

Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder

PSCI 2012: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Sokhey
Spring Term 2021

E-mail: sokheys@colorado.edu
Course website: <https://canvas.colorado.edu>
Zoom meeting info: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/92101958184> (Passcode: IntroCP)
Zoom office hours: Wednesdays, 12-2pm (using the Zoom info above)

NOTE: We will use the same Zoom meeting info for all of the lectures and office hours. If I need to change the Zoom meeting info, I will inform you on our Canvas course website. The Zoom meeting info will be different for remote recitation sections.

Class Schedule

Class	Day(s)	Time	Location	Instructor
Lecture	M/W	10:20-11:10am	Zoom (see specific info above)	Professor Sokhey
Section 1	Tues.	1:50-2:40pm	Zoom	K. Schauer
Section 2	Wed.	9:10-10am	LIBR E240; Zoom until Feb. 15	K. Engels
Section 3	Wed.	3:00-3:50pm	GOLD A120; Zoom until Feb. 15	S. Nadarevic
Section 4	Mon.	9:10-10am	Zoom	M. Leszczynski
Section 5	Tues.	4:10-5pm	Zoom	K. Schauer
Section 6	Wed.	1:50-2:40pm	GOLD A120; Zoom until Feb. 15	S. Nadarevic
Section 7	Wed.	9:10-10am	Zoom	M. Leszczynski
Section 8	Thurs.	11:30am-12:20pm	Zoom	M. Sajekaite
Section 9	Wed.	3:00-3:50pm	Zoom	R. O'Neal
Section 11	Fri.	10:20am-11:10am	Zoom	M. Sajekaite
Section 12	Thurs.	11:30am-12:20pm	LIBR E240; Zoom until Feb. 15	K. Engels
Section 14	Wed.	1:50-2:40pm	Zoom	R. O'Neal

Note: Friday, January 15th will follow a WEDNESDAY schedule per CU guidelines. All sections are remote until at least Monday, February 15.

About the Course: Description & Objectives

Welcome! This is an introductory political science course with no required prerequisites. This course is required for Political Science majors. We cover many big concepts and ideas relevant for understanding politics in countries around the world. Our course is organized around a study of how and why democracy arises and differences in democratic institutions. The readings are primarily from two books—*Foundations of Comparative Politics* (Clark, Golder, and Golder, 3rd edition) and *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores and Nooruddin 2016). The course aims to promote students' knowledge and comprehension of key concepts in comparative politics and to practice applying and analyzing these concepts in real-world situations. We will cover many big topics including the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on democracy and racial justice and Black Lives Matter movements around the world as well as learning more about how political systems are organized differently around the world.

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Course Grade

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Exam #1 (multiple choice & short answer)	15%
Exam #2 (multiple choice & short answer)	15%
Exam #3 (multiple choice & short answer)	10%
Recitation Participation	15%
Lecture Attendance (M/W)	5%
Country Report	15%
Country Presentation	10%
Country Discussion (in recitation)	5%
Short Paper #1	3%
Short Paper #2	3%
Simulation Participation	2%
Simulation Paper	2%
Extra Credit	See below (max of 5 points added to your final grade)

Grading Scale

I use the following standard scale in assessing grades.

A	94+	C+	77-79	E	59 and below
A-	90-93	C	74-76		
B+	87-89	C-	70-73		
B	84-86	D+	67-69		
B-	80-83	D-	60-66		

A Note About Your Grade on Canvas

The course website has been set up so that Canvas will accurately calculate your current grade in the class based on the assignments and exams you have submitted so far. This means that the assignments have been weighted on Canvas as they are indicated on the syllabus above. Although Canvas should in general be accurately reflecting your grade, you should take this grade as an estimate and not your official grade. For instance, if you did not complete an assignment but have not yet been assigned a “0” on Canvas, then Canvas is not yet counting that against your grade in the class. Furthermore, as much as we try to avoid it, there are instances where programming and calculation errors occur on Canvas. Your final grade in the course is contingent on my calculation and approval of your grade. Any extra credit earned is not included in Canvas’ current estimate of your grade. Any extra credit will be added manually to your final grade at the end of the semester.

Still Learning During a Pandemic: Buffs Together!

