

# INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

PSCI 2012-705, Fall 2011  
University of Colorado at Boulder

## Professor Carew Boulding

Office: Ketchum 127

Class: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-10:50am

Hours: Wednesdays 3:00-4:30pm

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to this class! This semester we are going to explore one of the major subfields of political science – Comparative Politics. Chances are many of you are already skilled comparativists. Have you ever wondered why some countries are rich and some are poor? Why are some countries are governed as democracies and others are ruled by dictators? Have you ever talked about politics with someone from another country (or another part of the U.S.) and been amazed at how differently they see things? Comparative politics is the systematic study and comparison of these kinds of differences, with an focus on understanding *why* politics can produce such different outcomes. In addition to developing some comparative knowledge of the world (including a good working knowledge of global geography!) each student will develop expertise on the politics of a country of his or her choosing.

## BOOKS

Patrick O'Neil. 2007. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.

Patrick O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski. 2006. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.

## COURSE WORK AND GRADING

Class Participation	10%	Ongoing!
Quizzes	10%	TBA
4 Short Papers	20% total	TBA
Midterm Exam	20%	October 17, 2011
Final Exam	20%	TBA
Final Research Paper	20%	December 2, 2011

**10%: Class participation**

The success of this class will depend in large part on your engagement. At minimum, this means that you must attend every session. (I will not take attendance, but in a class this small you are bound to be missed if you don't make it.) In addition, each of you is expected to be prepared to participate in group discussions in a constructive, respectful way on a consistent basis. To do this, it will be essential to have read all assigned materials before each class. It is also a good idea to give yourself some time to think about the readings before we meet. Your informed participation will make the course so much more rewarding and interactive—better for everyone!

**10%: Quizzes**

Quizzes on readings can be a great way to help you keep up with your work throughout the semester. I'll never pop a quiz on you. As long as you come to class, you'll be fairly warned about upcoming quizzes. You will also have several map quizzes, culminating with a global map quiz as part of your final exam.

**20%: 4 Short Papers (5% each)**

At four points during the semester, you will be responsible for writing a short research memo. These should be 1-2 pages single-spaced, and they are due in class on Wednesdays. Their purpose is to link the current week's themes to your chosen country of specialization (see Research paper section below for specialization details). For each of these papers, you will identify an avenue of inquiry that relates to the week's topic. Then, locate a number of sources that provide information on your theme and. These papers should also have a comparative dimension. These will start Week 3. A works cited section should also be included in these memos. To determine who will write each week, you will have the opportunity to rank your top six topics (among the eleven options from weeks 3-15 listed below) and I will make the final assignments.

**20%: Midterm Examination****20%: Final Examination****20%: Research paper**

The final project for this class will be to write a research paper that identifies and investigates an interesting puzzle in comparative politics. These will be cross-national comparisons that consider the origins of a key difference between two countries. One will be your country of specialization, which you will choose at the beginning of the semester. Additional handouts on this assignment will be available.

**CU LEARN**

CU Learn makes life easy. This syllabus, assignments, and other materials will be posted on the class website at [culearn.colorado.edu](http://culearn.colorado.edu).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

You should complete each reading assignment *before* class on the day for which it is listed.

### **Week 1: What is Comparative Politics?**

- M, 8/22 Introductions, syllabus  
W, 8/24 The comparative method and comparative theories  
*Assignment:* O'Neal, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-19)  
F, 8/26 Conducting comparative analysis  
*Assignment:* Lichback & Zuckerman reading in O&R (pp. 2-6)

### **Week 2: Research Design: What kinds of questions can we answer?**

- M, 8/29 Guest Lecture: Amber Curtis, "Political Identities and Behavior in Europe and the U.S."  
W, 8/31 Guest Lecture: Duncan Lawrence "Attitudes towards Immigrants in Latin America"  
F, 9/2 Guest Lecture: Jami Nunez, "Sewage Treatment and Clean Water: Access to Public Goods in Peru"

### **Week 3 The State**

- M, 9/5 Labor Day – No Class  
W, 9/7 The basics of the state  
*Assignment:* O'Neal, Chapter 2 (pp. 21-45)  
F, 9/9 State development in different contexts  
*Assignment:* Herbst reading in O&R (pp. 28-40)

### **Week 4 The Nation**

- M, 9/12 The nation and ethnicity in society  
*Assignment:* O'Neal, Chapter 3 (pp.47-75)  
W, 9/14 Different interpretations of ethnicity  
F, 9/16 Debates about diversity  
*Assignment:* Huntington and Ajami readings in O&R (pp. 84-101)

