

INTL 3300: Comparative Political Analysis

Fall 2007

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Office: Candler B02

Office hours: MW 10:00-11:00

& by appointment

Section #: 17-639

MWF 1:25-2:15

Chemistry 551

Course description

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of comparative politics. As such, it is intended to provide students (particularly international affairs majors) with the necessary foundation for pursuing further study within this field.

As its name suggests, comparative politics involves the comparison of different political systems using social scientific methods. In the modern era in which we live, this essentially means comparing the politics of different countries or nation-states. Our primary objective will be to explain and understand the differences and similarities which we observe among national political systems.

Throughout the course of the semester, students will be exposed to a variety of theoretical concepts and perspectives which can be used to explain and understand politics cross-nationally. The validity of these theories and concepts will be tested against the concrete historical experiences of a wide array of countries and regions, including those of the advanced industrialized democracies (i.e., North America, Western Europe, Japan), communist and post-communist societies (i.e., China, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics), and the developing world (i.e., Latin America, Africa, and Asia).

We will also explore a number of important themes and topics, including, but by no means limited to: the origins and nature of the modern state; the politics of ethnic identity; nationalism; political attitudes and ideologies; the effects of cultural and institutional variation; the process of democratization; comparative political economy; and the consequences of globalization.

Policies

Attendance

Attendance will not constitute a formal component of the grade you receive for this course. In other words, you will not be required to attend class sessions. You are all adults. I leave it to you to decide how you spend your time and, perhaps more importantly, the money (or HOPE scholarship credits) which you (or your parents) have

spent on the tuition for this course. That being said, I encourage you to attend as many class sessions as possible since doing so will be an essential ingredient for performing well in this course. Indeed, a majority of the material which you will be tested on will come directly from class lectures.

While attendance is not mandatory, I will be keeping an attendance record. I have two reasons for this. First, taking attendance each class session will help me to learn students' names. Second, I will use attendance records as an informal measure of a student's performance in determining border-line grades at the end of the semester.

Reading

You will also be expected to keep up with the assigned readings. This will be a relatively reading intensive course. The readings and lectures are designed to reinforce each other. You will get more out of each lecture if you have done the required reading before coming to class. Lectures will put specific readings in perspective, helping you to see "the big picture." **Attending lectures and keeping up with assigned readings are indispensable if you wish to succeed in this course.**

Participation

In-class participation will not constitute a formal component of the grade you receive for this course. However, I encourage and expect each of you to participate and contribute to class discussions. I will use your record of participation as another informal measure of performance in determining border-line grades at the end of the semester. Your participation will be judged in terms of the *quality*, not the *quantity*, of your contributions.

Quizzes

There will be at least three unannounced quizzes. These quizzes are intended to function as a device for encouraging attendance and checking to see whether you are keeping up with assigned readings as well as giving you an informal indicator of your performance in the course. Your top two quiz grades will be factored into your final course grade.

Exams

Three exams will be given—two midterms and a final. Exams will consist of a certain amount of objective material (multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions) along with one or two essay questions. All exams will be cumulative. You will only have two hours (out of the three allotted) to complete the final exam.

Paper

I will also require you to write a brief research paper that attempts to explain some observable set of differences in terms of a significant type of political outcome between at least two or three different countries using the theoretical tools provided by the course. I will provide you with more detailed guidelines for the paper at a later date. Late submissions of paper assignments will be penalized one half of a grade each day that the assignment is late.

Grading

Your final grade for the entire course will be determined according to the following distribution:

Term paper	15%
Quizzes	10%
First exam	20%
Second exam	25 %
Final exam	30 %

Absences

No make-up quizzes or exams will be administered except under the gravest of circumstances and only with proper documentation (i.e., proof). Only the following types of situations will be deemed grave enough to warrant a make-up exam: (1) a *serious* illness (as documented by a visit to a physician; common colds, allergies, etc., don't count), (2) the hospitalization of a member of your immediate family (i.e., your mom, dad, brother, or sister), (3) a death in the family. Make-up exams will be administered during the last hour of the three hour time period allotted for the final exam. You must notify me of your intent to take a make-up exam on the day of, or within a few days of, the exam you missed. You must also provide the necessary documentation explaining your absence at the same time as you give notice of your intent to take a make-up exam.

