

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

PSCI 2012, Summer A 2017

University of Colorado Boulder

Instructor: Erkan Gunes

Lectures: M-F 9:15 – 10:50 AM

Office: Ketchum 234

Office Hours: W 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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Course Description

Why do nation states vary so substantially in their political freedoms and economic performances? This course will seek to answer this big question by developing an understanding of key concepts and alternative theories. Detailed study of cases such as Mexico, Germany, Japan and Russia will help students to develop strong analytical skills for evaluating alternative explanations to big questions about politics and economy.

By the end of this course, students should develop a stronger understanding of fundamental differences between different regime types, the relationship between politics and economic outcomes, the role of identity in politics, and should be able to apply the analytical and methodological tools of comparative politics to political outcomes they want to understand and explain.

Course Materials

- **Samuels, David J. 2012.** *Comparative Politics*. Pearson. ISBN 9780321449740.
- **Samuels, David J., ed. 2013.** *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*. Pearson. ISBN 9780205740093
- Additional articles will also be assigned and made available on **D2L**.

Components and Assessment

Element	Weight	Description
Attendance	10%	Students will be allowed two “freebie” absences. Beyond two recitation absences, the attendance grade will be lowered from 10 by one points per absence.
Participation	10%	Participation is key to your success in this recitation hour. Your participation will be noted each week and at the end of the semester your participation grade will be determined by evaluating your weekly performances.
Quizzes	5%	There will be five unannounced quizzes. The quizzes will be based on readings and they are intended to check whether students did the assigned readings.
Midterm 1	15%	
Midterm 2	15%	
Final Exam	20%	
Short Paper (Due date: 6/19)	10	This short paper will be about political parties and policy preferences. Details of it will be provided in a separate handout.
Final Research Paper (Due date: 7/5)	15	In this paper, you will attempt to answer a specific causal question related the subject matter of comparative politics. Details of it will be provided in a separate handout.

Course Calendar*

Week	Date	Lecture	Reading
Week 1	6/5	Course Introduction	
	6/6	Doing Comparative Politics	Samuels 2012, Ch.1
	6/7	Foundational Concepts	Samuels 2012, Ch.2
	6/8	State Strength	Rothberg 2003, Ch.1 D2L
	6/9	Regime Types: Democracy	Samuels 2012, Ch.3
Week 2	6/12	Case Study: The United Kingdom	Ansell and Gingrich in Samuels 2013, Ch.2
	6/13	Case Study: Japan	Scheiner in Samuels 2013, Ch.5
	6/14	Regime Types: Non- Democracy	Samuels Ch.4
	6/15	Case Study: Russia	Robertson in Samuels 2013, Ch. 8
	6/16	MIDTERM 1	
Week 3	6/19	Political Economy of Development	Samuels Ch.11
	6/20	Case Study: China	
	6/21	Political Economy of Redistribution	Samuels Ch.12
	6/22	Case Study: TBD	
	6/23	Globalization	Samuels Ch.13
Week 4	6/26	Case Study:	
	6/27	Exam Review	
	6/28	MIDTERM 2	
	6/29	Identity and Politics	Samuels Ch.6

	6/30	Case Study: TBD	
Week 5	7/3	Religion and Politics	Samuels Ch.7
	7/4	Independence Day (No Class)	
	7/5	Gender and Politics	Samuels Ch.8
	7/6	Exam Review	
	7/7	FINAL EXAM	

*This schedule always subject to change.

Policies

Accommodation For Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to 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.

Religious Observances

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. See [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details, **and let me know no later than week three** of the semester if you expect to miss any class for religious observance.

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, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's 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 semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the [policies on classroom behavior](#) and the [student code](#).

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 sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU-Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on 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 subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

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). Additional information regarding the [Honor Code policy can be found online](#) and at the [Honor Code Office](#).