

**PSCI 2012-100: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

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Spring 2019  
Math 100  
MW 10:00AM – 10:50AM

Office hours: M 11-12 and W 11-12 in Ketchum 224



**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Comparative politics is the study of domestic politics in multiple, and typically foreign, countries. In this course, students will learn about many of the fundamental questions and themes examined in the field of comparative politics. After taking this course, students will (1) understand the logic and value of comparing nations and their politics, (2) be more familiar with how politics works in a few major foreign countries, (3) be able to provide informed answers to important questions about why countries vary so much on important political, economic, and social dimensions, and (4) better understand what is unique about the US political system



**REQUIRED READING:** All readings listed on this syllabus are required. Three books are available for purchase at the CU Book Store. They are as follows:

- *Comparative Politics: Second Edition* by David J. Samuels (9780134562674). Available only as an ebook or a rental.
- *Out of Mao's Shadow: The Struggle for the Soul of a New China* by Philip P. Pan (9781416537069)
- *Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (9780307719225)

These books are also available on 2-hour course reserve at Norlin Library.



**GRADES:** Overall, the final grade will be allocated in the following manner:

1) <u>Examinations</u>	<u>50%</u>
o Midterm 1:	15%
o Midterm 2:	15%
o Final:	20%
2) <u>Research Paper:</u>	<u>20%</u>
3) <u>Recitation Section:</u>	<u>15%</u>
o Attendance:	5%
o Performance:	10%
4) <u>Simulation:</u>	<u>5%</u>
o Short Paper:	4%
o Game Result:	1%
5) <u>Clickers:</u>	<u>10%</u>

First, 50% of the overall grade is based on three closed-book, in-class examinations: Midterm 1 (15%), Midterm 2 (15%), and a Final (20%). Midterm 1 will cover Unit 1 material, Midterm 2 will cover Unit 2 material, and the Final will cover all material. Examinations will not be given to anyone at a day and time other than that already specified on this syllabus, unless students have discussed with the instructor IN ADVANCE special arrangements due to disability or final exam conflict. Students with disabilities must show Professor Baker within the first two weeks of class authorization from the Office of Services to Disabled Students and must take the examination at the specified time.

Second, 20% of the final grade is based on a 1000-word research paper (4-5 pages). Papers will be submitted to Canvas electronically. Research papers submitted after the specified time will have ten percentage points subtracted from their final score each day they are late. Information on the research paper question and topic will be distributed after Midterm 1.

Third, students will be graded for their attendance (5%) and performance (10%) in recitation sections. Regarding the attendance portion, teaching assistants (TAs) will keep track of recitation attendance, and students will be allowed two "freebie" absences. Beyond two recitation absences, the attendance grade will be lowered from 100 by ten percentage points *per absence*. Students with eight or more recitation absences will either have to drop the class or receive an "F". The performance component of the grade is based on student engagement and participation as well as other assignments given at the TA's discretion.

Fourth, there will be a group-based role-playing simulation exercise carried out in students' recitation sections. Students will write a short paper (4%) in preparation for the simulation and submit them electronically. Again, papers submitted after the specified time will have ten percentage points subtracted from their final score each day they are late. Students will also be assigned a grade (1%) based on the results of the simulation.

Finally, student scores on the daily clickers questions in lecture will be graded (10%). Students receive four freebie clicker days, to be used for absences or poor clicker performance. Clickers are NOT used in recitation sections.

There are no extra credit projects available in this course. Final grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=94.0-100, A-=90.0-94.0, B+=87.0-90.0, B=84.0-87.0, B-=80.0-84.0, C+=77.0-80.0, C=74.0-77.0, C-=70.0-74.0, D+=67.0-70.0, D=64.0-67.0, D-=60.0-64.0, F=<60.0. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE TRUE CUT-OFFS AND THERE IS NO ROUNDING.

As always, academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Students engaging in academic dishonesty will receive an "F" in the class and may be expelled. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, passing off the work of others (especially that of current or former students as well as published or on-line text) as your own. Cheating on clicker entries is also academic dishonesty.

The professor retains the right to change the syllabus at any time.



**MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES**

Religious holidays, sickness, family emergencies, and other reasons for absence that are "legitimate" DO COUNT against your freebies in your clicker and recitation attendance score. *You are strongly advised to use your freebies for these purposes.* Please simply accept the consequences of your absences and do not present excuses or doctors notes to the professor or TA.

