

CPO2002: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Summer B, 2012

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Classroom: Bellamy 0004
Class Time: Mon – Fri: 11:00 – 12:15

Course Description

Why does the United States have a two-party political system at the federal level while its very similar northern neighbor, Canada, has a multiparty system? Is oil wealth incompatible with democratic rule? Are predominantly Islamic societies more likely to be authoritarian than democratic? Why have Poland and Hungary made a seemingly successful transition to democracy while Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have been less successful in this regard? Why did ethnic violence break out between Serbs and Croats in the wake of the dissolution of Yugoslavia and why, conversely, did Slovakia and the Czech Republic separate peacefully as the Czechoslovak state was disintegrating during the same period? Why have the sub-Saharan countries in Africa been unable to develop economically while the Asian Tigers" (and China) have seen economic growth rates that have been described as miraculous?

These, and similar, questions are the substance of the study of comparative politics. Using the tools of social scientific analysis and various methodological approaches, we will examine these issues and attempt to answer these and similar questions. The course is structured thematically and will, additionally, introduce students to important concepts in comparative politics, such as democratization, the state, institutions, political culture, civil society, political economy, and incorporate these into the comparative analysis of various countries around the world.

Required Text

Samuels, David J. 2013. *Comparative Politics*. Boston: Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-321-44974-0.

Any other listed readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Blackboard

This course is supported by a Blackboard website: go to <http://campus.fsu.edu> to login. I have posted the syllabus online at the site. I will also use Blackboard to communicate with the class.

Course Evaluation

Midterm	40%
Final	50%
In-class exercises	10%

Grading Scale

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: <60

Grades will be rounded to the nearest integer. For example, a final grade of 89.4 (up to and including 89.49) will be a B, while a final grade of 89.5 will be an A.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is strongly encouraged. By showing up to class having read the assigned material, you will have a much easier time learning the material and achieving a desirable grade. While roll will not be taken, there will be unannounced in-class exercises that are 10% of your course grade.

Excused absences include documented illnesses, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Make-up Policy

Make-up examinations are given only with prior instructor approval and with appropriate documentation. Note that the documentation must indicate why you could not be in class at the exact time of the test. If you cannot attend the examination, notify me as soon as possible.

In-class exercise make-ups are given only with appropriate documentation. Note that the documentation must indicate why you could not be in class. Exercises may occur at any point during class, beginning, middle, or end. Make-up format will be at my discretion including quizzes.

Courtesy in the Classroom

I take courtesy seriously and reserve the right to adjust your final grade if courtesy becomes an issue. Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, talking during lectures, reading newspapers, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please make sure the door does not 'bang' as you enter or leave. Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly.

Scholarly comments are:

- Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material
- Advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs

-Are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable behaviors in the classroom are:

- Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- Interrupting your instructor or other students.
- Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. (If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors).
- Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive.
- Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

(1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Florida State Academic Honor Policy:

Cheating is a serious offence and will result in a failing grade for the course and will be brought to the university administration's attention.

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of student's academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

Course Calendar

5/14	Introduction	Syllabus
5/15	Can Political Science <i>Really</i> be Scientific?	CGG Ch 2; Sagan (208-216)
5/16	What is Comparative Politics?	Drogus and Orvis Ch. 1
5/17	What are States? Where Did They Come From?	Samuels Ch. 2 (28-44); Hobbes (117-121)
5/18	How Have States Formed Recently?	Samuels Ch. 2 (44-55); Levi (185-204)
5/21	Are Constitutions Just Pieces of Paper?	Mahler Ch. 2
5/22	What are the Different Legislative Systems?	Mahler Ch. 3
5/23	What are the Different Executive Systems?	Mahler Ch. 4
5/24	What are the Different Judicial Systems?	Mahler Ch. 5
5/25	What is Democracy?	CGG Ch. 5; Aristotle (73-74)
5/28	Memorial Day	
5/29	How do Elections Differ Around the World?	CGG Ch. 13 (536-578)
5/30	How do Elections Differ Around the World, Pt. 2?	CGG Ch. 13 (578-601)
5/31	Are Political Parties a Good Thing?	Samuels Ch. 9 (246-255); Rousseau (59-60); Federalist #10
6/1	Exam Prep/Review	
6/4	Midterm (Up to 5/31)	
6/5	What's the Difference Between a Communist and a Fascist?	Samuels Ch. 4; Mussolini (SPP 424-428)
6/6	Can Democracies be Autocratic? Vice Versa?	Diamond 2002
6/7	When Does Identity Become Politicized?	Samuels Ch. 6
6/8	Where does Religion fit in Politics?	Gill (2001); Starr (11-18)
6/11	Does Gender Matter in Politics?	Samuels Ch. 8 (201-225)
6/12	Does Anyone Care About Human Rights? Why?	FLS Ch. 11
6/13	What are the Causes of Regime Change?	Samuels Ch. 5
6/14	What Causes Civil War?	Samuels Ch. 10 (258-268); Fearon and Laitin 2003
6/15	Terrorists or Freedom Fighters?	Samuels Ch. 10 (276-279); Moore and Lloyd (Book 1, Ch. 11; Prologue to Book 3)
6/18	How Do States Promote Economic Development?	Samuels Ch. 11
6/19	Is Welfare Fair?	Samuels Ch. 12
6/20	Does Globalization Make States Obsolete?	Samuels Ch. 13
6/21	Exam Prep/Review	
6/22	Final (Cumulative)	

Books Used Other Than Text:

You are in no way responsible for purchasing these books. I mention them here to credit the sources and offer the information in the event that you should find yourself interested in any of them.

Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics 2nd Edition*. Los Angeles: CQ Press.

Frieden, Jeff, David Lake, and Ken Schultz. 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

Hobbes, Thomas. [1651] 1991. *Leviathan*. Ed. Richard Tuck. Cambridge: Cambridge Press.

Moore, Alan and David Lloyd. 1988. *V for Vendetta*. New York: DC Comics.

Levi, Margaret. 1988. *Of Rule and Revenue*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Mahler, Gregory S. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Boston: Pearson.

Olson, Mancur. 1982. *The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. [1762]. 1997. *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings* Ed. Victor Gourevitch. Cambridge: Cambridge Press.

Sagan, Carl. 1996. *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Somerville, John, and Ronald E. Santoni (eds.). 1963. *Social and Political Philosophy*. New York: Anchor Books.

Starr, Isidore. 1978. *The Idea of Liberty: First Amendment Freedoms*. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Co.

Copyright Statement:

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Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.