

Political Science 2012-130R  
Fall 2019, ARNT N200  
MWF, 1:00-1:50 PM

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Office: Ketchum 232, Arnett N-201C  
Office hours: Fri 2pm-3pm (Arnett N-201C)  
MWF 9:30am-10:00am; and by appointment (Ketchum 232)

## **PSCI 2012 130R: INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

### **Course Description**

This course serves as an introduction to comparative politics. Broadly speaking, researchers in comparative politics study the domestic political institutions of countries around the world and try to explain how their interplay leads to specific outcomes.

Why do some countries have democratic forms of government while others are autocratic? What are the consequences of different constitutional designs and political institutions? What determines the political culture of a given society? These are some of the questions that students of comparative politics address, and, this course, shall examine different theoretical and thematic approaches to the study of these issues.

The first part of the course focuses on two broad themes: (1) the basic concepts in comparative politics and (2) the main institutional pillars in most modern democracies. The readings on democratic institutions take as examples the old and established democracies in Western Europe and the United States but the theory behind them is generalizable to other parts of the world. The second part of the course reviews some of the non-democratic regimes and discusses both how and why they are different from democracies. In this part we will cover authoritarian, communist, and newly industrialized and less developed countries. The course also features a few documentaries and one fictional movie, which all serve to illustrate and reiterate important points raised by the readings and lectures.

At the end of the class, you will have a solid understanding of the major issues in this field and will be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches to studying them. The course is designed to challenge you and your preconceived notions, so you will further develop your intellectual skills, particularly through critical thinking. You will also broaden your knowledge of particular countries.

## **Course Requirements**

Presentations: 20%  
Midterm Exam: 30%  
Final Exam: 20%  
Movie Entries: 10%  
Final Paper: 10%  
Participation and Attendance: 10%

### Presentations:

You will be expected to give a 10 min presentation on how the various domestic political institutions that we will cover have influenced how politics and economics play out in a country of your choice. You will do this in groups of two. The presentations will be 20% of your final grade. They have to be accompanied by a PowerPoint, which will be shown to the class, and submitted to me before the presentation is due *with all the group members cc-ed*.

### *Sign up sheet:*

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jdx8A0tUpIUO079rMhYt1N0Dw3TlfM1RKN8boXaA5IA/edit#gid=0>

These are group presentations. You have to meet with your group and organize how your group will make its argument. You will be receiving a single grade for the group, so each of you has an interest in making sure the group does well. One of you will email me the group's powerpoint on the day it is due and cc all group members. I will reply all with your grade.

The fact that you should physically meet and work together in a group is perhaps one of the most important elements of the assignment. If all of you communicate only online, divvy up the work, do your own part, and then throw everything together the day of the presentation and do not practice delivering together a cohesive argument, these presentations will not turn out to be very good. Also, I can always tell if people have practiced together ahead of time.

To incentivize you to live up to this key expectation of the assignment - namely that you meet and work physically together, I am **REQUIRING** you to start your ppt by including 1-2 photos of your group working together on the presentations taken with someone's smart phone!

### Exams:

There will be two exams in this class. The midterm will cover the basic principles of comparative politics, as presented by Patrick O'Neil in *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, and the political institutions in modern democracies, mainly Western Europe and the

United States. The final exam will be **cumulative** and will cover the topics discussed in the first half of the semester plus the main themes in the second half – authoritarian and communist regimes, as well as newly industrialized and less developed countries. The midterm will be 30% and the final will be 20% of your final grade.

#### Final Paper:

You will be expected to write a final paper focusing on how the political institutions and political culture in two countries affects various political outcomes. In your discussion please make sure that you focus on questions such as parliamentarism vs. presidentialism, differing electoral systems, party competition, government formation, civil society, varieties of capitalism, and socio-economic outcomes. This paper will be 10% of your grade. December 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Movie Entries:

We will see a number of documentaries in this class. You are responsible to submit two short reactions (max 1 page single spaced) to two documentaries of your choice connecting your impressions with the class readings. These documentaries serve an important goal – to demonstrate the real world applications of the theories and concepts we will be discussing in class. You will submit these in a single word document whenever you have completed the two reaction entries but before **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 10% of your grade.

#### Attendance and Participation:

Many of the lectures will be presented in a style that will give plenty of opportunities for in-class participation to the students. The frequency and quality of your comments, as well as your attendance, will shape your final participation grade. If we have one or several pop quizzes in class, those will also factor in your participation grade.

#### **Required Readings**

One book is required for this course. You can purchase it online via Amazon. There will also be a few articles and book chapters which will be available online on the course's website.

O'Neil, Patrick. 2015. Essentials of Comparative Politics. W.W. Norton & Company: New York, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. (abbreviated Essentials).

