

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
INTL 3300
Summer 2009

Nitya Singh

Email: nitya@uga.edu

Office Hours: M/W 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
or by appointment

Section: 22-998

Class Timing: 11:45 – 2:00 Mon to Fri

Location: Caldwell 105

WebCT Link: Online Enrolment

Course Overview

This course is intended to provide an analytic foundation for a study of Comparative Politics. By the end of this course you will not only be aware of what the field of Comparative Politics encompasses, but also will be aware of the methodology adopted in comparative politics for cross country and within country analysis. The objective of this course is to introduce you to important ideas of comparative politics, make you aware of major trends in global politics and help you develop analytical and critical thinking ability with respect to global issues so that you have an unbiased and wholesome understanding of the major problems and challenges of our times.

Materials

There are two required texts available for purchase at campus bookstores or through any online vendor:

1. Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context. Authors. Carol Ann Drogus and Stephen Orvis (**D&S**)
2. Readings in Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas. Mark Kesselman (**Kesselman**)

An important component in understanding the theories in comparative politics is being able to relate them to current political events happening across the world. Therefore in this class we will regularly be discussing world events and as students you should be aware of them. I would encourage that you should daily read a major newspaper (New York Times, US News etc). Another resource that you can use are websites of major news networks. (www.cnn.com, www.bbc.co.uk/news, abcnews.go.com etc.)

Course Requirements

The class will involve a combination of lectures, assignments, discussions and presentations. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you regularly attend class, stay current with the Reading Assignments, and regularly read news coverage of current events. The class also has a WebCT link and therefore you are encouraged to regularly check the link for assigned readings as well as other notes.

Grades, Assignments and Evaluation

The final grade in the class will be cumulative and will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The course letter grade assignment is mentioned below.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

- (350) – Cumulative Final Examination
- (250) – Midterm Examination
- (150) – Policy Analysis Paper
- (150) – Country Presentation by Groups
- (50) – 1 Quiz
- (50) - Class participation and attendance

A = 93-100%	A = 930-1000
A- = 90-92%	A- = 900-929
B+ = 87-89%	B+ = 870-899
B = 83-86%	B = 830-869
B- = 80-82%	B- = 800-829
C+ = 77-79%	C+ = 770-799
C = 73-76%	C = 730-769
C- = 70-72%	C- = 700-729
D = 60-69%	D = 600-699
F = below 60%	F = 599 & below

Exams (60% or 600 Points)

The mid-term exam will occur after the major theories of Comparative Politics have been taught in week 2 and will consist of essay type, multiple choices, fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The final exam will be cumulative and will have the same format as the mid-term exam. There will be no make-up examinations for the mid-term as well as the final, without medical documentation explaining the absence.

Written Assignments (15% or 150 Points)

In this course students are expected to write one paper of 8-10 pages each in 12 points, double space, Times New Roman Format. The objective of this paper is to enable the student to develop an understanding of the theories in Comparative Politics and how they can be used to facilitate our understanding of the current global political structure and how these issues can be tackled by policy makers across the world.

In this paper the student is expected to pick up any topic or global issue that he/she feels is of importance and explain the in the paper the global issue, why it is important and put forward his/her recommendation on how tackle these global issues. The choice of topic will depend on

the student however you are encouraged to talk to me regarding the selection of the topic. Additional details regarding this assignment will be further provided in class.

Group Country Presentation (15% or 150 Points)

As a part of this assignment all the students will be divided into groups of 8 students. Each group will be assigned a country and will present a report on the social, economic and political conditions in that country. The group is also expected to analyze the foreign policy of the country on which they are presenting on and evaluate the factors that have influenced the development of the foreign policy. The groups are also expected to present on what foreign policy that particular country has towards the United States, and what should be the US foreign policy when dealing with these states. The expected duration of the presentation will be approximately 40-45 minutes and the group will then be subject to questions from the class and the Instructor. These country presentations will also be used as case studies during the midterm as well as the final exams. The countries on which the students will be presenting on are:

1. Brazil
2. Russia
3. India
4. China (BRIC Countries)
5. Nigeria
6. Iran and
7. North Korea.

We will of course be discussing about the United States throughout the semester and hence I will not ask you to present on the U.S.