At this point, almost all students have already had to take classes remotely, online, or in a hybrid format. Nonetheless, you may not be taking this course under the circumstances you would prefer. For many of us, this is still a time of great uncertainty. Despite the pandemic, I hope that we can all work together to make this course interactive, useful, and interesting. If you have any concerns about the course including accessing course materials, meeting course deadlines, etc., please let your TA or me know.

If you need it, you can find information from the University of Colorado related to covid-19 here:

- University updates & resources: <https://www.colorado.edu/coronavirus>
- Buffs Together Campaign: <https://www.colorado.edu/buffstogether/>

Unfortunately, I cannot meet with you in person at this time. You can get in touch with me several ways:

- Regular email (sokheys@colorado.edu)
- Zoom office hours: Wednesdays, 12-2pm (same Zoom info we use for class)
- Individual meetings on Zoom
- Traditional phone call; email me for a phone number
- After live Zoom lecture: I will stay on after the lecture in case you would like to ask any questions at that time.

Requirements for COVID-19 — In-Person Recitations

The main lecture for this class will meet remotely for the entire semester and our exams will take place over Canvas during class time. All recitations will be fully remote until February 15th.

If some recitations resume in person, as a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements, and public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible
- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders

- clean local work area
- practice hand hygiene,
- follow public health orders, and
- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert CU Boulder Medical Services.

Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave recitation, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policies on COVID-19 Health and Safety and classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. Before returning to campus, all students must complete the COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course. Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a Daily Health Form. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and complete the Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form remotely. If you find yourself sick or quarantined, please contact me or your TA as soon as possible (email is fastest) if you will not be able to meet course requirements.

Professor Bio

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. I have taught at the University of Colorado since 2009 including having taught Introduction to Comparative Politics (many times!), Russian Politics, East European Politics, and Eastern Europe & the EU. I also teach Ph.D. level seminars in Comparative Political Economy, Comparative Political Institutions, and a course about Teaching Political Science.

I research and write primarily about Russian and post-communist politics and especially about economic policies and economic reforms. I am very passionate about learning and teaching about politics around the world. I have been regularly traveling to Russia since 2002 (where I have lived and worked) and have also travelled to many European countries (the UK, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Austria, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, and Romania) as well as Kazakhstan, India, Mexico, and Canada.

Communication Policy & Email

I am excited to be working with you this semester! If you have questions, please send an email to me and I will reply as soon as possible (usually within 24-48 hours). If your question requires a lengthy explanation or discussion, we can arrange a time to talk individually or you are welcome to come to my Zoom office hours.

For the purposes of this course, I prefer to go by “Professor Sokhey” and I use the pronouns she/her. My preferred method of contact is my University email (sokheys@colorado.edu).

I will primarily update you about the course using the “Announcements” tab on our Canvas course website.

Whenever you contact me (or the TAs), it is important to be professional, meaning that written communication must adhere to the following (if an email or note does not meet these criteria, you may not receive a response):

1. Please give your email a subject title that relates it to the class.
2. Please address me and your TA respectfully.
3. Please clearly identify yourself.
4. Please take care to edit your writing for clarity, and include information that helps me to respond to your question (i.e., take the time to explain your question, give sufficient detail, etc.).

Assignment Details

Exams (40% total)

There will be 3 exams. These exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exam #1 is worth 15% of your final grade, Exam #2 is worth 15% of your final grade, and Exam #3 is worth 10% of your final grade. More details will be provided in class.

Zoom Lecture Attendance (5%)

Attendance is required at the 2 lectures each week which will be held live on Zoom. Your attendance is logged on Zoom. For your attendance to count, you must be present for more than half of the lecture (meaning you can't just log in and log off and get credit for attendance). You get 5 "freebie" days that do not count against your attendance. Use these days wisely as these should account for unexpected things that keep you from attending.

The lectures will include many interactive components like Zoom polls, opportunities to ask questions, and occasionally Zoom breakout rooms. Attending the remote large lectures is the best way to stay engaged and current with the class. I will be recording and posting the Zoom lectures and lecture slides for the course (along with other materials as the semester progresses) on our Canvas course website.

Any recorded lectures or other materials posted are provided to assist students enrolled in the course. These materials are the intellectual property of the instructor and university (and the authors of the materials being used). The course lectures and materials posted are not to be altered or edited, and are not to be shared. Please do not make or share your own recordings of the lectures or classes. This includes taking screen shots during class because you may be taking pictures of classmates without their permission.