Academic honesty

All students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the University's academic honesty policy. This policy, titled "A Culture of Honesty," can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf>. Any and all instances of suspected cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academically objectionable behavior will be referred to the appropriate University authorities for immediate disciplinary action.

Communication

I encourage all of you to come see me during my office hours, especially if you are having any difficulty grasping the material or coming up with a paper topic. You can also communicate with me by e-mail.

Required texts & other readings

You will be required to purchase the following books:

Patrick H. O'Neil. 2007. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 2nd edition (W. W. Norton & Company).

Ted C. Lewellen. 1995. *Dependency & Development: An Introduction to the Third World* (Bergin & Garvey).

There is also a course packet containing additional readings which can be purchased at Bel-Jean's.

Students should also make a concerted effort to stay abreast of the news since we will be applying what we learn to current events. I recommend subscribing to *The Christian Science Monitor's* daily e-mail summary which includes a "World" section. You can sign up for it free of charge by going to www.csmonitor.com. Other good sources of news include *The New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) and *The Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com).

Course outline

The following is a rough outline of the topics which I hope to cover during the course of the semester. The schedule of readings is tentative. I reserve the right to alter this schedule, meaning some readings may be dropped while others not listed here may be added. Changes to the schedule will be announced in class, so you should make every effort to attend regularly in order to stay informed of the readings for which you are responsible.

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| Week 1 (Aug 17): | Introduction & course overview |
| Week 2 (Aug 20, 22, 24): | What is comparative politics? |
| • O'Neil, Chapter 1 | |
| Week 3 (Aug 27, 29, 31): | The state |
| • O'Neil, Chapter 2 | |
| • Herbst "War and the State in Africa" (BJP) | |
| Week 4 (Sept 5 & 7): | Ethnicity, nationalism, attitudes & ideologies |
| • O'Neil, Chapter 3 | |
| • Fukuyama, "The End of History?" (BJP) | |
| Week 5 (Sept 10, 12, 14): | Political economy |
| • O'Neil, Chapter 4 | |
| • Lindblom, "The Market as Prison" & "The Privileged Position of Business" (BJP) | |
| Week 6 (Sept 17, 19, 21): | Political economy (continued) |
| • Alesina et al., "Why Doesn't the United States Have a European-Style Welfare State" (BJP) | |
| Week 7 (Sept 24, 26, 28): | Authoritarianism & Totalitarianism |
| • O'Neil, Chapter 5 | |
| Week 8 (Oct 1, 3, 5): | Democracy |
| • O'Neil, Chapter 6 | |
| • Schmitter & Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not" (BJP) | |

First exam—Wednesday, Oct 3

- Week 9 (Oct 8, 10, 12):** **Advanced democracies**
- O’Neil, Chapter 7
- Week 10 (Oct 15, 17, 19):** **Advanced democracies (continued)**
- Putnam, “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital” (BJP)
- Week 11 (Oct 22 & 24):** **Communist & post-communist countries**
- O’Neil, Chapter 8
- Week 12 (Oct 29, 31, Nov 2):** **Theories of development**
- O’Neil, Chapter 9
 - Lewellen, Chapters 1-3
- Week 13 (Nov 5, 7, 9):** **Less developed & newly industrializing countries**
- Lewellen, Chapters 4-6
- Week 14 (Nov 12, 14, 16):** **LDCs & NICs (continued)**
- Lewellen, Chapters 7-10

Second exam—Monday, Nov 12

- Week 15 (Nov 19):** **Thanksgiving break**
- Week 16 (Nov 26, 28, 30):** **Globalization**
- O’Neil, Chapter 10
 - Galbraith, “A Perfect Crime: Inequality in the Age of Globalization” (BJP)
 - Movie (TBA)
- Week 17 (Dec. 3, 4, 5):** **Course wrap-up & review**

Final exam—Friday, Dec 14, 12:00-3:00 PM