

INTL 3300 Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall, 2009
The University of Georgia

Instructor: Murat Bayar
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Office: Candler Hall 304
Office hours: T/R 12:30-2:00 p.m. and by appointment

Section: 46-471
Class Time: T/R 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Location: Geography 154

Objectives

This course serves as an introduction to the subfield of comparative politics. Comparative politics is the systematic study and comparison of the world's political systems. The substance of the subfield includes, but is not limited to, state building, democracy, and interaction between political institutions and cultures in various polities. The major question that we are going to address throughout this course will be: "What is the reason for the differences between the levels of political and economic development around the world?" Addressing this question, we are going to draw on past and current examples from developing and developed political systems. Overall, this course aims to provide you with sound understanding of the methodology, theories/approaches, and the substance of the subfield of comparative politics.

Requirements

You are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and to make contribution to class discussion. Your participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your contribution. Clarification questions, while encouraged, do not count towards participation.

As part of your participation, you will choose/be assigned to one of the following eight regions: (1) North America; (2) Latin America; (3) Europe; (4) post-Soviet states; (5) Middle East and North Africa; (6) Sub-Saharan Africa; (7) East Asia; and (8) South Asia (including Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India) and Oceania (including Australia). The countries that fall into more than one category, such as Poland for regions 3 and 4, will be covered by all relevant students. You will be responsible for:

- (1) familiarizing yourself with the key economic and political parameters (e.g. political regime) of the countries in your region. For this purpose you can refer to CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>);
- (2) following the news in your region as it relates to our class discussion and giving briefs to class every week. The major sources for this purpose will be CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/>) and the Economist (online edition is available at the UGA library). Your contribution from other sources is also encouraged.

Your written assignment will be a 10 page (plus references), Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced term paper in which you will make a comparative analysis by referring to the theories/approaches of comparative politics. You are expected to give at least ten citations and use Chicago Manual of Style (available on eLearning Commons -eLC). The deadline to notify me about your paper topic is November 19th and to submit your completed paper is December 8th. Please both print-out and leave your term paper to my office and e-mail it to me (bayamurat@gmail.com).

There will be four pop quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz grade, but there will be no make-up quizzes. The quizzes and exams will comprise both the assigned readings and anything that is discussed in the class. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course, and the final exam will cover the second half of the course. Your overall course grade will be calculated as the following:

20% Participation

10% Quizzes

20% Midterm Exam

20% Final Exam

30% Term Paper

Grade Scale:

A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D	69-60
F	Below 60

Required Book

The following book is available for purchase at the UGA Bookstore. You may also order it from online sources.

O'Neil, Patrick H. and Ronald Rogowski (2006). *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. Second Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Other Rules

The use of cell phones or any other electronic device is not permitted during class meetings. You can use your laptop to take notes.

Students with disabilities who require individualized testing or other accommodations should discuss this with me within the first two weeks of the semester.

Students who will need to miss a class meeting to observe a religious holiday should make arrangements with me within the first two weeks of the semester.

If you feel that a quiz or exam was graded incorrectly, make a written appeal to me within ten days after that exam was returned. Students should keep copies of the assignments they turn in and retain graded quizzes until they receive their final course grade.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. If you cheat on exams, or plagiarize someone else’s work, you will fail this course. The UGA student honor code is available at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Assignments, articles, announcements, and grades can be accessed from eLearning Commons (<http://elc.uga.edu/>) (password for readings: weber).

Class Schedule

August 18 - Overview of the class

August 20 – What is comparative politics?

Chp. 1, in ERCP

August 25-27 – Structuralism

Marx & Engels, in ERCP chp. 8

Diamond, Jared M. 1997. Prologue, Yali’s Question, in *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, pp. 13-32. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (eLC)

September 1-3 – Functionalism

Luard, Evan. 1992. A System of Functional Cooperation. Mitrany, David. Functional Cooperation as the Road to Peace. (eLC)

Almond, Gabriel A. 1965. A Developmental Approach to Political Systems. *World Politics* 17: 183-214. (eLC)

Huntington, Samuel P. 1965. Political Development and Political Decay. *World Politics* 17: 386-430. (eLC)

September 8-10 – Culturalism

Giddens, Anthony. 2003. Introduction, in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Max Weber, vii-xxvi. org. 1905. London: Counterpoint. (eLC)