Recitation Participation (15%)

Attendance at your recitation section is required. Recitations are an important part of the course. Your TA will be covering information that is not covered in the large lecture and which will be included on the exams. The recitations will also be used to apply and discuss concepts covered in the large lecture.

Part of your recitation participation includes a **weekly online discussion that is a small group check-in**. You will be in a small group on Canvas for the weekly check-in. Your small group will stay

the same throughout the semester. You are required to make 1 comment & 1 response in your small group discussion online each week. Your comment & response should each be at least 50 words long. Your TA will determine the other components of your participation grade. You should see the syllabus for your recitation section for more details.

Be polite & respectful to your TA. In keeping with our classroom guidelines for behavior, you should always be polite in your interactions with your TA. They are working hard to make this class work for you.

Country Report (15%)

You will be asked to write a 5-page country report applying concepts from the class to any country in the world except for the United States (don't write about the United States). There is a detailed handout with all of the specific requirements for this report.

Country Presentation (10%)

You should prepare a 5-minute recorded presentation with slides which will be posted on Canvas. You are welcome to use any recording software with which you are comfortable. The University of Colorado makes the Zoom software free for all students. Information about recording your presentation with Zoom is available on our Canvas course website (<https://canvas.colorado.edu>).

Country Discussion (5%)

You will watch other students' presentations and discuss your presentations in your recitation sections. Your TA will let you know the details of how the discussion will be run in your particular recitation section.

2 Short Papers (worth 3% each)

You will write 2 short papers worth 3% each of your final grade. In each short paper, you will select a dependent variable (an outcome) that is related to a topic we have covered in the course. Drawing on the assigned reading for the course, you will then develop two hypotheses about what may have caused this dependent variable. You should conclude by identifying the kind of data or observations you would need to know if your hypotheses are correct. More details will be provided in class.

Simulation Participation (2% of final grade)

In your recitation section, you will be participating in a simulation of a parliamentary government over the course of several recitation sections. More details will be provided in class.

Simulation Paper (3% of final grade)

You will be required to submit a write-up of how the parliamentary simulation went in your recitation section. More details will be provided in class.

Extra Credit (for a maximum of 5 points added to your final grade)

There are several ways to earn extra credit in the course. Regardless of which option you do (or not) choose to do, you may not earn more than 5 points of extra credit added to your final grade. This means that you can pick & choose different ways to earn a few points of extra credit.

1. **Record your name on NameCoach before the end of week 3 (1 point added to your final grade).**
2. **Write a reaction paper (2 points added to your final grade for each paper; max of 2 reaction papers).** You may complete an optional recommended reading and write a two-page reaction paper (double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1" margins, no big header at the top) which: 1) **briefly summarizes** the content of the reading, and 2) gives **your reaction & thoughts** about the reading. Your response paper should tie into what we are covering in the course. You may complete no more than TWO extra credit reaction papers. Each extra credit reaction paper you write is worth 2 points added to your final grade. You may only receive 1 extra credit point if the response paper does not summarize the reading correctly or does not give your reaction to the reading. If you are especially interested in a topic on the syllabus for which there is not a recommended optional reading, please let me know and I may be able to recommend readings for extra credit. The response paper does not have to be turned in on any particular day. You must turn in your extra credit response papers by the last day of class.
3. **Interview someone with knowledge about the politics of a country (any country except the United States) & write a reaction paper (5 points added to your final grade).** You can interview anyone with knowledge or experiences with politics of any country (except the United States) and write a reaction paper. You should connect your interview questions to at least 1 of the major concepts covered in the class.
4. **Participate in a teaching research project.** You may have the opportunity to sign up to participate in a teaching research experiment. If so, more details will be provided about this in class including how much extra credit you can earn for participating.

Extensions

I understand that unexpected things happen during a course. In case of emergencies, extensions and make-ups should be discussed with your TA and me individually and will be arranged on a case-by-case basis contingent on proper documentation of any incident preventing you from meeting the deadline. Please talk to me as soon as possible in the event that you need to make alternate arrangements. I will make every effort to make accommodations in the event of unavoidable emergencies.

Late Policy – READ THIS! IT'S IMPORTANT!

