

# Introduction to Comparative Politics

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*PSCI 2012, Fall 2017*

*University of Colorado, Boulder*

## Class Information

Professor Carew Boulding

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-10:50am, Math 100 (Plus your recitation section)

My Office: Ketchum 231

My Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11-Noon, or by appointment

My Email: [boulding@colorado.edu](mailto:boulding@colorado.edu)

Course website: see D2L website

## Course description

Welcome to this class! This semester we are going to explore one of the major subfields of political science – Comparative Politics. Chances are many of you are already skilled comparativists. Have you ever wondered why some countries are rich and some are poor? Why are some countries governed as democracies and others ruled by dictators? Have you wondered how the politics and economics of some countries have changed so much and so rapidly? Have you ever talked about politics with someone from another country (or another part of the U.S.) and been amazed at how differently they see things? Comparative politics is the systematic study and comparison of these kinds of differences, with a focus on understanding *why* politics can produce such different outcomes.

This class will explore these questions through four country case studies: Germany, Russia, China and Bolivia. We will also explore the United States in comparative perspective. Each of these countries allows us to explore more specific questions related to the big questions of the course:

- ❖ Why did democracy break down in Germany before WWII? How did Germany overcome its tumultuous history and become a healthy democracy with a strong economy?
- ❖ Why has Russia failed to consolidate democracy, remaining in many ways an authoritarian regime?
- ❖ How has China's authoritarian regime managed to build and consolidate state strength in just 60 years?
- ❖ How has Bolivia responded to the pressures of globalization and how has globalization affected democracy and economic issues in Bolivia?
- ❖ How does the United States compare to other countries in the world in terms of democracy and economic issues?

Overall, this class will be an exciting introduction to some of the big issues in world politics and the tools that Political Science can offer to make sense of the world.

## Required Materials

- The primary **textbook** for this course is a new text by David Samuels, which is published in two volumes
  - *Comparative Politics* and
  - *Case Studies in Comparative Politics*.
- Additionally, please purchase the following **book** from the bookstore or bookseller of your choice
  - *China in Ten Words*, Yu Hua (2011)
- Occasional articles will also be assigned and made available on **D2L**.
- Finally, you will also need a **clicker**, available from the bookstore if you don't already have one.

## Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Grade Percentage	Due Date
Clickers	5%	
Recitation Section Grade	20%	
1 <sup>st</sup> Midterm Exam	10%	Wed. 10/4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Midterm Exam	15%	Wed. 11/15
Final Exam*	20%	Sat. 12/16 4:30-7:00pm
Simulation Project	10%	Write-up due Mon. 10/2
Final Research Paper	20%	Mon. 12/11

### Lecture Attendance and Clicker Responses (5%)

We will have daily clicker response questions during lecture. Some of these will be opinion-based, without a correct answer, and some will be quizzes based on readings and previous lectures. To receive proper credit, all students must have a Clicker registered to their name. To register, login to **myCUinfo** and select the **Student** tab. Click on **CUClicker Registration** and enter your Clicker **Serial Number** (the number on the label on the back of the Clicker). Then click **Register**. It is your responsibility to make sure your clicker is registered and to confirm that your scores are being recorded! For more information go to <https://www.colorado.edu/oit/services/teaching-learning-tools/cuclickers/help/students>. To give students time to register and test-run their Clicker for this class, scores will not begin to affect grades until the lecture of 9/11.

You have four “free” days to be used for absences. At the end of the semester, your four worst Clicker days will be discarded and the grade will be calculated over the remaining days. Use these four free days wisely! These should cover absences for ANY reason, including illness, injury, dead batteries, lateness, religious holidays, family obligations, etc. Students who are found cheating with their Clickers (including entering responses for a friend who is not in class) will receive an “F” for the course and will be referred to the Honor Council.

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\* Per University Policy, if you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternate exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. If you have two final exams scheduled to meet at the same time, you are entitled to arrange an alternate exam time for the later class offered that day or week. Such arrangements must be made by the deadline to drop a class without your dean and instructor's permission in the tenth week of the semester (**before Friday, November 3rd**). Students should make arrangements with the instructor of the affected class and are expected to provide evidence of these situations to qualify for exceptions.

