
**Political Science 2012:
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2010
Professor Joseph Jupille**

*syllabus subject to change
last updated: January 27, 2010*

Class Meetings: MW 1000-1050, MATH 100
Office Hours: M 1200-1300, W 1300-1430, Ketchum 103
Contact: Joseph.Jupille@colorado.edu

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 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 them in solving global political and economic problems; and (4) be more knowledgeable citizens or denizens of the United States.

Read 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. Assignments from this source will be identified as **Sodaro** in the course schedule.

2. Sodaro comes bundled at the CU Bookstore, at no extra cost, with O. Fiona **Yap**, *Comparative Politics 09/10* (27th edition) (New McGraw Hill, 2010). Assignments from this source will be identified as **Yap** in the course schedule.
3. 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 to the course TAs. Assignments from this source will be identified as **Economist** in the course schedule.
4. Other required materials, which will occasionally be added to the course schedule below, will be posted electronically on CUL will otherwise be available online.
5. You will require your own **course clicker**. **You must register this clicker at CUConnect and you must bring it to every lecture session.**

Requirements and Grades

Examinations. There will be three in-class examinations. Guidelines will be posted in advance. There will be a midterm following part I 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 in advance. There will be 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 for each subsequent day they are late. Arrangements will be made for submission of the papers to turnitin.com or an analogous service.

•	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 preparation 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. **You are responsible for registering your clicker, having it in class (ready to use!), and using it.**

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 **two "freebie" absences after week one of the course**. Further absences will result in a 1% 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 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.

Recitation Sections

DOW	Time	Teaching Assistant	Email
M	12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	Brandy Jolliff	Brandy.Jolliff@colorado.edu
M	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Jami Nelson-Nuñez	nelsonjg@colorado.edu
T	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Jenna Hilbert	Jenna.Hilbert@colorado.edu
T	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Pinar Alakoc	alakoc@colorado.edu
W	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Duncan Lawrence	Duncan.Lawrence@colorado.edu
M	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	David Cupery	David.Cupery@colorado.edu
W	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Raymond Foxworth	Raymond.Foxworth@colorado.edu
T	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	David Cupery	David.Cupery@colorado.edu
R	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Duncan Lawrence	Duncan.Lawrence@colorado.edu
M	9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Raymond Foxworth	Raymond.Foxworth@colorado.edu
T	5:00 PM - 5:50 PM	Lindsey Richardson	Lindsey.Richardson-1@colorado.edu
F	9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Jami Nelson-Nuñez	nelsonjg@colorado.edu
R	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Pinar Alakoc	alakoc@colorado.edu

R	7:00 PM - 7:50 PM	Brandy Jolliff	Brandy.Jolliff@colorado.edu
T	10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Jenna Hilbert	Jenna.Hilbert@colorado.edu
T	9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Lindsey Richardson	Lindsey.Richardson-1@colorado.edu

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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 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 conflict with course attendance or other requirements. For more information, see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.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 a 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> 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 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/>

Schedule (subject to change)

to be determined

MTG	DOW	YYYYMMDD	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
I. Course Introduction				
1	M	20100111	Welcome and Organizational Issues	None.
2	W	20100113	What is Comparative Politics?	Sodaro, pp. 3-8, 31-43.
xx	M	20100118	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	None
3	W	20100120	The Scientific Method; Tips on Paper Writing	Sodaro, ch. 3.
II. Political Institutions				
4	M	20100125	The State	Sodaro, ch. 5.
5	W	20100127	Authoritarianism	Marin Ottaway, "Facing the Challenge of Semi-Authorit Yap, ch. 5.
6	M	20100201	Democracy	Sodaro, chs. 7, 9.
7	W	20100203	Presidentialism; Semi-Presidentialism	Sodaro, pp. 194-196; Sodaro, pp. 203-205, 467-473; Sodaro, pp. 467-476 (on France). **Research paper topics due in week 4 recitat
8	M	20100208	Parliamentarism	Sodaro, pp. 196-203; Sodaro, pp. 520-535 (on Germany).
9	W	20100210	Electoral Systems	Sodaro, pp. 205-219.
10	M	20100215	Parties and Party Systems	Sodaro, pp. 274-280.
11	W	20100217	Midterm #1	None.
III. Selected Polities and Politics				
12	M	20100222	Section Introduction; United Kingdom	Sodaro, pp. 395-410.
13	W	20100224	United Kingdom	Sodaro, pp. 410-431.

14	M	20100301	United Kingdom	Sodaro, pp. 431-440; Vernon Bogdanor, "The Historic Legacy of Tony Blair," **Simulation exercise in week 8 recitation; **Short papers due in week 8 recitations.
15	W	20100303	Brazil	Sodaro, pp. 733-745; "A slow maturing of democracy," <i>Economist</i> , December
16	M	20100308	Brazil	Sodaro, pp. 745-758; ***"Her master's voice," <i>Economist</i> , November
17	W	20100310	South Africa	Sodaro, pp. 780-786; "A good example," <i>Economist</i> , October 22, 2004; Antoinette Handley, "The New South Africa, A Decade History (May 2004): 195-201 (CULearn)
18	M	20100315	South Africa	Sodaro, pp. 786-793; "Still on a roll," <i>Economist</i> , September 24, 2004; **Research paper annotated outlines due in week 10
19	W	20100317	Interim Assessment/Catch-Up	None.
xx	M	20100322	Spring Break	None.
xx	W	20100324	Spring Break	None.
20	M	20100329	Russia	Sodaro, pp. 593-629. **Mikhail Gorbachev, "Perestroika Lost," <i>New York Times</i> (CULearn).
21	W	20100331	Russia	Sodaro, pp. 629-646; Pierre Hassner, "Russia's Transition to Autocracy," in <i>Economist</i> , "The Making of a Neo-KGB State," in 1 ***"Another Great Leap Forward?" <i>Economist</i> , Mar
22	M	20100405	China	Sodaro, pp. 652-674.
23	W	20100407	China	Sodaro, pp. 674-698; Andrew Jacobs, "In Quake, Apotheosis of Premier 'Gran 19.
24	M	20100412	Midterm #2	None.
IV. Selected Topics				
25	W	20100414	The Politics of Development	Sodaro, ch. 15; Jo Johnson, "A Confident New Country," in <i>Yap</i>

				"Dangerously hopeful," <i>Economist</i> , January 2, 20
26	M	20100419	Islam and Politics	Sodaro , pp. 325-336; Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, "The True Clash of Civ ch. 40.
27	W	20100421	Democratic Iran?	Bahman Baktiari, "Iran's Conservative Revival," in **Additional readings TBD .
28	M	20100426	Comparative Politics in a Global Context	**TBD .
V. Course Conclusion				
29	W	20100428	Course Conclusion	None. **Research papers due in class (lecture) on Wednes
xx	Sa	20100501	Final Examination: 1330-1600	http://registrar.colorado.edu/Calendar/exam sched