There is a late penalty of 10 points a day for the country paper, country presentation, short papers, and parliamentary simulation paper. No late work will be accepted after 7 days (including weekends). Exceptions will only be made at the discretion of Professor Sokhey and in truly extenuating circumstances. I will take into account your TA's recommendation about accepting your late work, but I am the final arbiter of any exceptions. Forgetting that an assignment is due, assignments in other classes, and travel plans are not reasons to submit work more than a week late. If you forget to submit something, keep in mind that there are extra credit opportunities built into the class that allow you to offset this.

Make-up Exams

All 3 exams in this course will be held during class time just as if you were taking the exam in class in person. This is very important for fairness and to prevent cheating. You must plan to be available to take the exam remotely during the normal class time. Exam #3 will be held during the final exam time for the class. Travel plans and work for other classes are not an excuses to take the exam at an alternate time. If you miss an exam, you have the option to make-up this exam by taking an essay based exam at the end of the semester during the final exam time. In this event, you will take Exam #3 during the final exam time plus any make-up exams.

Required Books

Foundations of Comparative Politics, William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, & Sona Nadenichek Golder, ISBN: 978-1-5063-6073-7.

Elections in Hard Times: Building Stronger Democracies in the 21st Century, Thomas Flores and Irfan Nooruddin, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Getting the books: I take the cost, availability, and accessibility of books very seriously when choosing what to assign. Both of these books are available through the Canvas course website (canvas.colorado.edu) with the “Inclusive Access” option (there is an option to pay for 180 days of access and you can read it directly from the course website). “Inclusive Access” has a “read aloud” option if you would like. From our Canvas course website, click on the “Course Materials” tab on the left side of the website for more information.

When I checked on May 20, 2020, *Foundations of Comparative Politics* is available in print or as electronic books on Amazon (about \$25 to rent, about \$70 for the eBook, and about \$80 for a print copy), and Chegg (about \$26 to rent, \$42-53 for the eBook, and \$96 for a print copy). *Elections in Hard Times* was available on Amazon (\$24 as a Kindle book, \$30 for a print copy). If you have any trouble buying or accessing these book, please let me know.

Class 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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy.

Class Behavior Online (Netiquette)

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. We should strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and to be courteous to each other. Due to the nature of the online environment, these are some things to remember:

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of non-verbal cues, your message can be misinterpreted. Please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. Please do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.
4. Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, you should not write “R U” instead of “are you”. There are people in the class that may not understand

this type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile ☺ is welcome; anything offensive is not.

5. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
6. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Do your best to post your discussion comments in a timely manner. Post your country presentation in a timely manner, and respond as soon as you are able.

See also: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

University Policies

Note: In the event of a discrepancy between this syllabus and the syllabus for a recitation, this “master syllabus” for the class always takes precedence.

Accommodations for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Plagiarism & Cheating

In this course, the academic penalty for any instance of plagiarism or cheating is, at minimum, failing the assignment. If there is more than 1 instance of plagiarism, you will automatically fail the course. I will also report any plagiarism or cheating to the Honor Council at the University of Colorado. Please do not risk failing the course by plagiarizing. If you are having trouble with the course assignments, please contact your TA or me. The penalty for plagiarism is not worth it.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays

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. Please try to let me know at least a week in advanced if you need to request accommodations for religious observances. I will do my best to honor your request whenever you make it. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

Names & Pronouns

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 colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Inclusivity

The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. The university takes action to increase ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity, to employ qualified disabled individuals, and to provide equal opportunity to all students and employees.

Course Outline & Schedule

You should read the required reading before the class session for which it is assigned. Any reading that is not from one of the two required books will be posted on our Canvas course website.

Week 1: Democracy Around the World

Friday, January 15th (following a WEDNESDAY schedule per University guidelines)

Required reading

1. Freedom House 2020, *Democracy Under Lockdown: The Impact of Covid-19 on the Struggle for Freedom* (available on our Canvas course website)
2. Ashley Quarcoo, "Global Democracy Supporters Must Confront Systemic Racism," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, July 15, 2020 (available on our Canvas course website)

Extra credit reading for a reaction paper: Adam Przeworski. 2016. "Democracy: A Never-Ending Quest," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 19:1-12

Week 2: What is Comparative Politics? Why Should You Study It?

Monday, January 18th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No Class

- In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day consider reading the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail": https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html
- I would encourage you to check out this website created and run by Johny Pitts: <http://afropean.com/>. We will read part of Pitts' book later in the semester. There are also really interesting interviews with Pitts on YouTube.