[https://www.amazon.com/Essentials-Comparative-Politics-Fifth-Patrick/dp/0393938972/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1502316503&sr=8-1&keywords=Essentials+of+Comparative+Politics.+W.W.+Norton+%26+Company](https://www.amazon.com/Essentials-Comparative-Politics-Fifth-Patrick/dp/0393938972/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1502316503&sr=8-1&keywords=Essentials+of+Comparative+Politics.+W.W.+Norton+%26+Company)

## **Original Work + Honor Code**

It is expected that all work you do in this course represents original work not previously or simultaneously handed in for credit in another course. All work for this course falls under the University's Honor Code. If you have questions about your responsibility under the honor code, please bring them to your instructor or consult with the office of the Dean of Students. Your full participation and observance of the honor code is expected.

## **Questions and Absences**

If you have questions about the course, please come see me after class or during office hours. I will also be happy to answer questions via email. If you have to miss class on the day of an exam, then you must write and explain beforehand in all but the most unusual circumstances. Attendance is required.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Aug 26 Introduction

### **Concepts and Definitions**

Aug 28 What is Comparative Politics?

Essentials: "Chapter 1: Introduction"

Sept 30 + 4 The State

Essentials: "Chapter 2: States"

Sept 6 + 9 Ethnicity and nationalism

Essentials: "Chapter 3: Nations and Society" .

"Daniel Pozner's Chiwa and Tambuka" case-study

Sept 11 +13 Political Economy

Essentials: "Chapter 4: Political Economy,"

Sept 16 +18 Watch Documentary: *Sick around the world*. Discussion.

### **The World of Democracy**

Sept 20 Democratic regimes – origins...

Essentials: "Chapter 5 – Democratic regimes"

Sept 23 +25 Executive  
GLM, Ch. 2, The Executive (pp. 23-46)

Sept 27 Legislature  
GLM, Ch. 3, Parliaments (pp. 47-78)

Sept 30 + Oct 2 Elections  
GLM, Ch. 11, Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referendums (pp.366-406)

Oct 4, Oct 7 +9 Parties  
GLM, Ch. 8, Party Families (pp. 238-75) and parts of Ch. 9, Cleavage Structures and Electoral Change (pp. 278-92)  
Inglehart, R. 2008. "Changing Values among Western Publics 1970-2006." *West European Politics* 31: 130-46.

YouTube videos on political ideologies: Socialism, liberalism, conservatism, libertarianism.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7rHGydPFjY&index=3&list=PLi3U-nPPrbS6Uk6vGaihQOCjcIAIYcr>

Moral Roots of liberalism and conservatism: How one's personality determines one's political views?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vs41JrnGaxc>

UK Party system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LrZVn4u8qQ>

Oct 11+14 Coalitions  
GLM, Ch. 12, Making and Breaking Government (pp. 412-54)

Movie: Five Days that changed Britain:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRHUNxVCnxw>

Oct 16 +18 Welfare States  
Esping-Anderson, G. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 9-34.

## **Oct 21 Midterm Exam**

### **The World of Authoritarianism**

Oct 23 + 25 Authoritarian regimes  
Essentials: "Chapter 6: Nondemocratic regimes"  
Talk about presentations

Oct 28 + 30 Watch documentary: *Absolute Power*. Discussion.

Nov 1 +4 +6 Communism and post-communism  
Essentials: "Chapter 9"

Nov 8 The Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe  
Good Bye Lenin  
Darton, R. 1991. "The Stasi Files." In *Berlin Journal*. New York: Norton, 129-137.  
Talk about paper

Nov 11 +13 Good Bye Lenin. Finish + Discussion

Nov 15 Presentations on countries and their institutions

Nov 18 Presentations on countries and their institutions

Nov 20 Presentations on countries and their institutions

Nov 22 TBD **Movie Entries due.**

Thanksgiving Break

Dec 2 Paper Assignment Presentation. Tips for Good Writing. Midterm Review.  
"Tips for Good Writing"

## **The Developing World**

Dec 4 +6 Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries.  
Essentials: "Chapter 10".

## **The Experiment in Supranationalism**

Dec 9 EU Origins  
Phinnemore, D. 2010. "The European Union: Establishment and Development." In *European Union Politics*, 3rd ed., eds. M. Cini & N. Perez-Solorzano Borragan. New York: Oxford UP, 32-47.

Dec 11 Review Session. **Paper due.**

**Dec 17 Final Exam 4:30pm-7:00pm**

**A few final points:**

## Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member 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](mailto: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.

## 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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

## 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](mailto: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](#).

## 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](mailto: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 let me know as soon as possible whether arrangements along these lines are in order.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.