### Recitation Sections (20%)

Your sections are your chance to meet with a smaller group of students and a graduate teaching assistant. In section, you will have a chance for more discussion, debate, and small group projects related to the class. Your section grade (20%) will be assigned by your TA based on your attendance (10%) and your performance (including quizzes and participation in section) (10%).

**Attendance:** You have 2 “free” absences for section attendance. Beyond those two, your attendance grade will be lowered from 100 by 10 points per absence. Students with eight or more absences will either have to drop the class or receive an “F.”

**Performance:** Your TA will evaluate your participation in the class based on your participation in discussion and performance on section quizzes and assignments at your TA’s discretion.

### Examinations (45%)

There will be three closed book in-class exams for this class. The first midterm (10%) will cover material from weeks 1-5. The second midterm (15%) will cover weeks 7-12, and the Final Exam (20%) will cover all the material from the course (weeks 1-15).

### Simulation (10%)

During the fifth week of the semester, you will participate in a role-playing simulation of a parliament in your recitation sections. 1% of your grade will be based on the outcome of the simulation, and 9% will be based on your write-up paper.

### Final Research paper (20%)

Twenty-percent of your final grade is based on a 1000-word research paper (4-5 pages) due the Monday of the last week of class (5/1). Papers handed in late will have 10% deducted from the final score for each business day they are late. Students must submit both a paper and an electronic version and the late penalty applies to both. More information on the research paper will be handed out after the first midterm.

### Other Guidelines

- ❖ Please come to lecture prepared to pay attention for 50 minutes. I will do my best to make these lectures worth your time and attention.
- ❖ Please turn off your cell phones, computers and tablets and take notes with pen and paper.
- ❖ All legitimate excused absences (including religious holidays, illness, injury, etc.) DO count against your four free absences. You are strongly encouraged to use your absences for these purposes.

## Course Calendar

Week	Date	Lecture	Reading	Section
Week 1	8/28	Introduction: What is Comparative Politics?	Ch. 1 “Doing Comparative Politics”	
	8/30			
Week 2	9/4	No Class – Labor Day		
	9/6	Institutions, Identities and Interests		
Week 3	9/11	What are we comparing? States, Nations, and Governments	Ch. 2 “The State”	
	9/13	Germany: What led to the rise of the Nazis?	Ch. 3 “Germany”	
Week 4	9/18	Germany: How did Germany become a democracy?		
	9/20	What is Democracy?	Ch. 3 “Democratic Political Regimes”	
Week 5	9/25	Types of Democracies		Parliamentary Simulation
	9/27	U.S. Institutions in comparative perspective	Article: Allen	
Week 6	10/2	Review/ Catch up		
	10/4	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
Week 7	10/9	How do Non-Democratic Regimes work?	Ch. 4 (“Non-Democratic Political Regimes”)	
	10/11	Types of Non-democratic regimes		
Week 8	10/16	Russia: Institutions	Selected Readings (TBA)	
	10/19	Russia: Interests and Identities		
Week 9	10/23	Russia: Why has Russia failed to consolidate democracy?	Ch. 8 “Russia” and selected readings (TBA)	
	10/25	States and Markets: What can states do to make the economy better or worse?	Ch. 11 “Political Economy of Development”	
Week 10	10/30	China: How has China developed such a strong state and strong economy without becoming democratic?	Ch. 10: “China” first half of “China in Ten Words”	
	11/1	China: Institutions		

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Section</b>
Week 11	11/6	China: Identities and Interests	Second half of “China in Ten Words”	
	11/8	China: Conclusions		
Week 12	11/13	<b>Review</b>		
	11/15	<b>Midterm #2</b>		
	11/20	<b>Fall Break</b>		
	11/22	<b>Fall Break</b>		
Week 13	11/27	What is Globalization?	Ch. 13 “Globalization”	
	11/29	How does globalization affect politics?		
Week 14	12/4	Bolivia: How has Bolivia responded to Globalization?	“Whispering in the Giant’s Ear” selection (available on website)	
	12/6	Bolivia: Conclusions		
Week 15	12/11	Conclusions		Final Paper Due – In Lecture
	12/13	Review		

## CU Policies

### Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor 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](mailto: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 your professor.

### 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. In this class, you have four “free” absences to use at your discretion, including for religion holidays. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

### 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

### Discrimination and Harassment

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). 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, 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/>

### Cheating and Plagiarism

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](mailto: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>