This class will use "Classroom capture" technology, which will record the lectures and make them available to students soon after each one. Please note that the availability and quality of these recordings cannot be guaranteed! Film clips and movies do not show up well, and other technical problems may arise. Students are still responsible for lecture material even if technical problems arise with classroom capture, and students who do not attend the live lecture will not receive clicker points for that day.

In class, please turn off your cell phones. Also, please do not read newspapers, bring your dog(s), or chat with your neighbor.

Aside from this syllabus, all course handouts are emailed to students and posted to Canvas. They are not printed, copied, and handed out.



**TO REPEAT**

- YOU CANNOT PASS THIS CLASS IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND RECITATION SECTIONS! EIGHT RECITATION ABSENCES AND YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "F" IN THE CLASS.
- YOU WILL ONLY SUBMIT ELECTRONIC COPIES OF YOUR PAPER ASSIGNMENTS. LATE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE PENALIZED.
- PLEASE DO NOT ASK YOUR PROFESSOR OR TA TO EXCUSE A LECTURE OR RECITATION ABSENCE, EVEN IF THE ABSENCE IS FOR HEALTH PROBLEMS, A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, OR A FAMILY EMERGENCY. THE FREEBIES ARE MEANT TO COVER REASONS SUCH AS THESE.



**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Week 1: January 14 and 16**  
Course Guidelines and Themes

**UNIT 1: POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Week 2: January 23**  
The State

Read by January 23:

- Chapter 1 "Doing Comparative Politics" in *Comparative Politics*
- Chapter 2 "The State" in *Comparative Politics*

*Suggested discussion topics:*

What is the state? Why did states arise from the state of nature? Why do some countries have fragile states while others have strong ones?

**Week 3: January 28 and 30**  
Democracies

Read by January 28:

- Chapter 3 "Democratic Political Regimes" in *Comparative Politics*

*Suggested discussion topics:*

What is a political regime? What is democracy? Why are some countries democracies and others non-democracies?

**Week 4: February 4 and 6**  
Presidential/Parliamentary Systems  
Electoral Systems

Read by February 4:

- Start reading *Out of Mao's Shadow* (Introduction and Part I)

<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What are different ways to organize a democracy? What are the consequences of presidential and parliamentary systems? Why do different electoral systems matter? <i>Meet with your simulation parties!</i>
<b>Week 5: February 11 and 13</b> Non-Democracies	<u>Read by September 21:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 4 “Non-Democratic Political Regimes” in <i>Comparative Politics</i></li> <li>● Keep reading <i>Out of Mao’s Shadow</i> (Part II)</li> </ul> <p>SHORT PAPER DUE TO CANVAS ON SEPTEMBER 21 AT 9:00AM</p>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	<i>Simulation of a parliamentary system!</i>
<b>Week 6: February 18 and 20</b> Regime Change	<u>Read by September 28:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 5 “Regime Change” in <i>Comparative Politics</i></li> <li>● Finish reading <i>Out of Mao’s Shadow</i> (Part III and Epilogue)</li> </ul>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What is the third wave? What causes democratization? How does China exemplify a non-democratic political regime? What are the prospects for regime change in China? Midterm review
<b>Week 7: February 25 and 27</b> Catch-up, Review and Midterm 1	MIDTERM 1 IS FEBRUARY 27 IN CLASS
<b>Week 8: March 4 and 6</b> Redistribution and Welfare States	<b><u>UNIT 2: POLITICAL ECONOMY</u></b> <u>Read by March 4:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 12 “Political Economy of Redistribution” in <i>Comparative Politics</i></li> <li>● Preface and Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-95) in <i>Why Nations Fail</i></li> </ul>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What is the welfare state? Why do some countries tax and redistribute more than others?
<b>Week 9: March 11 and 13</b> Globalization	<u>Read by March 11:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 13 “Globalization” in <i>Comparative Politics</i></li> <li>● Chapters 5, 8-9 (pp. 124-151, 213-273) in <i>Why Nations Fail</i></li> </ul>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What are the different forms of globalization? What are their causes and consequences?
<b>Week 10: March 18 and 20</b> Global Development and Underdevelopment	<u>Read by March 18:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 11 “Political Economy of Development” in <i>Comparative Politics</i></li> <li>● Chapters 12-15 (pp. 335-462) in <i>Why Nations Fail</i></li> </ul>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	Why are some countries rich and others poor? Midterm review
<b>Week 11: April 1 and 3</b> Catch-up, Review and Midterm 2	MIDTERM 2 IS APRIL 3 IN CLASS
<b>Week 12: April 8 and 10</b> Identity and Politics	<b><u>UNIT 3: IDENTITY AND POLITICS</u></b> <u>Read by April 8:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 6 “Political Identity” in <i>Comparative Politics</i></li> </ul>
<i>Suggested discussion topics:</i>	What are constructivism and primordialism? What are different forms of identity?
<b>Week 13: April 15 and 17</b>	<u>Read by April 15:</u>

