

PSCI 2012: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS¹

Summer Term A, 2018

Pavel Bacovsky

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Class: M-F 11:00 AM - 12:35 PM
Classroom: Duane G2B21

Office Hours: M-F 1:00 - 2:00 PM
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Welcome to the course! Although the term comparative politics may seem arcane to some of you, the chances are that you already have some experience what comparativists do. You may have wondered about why some states in the U.S. are red while others are blue. You may have contemplated why some countries are rich while others are very poor. You may have thought about the origins of democracy, electoral rules, war, or taxes. If so, you have already dipped your toes in comparative politics. In this course, you will develop analytical tools that will allow you to compare different political systems and provides illustrative examples from several countries in both the industrialized and non-industrialized world. You will also become an expert on the political situation in one country of your choosing.

REQUIRED READINGS

O'Neill, Patrick H., Karl Fields, and Don Share. 2017. *Cases and Concepts in Comparative Politics*, 1st Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.

O'Neill, Patrick H., and Ronald Rogowski. 2018. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, 5th Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.

Most of the assigned readings for this course will come from *Cases and Concepts* by O'Neill, Fields, and Share (OFS) and O'Neill and Rogowski's (O&R) *Essential Readings*. The OFS text will introduce you to the basic concepts of comparative politics, and link them to relevant country case studies. The O&R edited volume presents a collection of academic and popular articles that delve deeper into key topics and issue.

CANVAS

I will be using Canvas as the virtual platform for this course. You will find the entire syllabus, class schedule, readings, assignments, quizzes, grades, et cetera there. You will also submit your written assignments and view your feedback on Canvas. Get to the habit of checking the Canvas site regularly!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

15% Class Participation and Attendance

Your success in this class is heavily dependent on your engagement. At the very least, you should attend every session. Moreover, it is imperative that you finish the required readings ahead of

¹ Syllabus is based on teaching materials of Professor Jenifer Fitzgerald and Professor Ryan Dawkins.

class and come to class prepared to discuss them in a constructive and respectful way. Your informed engagement in the class will make the course more rewarding and interactive for everyone. If you are not able to attend a class for whatever reason, please send me an email before the class begins and you will be excused. Any ex-post-facto absence will need appropriate documentation to be excused.

40% Exams #1 and #2

You will take two exams in this course. The first at the end of Week 2 and the second at the end of Week 4. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions. The second exam is not cumulative.

10% Revision Quizzes

I will utilize the Canvas platform to administer revision quizzes on the material and readings that we covered during each session. Only five (5) highest quiz grades will count towards your final course grade. The quizzes are open book. Check the syllabus for the quiz due dates.

10% Simulation Exercise

You will play a group-based role-playing simulation exercise carried out over the course of one class session during the last week of class. You will write a short paper (~500 words) in preparation for the simulation (7.5% of the grade). You will also be assigned a grade (2.5%) based on the results of the simulation. Further guidelines will be provided later in the term.

25% Research Project

The final project for this class will be to write a research paper (~1,500 words), in which you will identify and investigate an interesting puzzle in comparative politics. You will undertake a cross-national comparative study in which you will consider the origins of a key difference between two countries. One will be the United States. The other will be your country of specialization, which you must choose by the end of Week 1. You can either pick one of the other case-studies from the OFS textbook, or a brand-new country (after first clearing your choice with me). At the end of Week 3, you will be required to submit an outline of the paper (5% of the grade). The final paper (20% of the grade) will be due on July 5 at 11:59 PM. Further information on this assignment will be provided later in the term.

Finally, this class will not include any extra credit opportunities. Do not expect to slack the whole term and then expect to make up for the missed assignments, exams, or quizzes with extra credit. Your final grade will be determined based on the following standard scale (these are hard cut-offs and I do not round up):

A	100-94	B+	89.9-87	C+	79.9-77	D+	69.9-67	F	59.9-0
A-	93.9-90	B	88.9-83	C	76.9-73	D	66.9-63		
		B-	82.9-80	C-	72.9-70	D-	62.9-60		

COURSE SCHEDULE²

All required readings must be completed *before* the class on the day for which they are listed, unless you are instructed otherwise.