Kahn, Herman. 1979. The Confucian Ethic and Economic Growth, in *World Economic Development: 1979 and Beyond*, pp. 219-221. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (eLC)

Lipset, Seymour M. 1990. The Centrality of Political Culture. *Journal of Democracy* 1(4): 80-83. (eLC)

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture, in *The Interpretation of Cultures*, pp. 3-32. (eLC)

September 15-17 – Rational choice

Elster, Jon. 1986. Introduction, in *Rational Choice*, pp. 1-33. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher. (eLC)

“Can Game Theory Predict When Iran Will Get the Bomb?” New York Times, August 12, 2009. (eLC)

“Political Scientists debate ‘Theory of Rational Choice’,” New York Times, February 26, 2000. (eLC)

September 22-24 – Rational choice

Tversky, Amos, and Daniel Kahneman. 1986. Rational Choice and the Framing of Decisions. *The Journal of Business* 59(4): S251-S278. (eLC)

Cosmides, Leda, and John Tooby. 1994. Better than Rational: Evolutionary Psychology and the Invisible Hand. *American Economic Association: Papers and Proceedings* 84: 327-332. (eLC)

Monroe, Kristen, Michael C. Barton, and Ute Klingemann. 1990. Altruism and the Theory of Rational Action: An Analysis of Rescuers of Jews in Nazi-Europe. *Ethics* 101(1): 103-122. (eLC)

September 29-October 1 – Institutionalism

North, in ERCP chp. 4

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162(3859): 1243-1248. (eLC)

Akerlof, George A. 1970. The Market for Lemons: Qualitative Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 84(3): 488-500. (eLC)

October 6 – Constructivism

Chandra, Kanchan, et. al. 2001. Symposium: Cumulative Findings in the Study of Ethnic Politics. *APSA-CP Newsletter* 12(1): 7-25. (eLC)

Gilens, Martin. 1999. Introduction, in *Why Americans Hate Welfare*, pp.1-10. Chicago University Press. (eLC)

October 8 – Midterm exam

October 13-15 – Developmentalism

Rostow, Walt W. 1971. The Five Stages-of-Growth – A Summary, in *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*, pp. 4-16. 2nd edition, org. 1960. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (eLC)

Almond, Gabriel A., and Sidney Verba. 1963. An Approach to Political Culture, in *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*, pp. 3-42. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (eLC)

Wiarda, Howard J. 1983. Toward a Nonethnocentric Theory of Development: Alternative Conceptions from the Third World. *The Journal of Developing Areas* 17(4): 433-452. (eLC)

October 20-22 (withdrawal deadline) - Democratization

Zakaria, Schmitter & Karl, in ERCP chp. 6

Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. Democracy's Third Wave. *Journal of Democracy* 2(2): 12-34. (eLC)

October 27-29 – Democratization

Lijphart, in ERCP chp. 6

Linz, Juan J. 1990. The Perils of Presidentialism. *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69. (eLC)

Horowitz, Donald L. 1990. Comparing Democratic Systems. *Journal of Democracy* 1(4): 73-79. (eLC)

November 3-5 – Social capital and civil society

De Tocqueville, in ERCP chp. 7

Putnam, in ERCP chp. 6

Coleman, James S. 1988. Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital. *The American Journal of Sociology* 94: S5-S20. (eLC)

November 10-12 – Globalization

Garrett, Geoffrey. 2000. The Causes of Globalization. *Comparative Political Studies* 33(6/7): 941-991. (eLC)

Fukuyama, in ERCP chp. 10

Strange, Susan. 1995. The Limits of Politics. *Government and Opposition* 30(3): 291-311. (eLC)

November 17-19 (term paper topic due)– Globalization

Rodrik, Dani. 2006. Goodbye Washington Consensus, Hello Washington Confusion? *Journal of Economic Literature* 44(4): 973-987.

Galbraith, Nye, Florida, The Economist, in ERCP chp. 10

November 24-26 - Thanksgiving – No class

December 1 – Nations and society

The Economist, Huntington, Sen, in ERCP chp. 3

December 3 – Final class, review

December 8 – No class (Friday schedule in effect) (term paper due)

December 15 – Final exam, 8:00-11:00 a.m.