Quiz (5% or 50 Points)

We will also have 1 quiz during the course of the semester and the quiz will be worth 50 points. This quiz will be held at the end of the third week and will be based on the readings from the book by **Mark Kesselman: Readings in Comparative Politics**. The format of the quiz will be a combination of essay type, multiple choices, fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The date of the quiz is mentioned in the course schedule and there will be no make-up of these quizzes without medical documentation explaining the absence.

Class Participation and Attendance (5% or 50 Points)

You are expected to participate in class and interact with me as well as other students on topics that we discuss in class. I will also keep attendance records for the course and attendance will be taken regularly in class. If you have more than 3 unexcused absences during the semester you will be penalized on your class participation and attendance grades.

Absences will be excused only in case of illness, family emergency, or any legitimate academic or university obligation. In case of absence due to illness a doctor's note from the University

Health Center or your doctor would be required. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to let me know of the circumstances of your absence, prior to the class period if at all possible. Your class participations grades will be determined based on your attendance in class as well as the quality of the presentation made by your groups on the country of your choice.

Academic Honesty

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and every student is expected to adhere to the University of Georgia policy on academic honesty. If caught cheating on exams, turning in someone else's written work, or plagiarizing another's work you will fail this course. For a detailed discussion of the University's policies on academic honesty, see:

http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm

I would like to emphasize that you should not assume what any of the policies imply. If you are in any doubt regarding any of the course policies I encourage you to come and talk to me. Furthermore you should always check with me whether it is acceptable to work together with another student on a project or assignment.

Students with Special Needs

If you are aware of any factors in your life that may hinder your ability to learn up to your potential in this course, please notify me at once. If these factors are recognized disabilities under the ADA, please contact me during the first week of class so that we can arrange to accommodate any special needs. You may also wish to contact the Office of Disability Services at 542 8719, and/or the Learning Disability Center at 542 4589.

Note on Grading Methods and Syllabus

All tests and papers will be graded blind by the instructor. If a student would like to appeal the grading of a question, he or she should submit to the instructor his or her grievance in writing, explaining why he or she feels that the *given response* was inadequately assessed. The status of students' Hope Scholarship, potential entrance into law school / grad school, or allowance from their parents will not be taken into consideration in grading.

In addition this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Structure of Course:

Week 1: The State - In the first week we will discuss about the modern state. i.e What is a state, what makes a state (Citizens) and who they are and finally how does a state develop its identity.

Week 2: Political Development - In the second week we will discuss about political development and the internal structures of a state, i.e. the institutions of a state. Some of the topics covered would be:

- The various theories on Political Development by Rustow, Lipset, Karl Deutsch, Almond and Coleman, Lucian Pye and David Apter.
- What is Political Culture? What is Culture? Does it Matter or not?
- What are the different types of governments, What is democracy, authoritarianism, how does democracy come about, what is a regime, how do coups take place, how does political development take place, is there a correlation between political and economic development.
- What is first world and third world? How did the third world come into existence etc.

Week 3: Economic Development and Globalization - In the third week we will discuss about economic development, the role of globalization and what is the relationship if any between development and globalization as well as the various facets of development.

- During this week we will focus on topics such as what is capitalism, is capitalism good or bad, What is Marxism, Socialism, Dependency Theory, Role of MNC's in global what is political economy.
- What is economic development, how does globalization promote economic development as well as what are the negative influences of globalization.
- Theories of Change in Latin America, India, Africa and East Asia
- Is there a global model of development? Does an indigenous model of development exist or not?