### **Week 5 Political Economy**

- M, 9/19 Basics of Political Economy  
*Assignment:* O'Neal, Chapter 4 (pp. 77-107)  
W, 9/21 How to promote wealth  
*Assignment:* Smith and North readings in O&R (pp.103-110; pp.116-126)  
F, 9/22 Comparative Social Spending  
*Assignment:* Acemoglu reading in O&R (pp. 128-132)

### **Week 6 Democracy**

- M, 9/26 The fundamentals of democratic governance  
*Assignment:* O'Neal, Chapter 5 (pp.109-140)  
W, 9/28 Resources and democracy  
F, 9/30 Religion and democracy  
*Assignment:* Zakaria reading in O&R (pp. 219-234)

<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Authoritarianism</b>
M, 10/3	Types of authoritarian regimes <i>Assignment:</i> O'Neal, Chapter 6 (pp. 141-166)
W, 10/5	Fascism <i>Assignment:</i> Geary, "Who Voted Nazi?" <a href="http://www.johndclare.net/Weimar6_Geary.htm">http://www.johndclare.net/Weimar6_Geary.htm</a>
F, 10/7	Communism <i>Assignment:</i> O'Rourke "Economic Justice: The Hell with Everything, Let's Get Rich." (On CU Learn)
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Ethnic Diversity</b>
M, 10/10	Diversity and democracy <i>Assignment:</i> Fish and Brooks "Does Diversity Hurt Democracy" (on CU Learn)
W, 10/12	Diversity and social capital <i>Assignment:</i> Putnam "E Pluribus Unam" (on CU Learn)
F, 10/14	Review
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Midterm and Immigration</b>
M, 10/17	<b>**Midterm Exam**</b>
W, 10/19	Immigration <i>Assignment:</i> Crust "The Dark Side of Democracy" (On CU learn)
F, 10/21	Asylum seekers <i>Assignment:</i> Schuster "Sangatte and the Tunnel" (on CU Learn)
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Advanced Democracies</b>
M, 10/24	Key system features <i>Assignment:</i> O'Neal, Chapter 7 (pp.167-195)
W, 10/26	Party Systems <i>Assignment:</i> Duverger reading in O&R
F, 10/28	New Political Movements <i>Assignment:</i> Inglehart & Welzel "Changing Mass Priorities" (on CU Learn)
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Less-Developed Countries</b>
M, 10/31	Basics of the developing world <i>Assignment:</i> O'Neil Chapter 9 (pp. 230-259)
W, 11/2	Wealth disparities across countries <i>Assignment:</i> Pritchett reading in O&R (pp. 391-400)
F, 11/4	Democracy and Growth <i>Assignment:</i> Barro reading in O&R (pp. 428-431)
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Globalization</b>
M, 11/7	Globalization basics <i>Assignment:</i> O'Neil Chapter 11 (pp. 291-316)
W, 11/9	Basics of free trade
F, 11/11	Is globalization good for the poor? <i>Assignment:</i> Florida and Bhagwati readings in O&R (pp. 516-526)

<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Politics of Happiness</b>
M, 11/14	Gross National Happiness <i>Assignment:</i> BBC News "Bhutan" article (on CU Learn)
W, 11/16	Comparative happiness <i>Assignment:</i> Dorn et al. "Is it Culture or Democracy" (on CU Learn)
F, 11/18	The Happiness-Income Puzzle <i>Assignment:</i> DiTella and MacCulloch "Gross National Happiness as an answer to the Easterlin paradox" (on CU Learn)
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>***Fall Break (11/21-11/25)***</b>
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Political Violence</b>
M, 11/28	Social Revolutions <i>Assignment:</i> Skocpol reading in O&R (pp. 441-547)
W, 11/30	Civil Wars <i>Assignment:</i> Kalyvas "Wantan and Senseless?" (on CU Learn)
F, 12/2	Communitarian Conflict <i>Assignment:</i> "How Soccer Explains the Pornography of Sects" (on Cu Learn)
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Wrap Up</b>
M, 12/5	Final paper discussion
W, 12/7	Final review
F, 12/9	Q&A

## OTHER POLICIES

### Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

### Religious Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. *Please note, however, that requests for special accommodations need to be presented in a timely manner: at least one week prior to scheduled exams/ assignments.* See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

### Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. 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. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html> - student code

### 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 discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, 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>

### Academic Integrity

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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). 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/>