

Political Science 2012-130R
Fall 2017, ARNT N200
Tue/Th, 12:30-1:45 PM

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Th 11:00am -12:30pm; and by appointment (Ketchum 235)

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 plays out in a country of your choice. You will do this in groups of two or three. 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*.

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 14th.

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 28th. 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, 5th 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

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 29 Introduction

Aug 31 TBA

Concepts and Definitions

Sept 5 What is Comparative Politics?
Essentials: "Chapter 1: Introduction"

Sept 7 The State
Essentials: "Chapter 2: States"

Sept 12 Ethnicity and nationalism
Essentials: "Chapter 3: Nations and Society".
"Daniel Pozner's Chiwa and Tambuka" case-study

Sept 14 Political Economy
Essentials: "Chapter 4: Political Economy,"

Sept 19 Watch Documentary: *Sick around the world*. Discussion.

The World of Democracy

Sept 21 Executive
GLM, Ch. 2, The Executive (pp. 23-46)

Sept 26 Legislature
GLM, Ch. 3, Parliaments (pp. 47-78)

Sept 28 + Oct 3 Elections
GLM, Ch. 11, Elections, Electoral Systems, and Referendums (pp.366-406)

Oct 5, Oct 10 +12 + 17 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-nPPrbS6Uk6vGaihfQ0CjcIAIjYcr>

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 19+24 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 26 Welfare States

Esping-Anderson, G. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 9-34.

Oct 31 Midterm Exam

The World of Authoritarianism

Nov 2 Authoritarian regimes

Essentials: "Chapter 6: Nondemocratic regimes"

Nov 7 Watch documentary: *Absolute Power*. Discussion.

Nov 9 Communism and post-communism

Essentials: "Chapter 9"

Nov 14 The Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe

Good Bye Lenin

Darton, R. 1991. "The Stasi Files." In *Berlin Journal*. New York: Norton, 129-137.

Nov 16 Good Bye Lenin. Finish + Discussion

Nov 21 + 23 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 28 Paper Assignment Presentation. Tips for Good Writing. Midterm Review.

"Tips for Good Writing" **Movie Entries due.**

Nov 30 Presentations on countries and their institutions

Dec 5 Presentations on countries and their institutions

The Developing World

Dec 7 Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries.

Essentials: "Chapter 10".

The Experiment in Supranationalism

Dec 12 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 14 Review Session. **Paper due.**

Dec 18 Final Exam 4:30pm-7:00pm

Five final points:

(1) 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 can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with me.

(2) 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.

(3) 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, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

(4) The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) 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://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

(5) 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://honorcode.colorado.edu>