Week 1:

Monday	6/4	Introduction & The Basics of Comparative Politics <i>Required:</i> Syllabus; OFS ch1; Lichbach & Zuckerman in O&R ch1 Quiz 1 Due @ 11:59 PM
Tuesday	6/5	States, pt. 1: Where do States Come From? <i>Required:</i> OFS ch2, pp. 24-39; Weber in O&R ch2 <i>Recommended:</i> Herbst in O&R ch2
Wednesday	6/6	States, pt. 2: Comparing State Power <i>Required:</i> OFS ch2, pp. 39-51; Rotberg in O&R ch2 <i>Recommended:</i> Krasner in O&R ch2 Quiz 2 Due @ 11:59 PM
Thursday	6/7	Nations and Society, pt. 1: Ethnicity, Nationality, and Citizenship <i>Required:</i> OFS ch3, pp. 52-65; Fearon & Laitin in O&R ch3 <i>Recommended:</i> Hobsbawm in O&R ch3
Friday	6/8	Nations and Society, pt. 2: Attitudes, Ideology, Religion, and Culture <i>Required:</i> OFS ch3, pp. 66-81; Alesina & La Ferrara in O&R ch3 <i>Recommended:</i> Baldwin et al. in O&R ch3; Cederman et al. in O&R ch3 Country of specialization chosen by 11:59 PM Quiz 3 Due @ 11:59 PM

Week 2:

Monday	6/11	Political Economy, pt. 1: Components of Political Economy, and Political-Economic Systems <i>Required:</i> OFS ch4, pp. 82-102; Smith in O&R ch4 <i>Recommended:</i> North in O&R ch4
Tuesday	6/12	Political Economy, pt. 2: Political-Economic Systems and the State <i>Required:</i> OFS ch4, pp. 102-115; Acemoglu in O&R ch4 <i>Recommended:</i> Rogowski in O&R ch4 Quiz 4 Due @ 11:59 PM
Wednesday	6/13	Political Violence, pt. 1: What is Political Violence? <i>Required Readings:</i> OFS ch5, pp. 116-131; Skocpol in O&R ch7
Thursday	6/14	Political Violence, pt. 2: Terrorism, Revolution, and Religion <i>Required Readings:</i> OFS ch5, pp. 131-141; Atran & Axelrod in O&R ch7 <i>Recommended:</i> Crenshaw in O&R ch7; Walsh & Piazza in O&R ch7 Quiz 5 Due @ 11:59 PM
Friday	6/15	Exam #1 <i>No readings assigned!</i>

² The schedule is always subject to change.

Week 3:

- Monday 6/18 **Democratic Regimes, pt. 1: Democracy and its Models**
Required: OFS ch6, pp. 142-161; Schmitter & Karl in O&R ch5;
Recommended: Stepan et al. in O&R ch5
- Tuesday 6/19 **Democratic Regimes, pt. 2: Parties, Elections, and Freedom**
Required: OFS ch6, pp. 161-173; Lijphart in O&R ch5; Waylen in O&R ch5
Recommended: Foa & Mounk in O&R ch5
Quiz 6 Due @ 11:59 PM
- Wednesday 6/20 **Developed Democracies, pt. 1: Defining Developed Democracies**
Required: OFS ch7, pp. 174-184; Tocqueville in O&R ch8; Boix & Stokes in O&R ch8
Recommended: Acemoglu et al. in O&R ch8; Ansell & Samuels in O&R ch8
Simulation Brief Due @ 11:59 PM
- Thursday 6/21 **Developed Democracies, pt. 2: Institutions in Developed Democracies**
Required: OFS ch7, pp. 185-201; Duverger in O&R ch8; Iversen & Soskice in O&R ch8
Quiz 7 Due @ 11:59 PM
- Friday 6/22 **Simulation Exercise**
Research Paper Outline Due @ 11:59 PM

Week 4:

- Monday 6/25 **Nondemocratic Regimes, pt. 1: Defining Nondemocracies**
Required: OFS ch8, pp. 354-370; Linz & Stepan in O&R ch6
Recommended: Diamond in O&R ch6
- Tuesday 6/26 **Nondemocratic Regimes, pt. 2: Typology of Nondemocracies**
Required: OFS ch8, pp. 370-381; Levitsky & Way in O&R ch6
Recommended: Geddes et al. in O&R ch6; King et al. in O&R ch6
Quiz 8 Due @ 11:59 PM
- Wednesday 6/27 **Communism and Postcommunism, pt. 1: Communism**
Required: OFS ch9, pp. 382-395; Marx & Engels in O&R ch9
- Thursday 6/28 **Communism and Postcommunism, pt. 2: Postcommunism**
Required: OFS ch9, pp. 395-415; Ekiert in O&R ch9
Recommended: Hale in O&R ch9; Balzer in O&R ch9
Quiz 9 Due @ 11:59 PM
- Friday 6/29 **Developing Countries, pt. 1: Definitions, Imperialism, and Colonialism**
Required: OFS ch10, pp. 480-492; Easterly in O&R ch10
Recommended: Clark in O&R ch10

