Sodaro, pp. 251-268.
16	28	M	20090427	Comparative Politics in a Global Context	**TBD.
V. Course Conclusion					
16	29	W	20090429	Course Conclusion	None.
xx	xx	W	20090506	Final Examination: 1930-2200	**Research papers due in class (lecture) on Wednesday, 4/29