Wednesday, January 20th

Required reading

1. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 1: Introduction, pp. 1-12
2. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 2 (What is Science?), pp. 13-19
3. Current affairs articles posted on our Canvas course website: You will discuss these in your recitation sections. Typically, the current affairs articles will be posted on our Canvas course website on the Friday before the week in which you will discuss these articles. The articles will not typically be listed on the syllabus as they are selected closer to the date you will read them.
 - [Map of Black Lives Matter protests](#) around the world
 - Abigail Haworth, "[The Global Fight for Black Lives.](#)" Nov. 23, 2020, *Marie Claire*, available at:
 - BBC, "[Black Lives Matter: From social media post to global movement.](#)" July 9, 2020.

Extra credit reading for a reaction paper: Samuel Huntington. 1991. *The Third Wave of Democratization: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*, Harvard University Press; Francis Fukuyama. 1989. "The End of History?" *The National Interest* (Summer): 3-18.

Week 3: Elections in Hard Times & the Decline of Democracy

Monday, January 25th

Required reading

1. *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores and Nooruddin 2016), Preface, pages xv-xvii, and Chapter 1 (Introduction), pp.1-23
2. Just a few pages in *Foundations of Comparative Politics*:
 - a. Defining Democracy, Chapter 5, pp.71-74
 - b. Read Box 8.2, “The Tale of Two Leopolds,” pages 191-192
3. Current affairs articles posted on Canvas

Wednesday, January 27th

Required Reading

1. *Elections in Hard Times*, Chapter 3 (The Third Wave(s) and the Electoral Boom), pages 57-65, and pages 75-77 (the chapter’s concluding discussion)

Week 4: Economic Origins of Democracy

Monday, February 1st

Required reading

1. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 5, pp. 71-86
2. Current affairs articles posted on Canvas

Wednesday, February 3rd

Required reading

1. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 5, pp. 87-95

DUE: Short Paper #1, due on Friday, February 5th by 11:59pm mountain time

Week 5: Cultural Origins of Democracy

Monday, February 8th

Required reading

1. *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 6, pp. 97-108
2. Current affairs articles posted on Canvas

Extra credit reading for a reaction paper: Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, “The True Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 135 (Mar.-Apr., 2003), pp. 62-70

Wednesday, February 10th

Required reading

Foundations of Comparative Politics, Chapter 6, pp. 108-122

Week 6: Exam #1

Monday, February 15th – Exam #1 during class time.

The exam will be available on our Canvas course website from 10am-12pm ONLY on February 15th. You must take exam #2 during class time.

Wednesday, February 17th - Wellness Day – No Class

Note: I will still hold office hours on this day.

Week 7: Democratic Transitions

Monday, February 22nd

Required reading

1. Bottom-Up Transitions to Democracy: *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 7, pp. 123-14
2. Current affairs articles posted on Canvas

Wednesday, February 24th

Required reading

1. Top-Down Transitions to Democracy: *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 7, pp. 143-154

Extra Credit Documentaries for a reaction paper: CNN Cold War Documentary, “The Wall Came Down” Episode and “Conclusions” Episode (see the “Extra Credit” Module on our Canvas course website for a link these episodes on YouTube)

Week 8: The Third Wave of Democracy & Contingent Legitimacy

Monday, March 1st

Required reading

1. *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores & Nooruddin 2016), Chapter 3 (The Third Wave(s) and the Electoral Boom), pages 65-75
2. *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores & Nooruddin 2016), Chapter 4 (The Ephemeral Power of Contingent Legitimacy), pages 81-95

Wednesday, March 3rd

Required reading

1. Classifying Democracies: *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 10, pp. 217-220
2. Parliamentary Democracies: *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 10, pp. 221-240

Week 9: Parliamentary & Presidential Systems

Note: The parliamentary simulation is being held in your recitation section this week.

Monday, March 8th

Required reading

1. Presidential & Semi-Presidential Democracies: *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Chapter 10, pp. 240-251

2. You should research your assigned political party for this day of class. There is no additional required reading

Wednesday, March 10th

No required reading for this day of class.

Extra Credit Reading for a reaction paper: Brazil & Afghanistan News Articles on Choosing Political Institutions (see the “Extra Credit Readings” Module on our Canvas course website)

DUE: Simulation Paper due Friday by 11:59pm mountain time.