Religion and Politics

- Chapter 7 “Religion and Politics” in *Comparative Politics*

*Suggested discussion topics:*

Are some religions more amenable to democracy than others?

**Week 15: April 22 and 24**

Gender and Politics

Read by April 22:

- Chapter 8 “Gender and Politics” in *Comparative Politics*

*Suggested discussion topics:*

Why does gender inequality vary so much around the world?

RESEARCH PAPER DUE TO CANVAS ON APRIL 22 AT 9:00AM

**Week 16: April 29 and May 1**

Political Violence

Read by April 29:

- Chapter 10 “Political Violence” in *Comparative Politics*

*Suggested discussion topics:*

What are the causes of civil war?

**Final Exam**

**TUESDAY, MAY 7, 4:30 – 7:00PM IN MATH 100**

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**CLICKERS GUIDELINES**

Ten percent of students’ final grades will be based on Clickers scores, accumulated during each lecture throughout the semester. **STUDENTS SHOULD BRING CLICKERS TO EVERY LECTURE!** They are not needed, however, in recitation sections. Clicker questions are either (1) one-point, participation-only questions or (2) two-point, participation & accuracy questions. Either way, students always receive some credit for just participating.

At the end of the semester, students’ four worst clicker days will be discarded, and the clicker grade will be based on the percentage accumulated over all remaining days. These four freebies should be used wisely! Days for which students receive a clicker score of 0 will be counted against the four freebies. These include absences for ANY reason (including sickness and religious holidays), technical difficulties with a clicker (dead batteries, unregistered clicker, broken clicker), or a forgotten clicker. Students who arrive late or leave early to class will also miss clicker points. Most lectures will begin with a clicker question, often on the assigned readings for that day or on the previous lecture, and most will also end with one.

To receive proper credit, **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR CLICKER REGISTERED TO YOUR NAME!!!** *You only need to register a clicker once; if you have registered a clicker for another class in the past, it should be already registered for this class.* To register, log in to **myCUinfo** and select the **Student** tab. Then, click on the **CUclicker Registration** button and enter your Clicker **Serial Number**—that is, the number on the white label on the back of the clicker. Finally, click **Register**. For more information, go to <http://oit.colorado.edu/node/779>.

Students must also enter the correct frequency code **AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CLASS!** Students can do this with 3 button clicks. First, hold down the “ON/OFF” switch for a few seconds until the light starts blinking. Second, enter the letters A and B in sequence. (Sometimes the last two button clicks are done automatically for you.)

To give students time to register and test-run their clicker for this class, scores will not be officially recorded and begin affecting grades until the lecture of January 28. All scores before then will be trial runs, although scores will be posted in Canvas after these classes so students can make sure that their answers are being recorded correctly. **IT IS THE STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITY TO CONFIRM THAT THEIR SCORES ARE BEING RECORDED!!!**

**IF YOU NOTICE DURING THE SEMESTER THAT, EVEN AFTER YOU’VE REGISTERED YOUR CLICKER, YOUR SCORES IN CANVAS ARE ALL ZEROES, THE EASY SOLUTION IS TO EMAIL PROFESSOR BAKER WITH YOUR CLICKER SERIAL ID NUMBER (LOCATED ON THE STICKER OF YOUR CLICKER). HE CAN ALMOST ALWAYS FIX IT.**

Students who are found cheating with their clickers (e.g., entering answers for friends who are absent) will earn an “F” as their final course grade and be referred to Honor Council.

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**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO POLICIES**

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. In this class, please inform the professor immediately if you have any religious holiday conflicts with the three scheduled exams that appear on this syllabus. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

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.

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](#).

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](#).

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.