Week 5:

Monday	7/2	Developing Countries, pt. 2: Democracy and Development <i>Required:</i> OFS ch10, pp. 492-509; Collier & Gunning in O&R ch10; <i>Recommended:</i> Acemoglu & Johnson in O&R ch10 Quiz 10 Due @ 11:59 PM
Tuesday	7/3	Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics <i>Required:</i> OFS ch11; Rodrik in O&R ch11 <i>Recommended:</i> Bourguignon in O&R ch11 Quiz 11 Due @ 11:59 PM
Wednesday	7/4	No class, Independence Day
Thursday	7/5	Course Catch-up and Wrap-up Research Paper Due @ 11:59 PM
Friday	7/6	Exam #2 <i>Good luck!</i>

COURSE POLICIES

In this class, we may occasionally discuss contentious topics about which you or others may have strong feelings. As such, for this section to be successful there must always be a civil and open discourse on the topics at hand. This requires that each student shares their opinion, but does so in a respectful and informed way. Everyone should feel that their opinion is welcome in this class. Any personal attack against a fellow student or the instructor will not be tolerated.

A Note on Technology...

The use of all electronic devices during class is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, MP3 players, laptops, tablets, et cetera. All devices should be turned off or switched to silent and stowed away before the start of class. If you require access to your cell phone because of an ongoing emergency, please speak to me at the start of class to let me know. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in being asked to leave class and counted as absent. The use of technology in class distracts both the user of the technology and those around the users. The technology necessary for medical or disability purposes are exceptions but must be supported by the required documentation.

For more information on the rationale behind the no technology policy, see Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014)'s article on why the "Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard."

University Policies

The following provides a brief overview of the University's policies and procedures. Please refer to <http://www.colorado.edu/policies> to view the specific guidelines.

Special Accommodations/Disability

I am more than happy to make special arrangements for students with documented disabilities that have been documented through Disability Services (<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>).

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services promptly (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week before the exam) 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 guidelines under the Quick Links at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me. 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 notify me about potential conflicts at least **one** week in advance of exams/due-dates.

Please see full details at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams>.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. 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, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy.

Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the OIEC, the above-referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be found at the OIEC website. The full policy on discrimination and harassment contains additional information.

Academic Honesty

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, the 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). Additional information regarding the Honor Code policy can be found online and at the Honor Code Office. If you violate the honor code, you will receive a “zero” on the assignment/portion of the course grade in question.

Professional Courtesy and Learning Environment

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 concerning individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, 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 term so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information on classroom behavior policies you can visit the following websites:

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior> *and*
https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/sites/default/files/attached-files/2017-2018_student_code_of_conduct_1.pdf

NORMS TO ADOPT TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE (AND IN COLLEGE)

- 1) **Read the syllabus closely, it is a required reading after all.** Almost everything you need to know about every class is in the syllabus. If you have a question about assignments and deadlines, consult the syllabus and do not email the instructor until you have checked to see if the answer is in there. You are responsible for keeping track of the syllabus.
- 2) Related to #1, **do not ask the instructor when they hold office hours.** Instructor office hours are listed on the syllabus. For this class, if you cannot make my office hours, feel free to set up an individual appointment by emailing me three times you can meet. I will pick one of those three.
- 3) **Check your email regularly.** Important information about coursework is often conveyed over email. It is important that you check your email every day. Not having seen an email about an important deadline is not an acceptable excuse for missing that deadline.
- 4) **Emails constitute professional correspondence.** They should be formatted as a letter, with a greeting and a sign off. You should tell me in the subject line the reason for the email. I will not respond to emails that read like text messages or are missing principle grammar components such as punctuation marks.
- 5) **Ask classmates about work missed if you are absent from class.** Do not ask the instructor. It is a common pet peeve among instructors when students ask them about missed work.
- 6) With the few exceptions outlined in the syllabus – i.e. documented illness, university activities cleared by me in advance, and religious holidays – **I do not allow make-ups for missed assignments.** Don't ask.
- 7) **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Always come to class with assigned reading materials and a notebook for taking notes. It's a good habit to get into and it shows the instructor that you are taking the material seriously.