Week 10: Electoral Systems

Monday, March 15th

Required reading

Foundations of Comparative Politics

1. “Majoritarian Electoral Systems,” pages 261-272 in Chapter 11
2. Duverger’s Theory, read pages 315-318 (“Summarizing Duverger’s Theory) in Chapter 12
3. Median Voter Theorem, read page 206 (Box 9.1: “The Median Voter Theorem and Party Competition”) in Chapter 9
4. Current affairs articles posted on Canvas

Wednesday, March 17th

Required reading

Foundations of Comparative Politics

1. “Proportional Electoral Systems,” pages 272-279 in Chapter 11

DUE: Short Paper #2, due Friday, March 19th by 11: 59pm mountain time

Week 11: Different Democratic Institutions Around the World

Note: The University of Colorado Boulder has encouraged faculty to consider this week (the week of March 22-26) as a “spring pause” week in which there are no assignments or exams. This week we will be discussing applications of concepts previously covered. There are no recitation sections on Thursday, March 25th. This is a University designated wellness day and no classes are being held.

Monday, March 22nd

Required reading

1. Sona Golder, Laura B. Stephenson, Karine Van der Straten, Andre Blais, Damien Bol, Philipp Harfst, and Jean-Francois Laslier, “Votes for Women: Electoral Systems and Support for Female Candidates,” *Politics & Gender*, vol. 13, 2017.
2. Current affairs articles posted on our Canvas course website

Wednesday, March 24th

No required reading for this day of class.

Week 12: Exam #2

Monday, March 29th – Review in the big lecture

Wednesday, March 31st – Exam #2 during the lecture class time.

The exam will be available on our Canvas course website from 10am-12pm ONLY on March 31st. You must take exam #2 during class time.

Week 13: Racial Justice & Democracy Around the World

Monday, April 5th

Required reading

1. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Being Black in the EU*, 2018.
2. Current affairs articles posted on our Canvas course website

Wednesday, April 7th

Required reading

3. Johnny Pitts, *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe*, Penguin Books, 2020; read the Introduction & Prologue & Stockholm chapters (pages 1-30, 207-243)
4. Check out www.afropean.com
5. Watch this 3 minute video with author Johny Pitts:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYQ6gwASIXY>

Week 14: Democracy Promotion Around the World

Monday, April 12th

Required reading

1. *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores & Nooruddin 2016), Chapter 8 (Democracy Promotion for the Twenty-First Century), pages 173-193
2. Current affairs articles posted on our Canvas course website

Wednesday, April 14th

Required reading

1. Emily Beaulieu and Susan D. Hyde, “In the Shadow of Democracy Promotion: Strategic Manipulation, International Observers, and Election Boycotts,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (March), 2009.

Extra Credit Video for a reaction paper: Interview with Professor Susan Hyde about her research on international election observers (see the “Extra Credit” Module on our Canvas course website for a link to this interview)

DUE: Country Paper & Country Presentation due Friday, April 16th by 11:59pm mountain time.

Week 15: Elections in Hard Times

Note: In your recitation sections this week, you will be discussing your country papers & presentations.

Monday, April 19th

Required reading

1. *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores & Nooruddin 2016), Chapter 7 (Violent Votes: Conflict and Elections), read pages 155-169 (Start with the section “What Types of Conflict Harm Democracy the Most?” and read to the end of the chapter)
2. Current affairs articles posted on our Canvas course website

Wednesday, April 21st

Required reading

1. Lisa Hultman, Jacobo Kathman, and Megan Shannon, “Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting,” *American Political Science Review*, November 2014.

Week 16: Concluding Thoughts

Monday, April 26th

Required reading

1. *Elections in Hard Times* (Flores & Nooruddin 2016), Chapter 9 (Conclusions), pages 194-205
2. Current affairs articles posted on our Canvas course website

Extra credit reading for a reaction paper:

Freedom House, *Nations in Transit 2020: Dropping the Democratic Façade*, 2020.

Wednesday, April 28th

1. Pippa Norris, “Is Western Democracy Backsliding? Diagnosing the Risks,” *Journal of Democracy*, 2017
2. Sheri Berman, “A Discussion of Steve Levistky and Daniel Ziblatt’s *How Democracies Die*,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 2018.

Exam #3 will be held during our class’ regularly scheduled final exam time which is Sunday, May 2nd, 1:30-4pm mountain time. You must take the exam online during the scheduled final exam time.