Week 4: The Future and Challenges to the Modern State - In the last week we will discuss about the challenges to the state, as well as what can be considered as the future agenda of states and how they should deal with them.

Week 1: Understanding Comparative Politics

Drop Period end: July 7

Monday 7/6: Introduction to the class

Chapter 1: Introduction (**D&S**)

Francis Fukuyama: The End of History (**Kesselman**)

Tuesday 7/7:

Chapter 2: The Modern State **(D&S)**

Anthony Marx: Making Race and Nation **(Kesselman)**

Susan Strange: The Retreat of the State – The Diffusion of Power. **(Kesselman)**

Saskia Sassen: The State and Globalization. **(Kesselman)**

Wednesday 7/8:

Chapter 3: States and Citizens **(D&S)**

Robert Rotberg: Failed States in a World of Terror. **(Kesselman)**

John Rapsley: The New Middle Ages. **(Kesselman)**

Thursday 7/9:

Chapter 4: State and Identity **(D&S)**

Samuel Huntington: The Clash of Civilizations? **(Kesselman)**

Jerry Muller: Us and Them **(Kesselman)**

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart: Cultural Obstacles to Equal Representation. **(Kesselman)**

Seyla Benhabib: The Claims of Culture.

Walker Connor: A Nation is a nation, Is an Ethnic Group...**(Kesselman)**

Vali Nasr: Lessons from the Muslim World. **(Kesselman)**

Friday 7/10:

Group Country Presentation 1

Chapter 5: The State and the Market **(D&S)**

Week 2: Political Development, Political Culture and Political Systems: Types and Forms

Monday 7/13: Political Development and Political Culture

Readings to be assigned by instructor on WebCt

Tuesday 7/14:

Group Country Presentation 2

Chapter 6: Political Institutions: Governing (**D&S**)

Chapter 8: Authoritarian Institutions (**D&S**)

Samuel Huntington: The Third Wave – Democratization in the Late 20th Century (**Kesselman**)

Azar Gat: The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers (**Kesselman**)

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism. (**Kesselman**)

Juan Linz: The Perils of Presidentialism. (**Kesselman**)

Wednesday 7/15:

Group Country Presentation 3

Chapter 9: Regime Change: Coups, Revolutions and Democratization. (**D&S**)

Amartya Sen: Democracy as a Universal Value (**Kesselman**)

Robert Dahl: Polyarchy, Participation and Opposition (**Kesselman**)

Philippe Schmitter and Terry Karl: What Democracy is and is not. (**Kesselman**)

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan: Toward Consolidated Democracy. (**Kesselman**)

Thursday 7/16:

Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder: Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength and War. (**Kesselman**)

Michael McFaul: Are new Democracies War Prone? (**Kesselman**)

Valarie Bunce: Rethinking Democratization – Lessons from the Post-communist Experience. (**Kesselman**)

Guillermo O'Donnell: Illusions about Consolidation. (**Kesselman**)

Thomas Carothers: The End of the Transition Paradigm. (**Kesselman**)

Friday 7/17: Midterm Exam

Week 3: Globalization and Economic Development

Monday 7/20:

Group Country Presentation 4

Chapter 10: Globalization, Deindustrialization and Development. **(D&S)**

Peter Gourevitch: Political Economy. **(Kesselman)**

David Coates: Models of Capitalism in the New World Order. **(Kesselman)**

Tuesday 7/21: Capitalism, Marxism, Socialism, Dependency Theory

Chapter 11: Public Policy When Markets Fail: Welfare, Health and the Environment. **(D&S)**

Peter Hall and David Soskice: An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism. **(Kesselman)**

Marxism and Socialism – Readings to be assigned online on WebCT.

Dependency Theory – Readings to be assigned online on WebCT.

Wednesday 7/22:

Group Country Presentation 5

Chapter 12: Policies and Politics of inclusion and Clashing Values. **(D&S)**

Role of MNC's and TNC's in Global Political Economy – Readings to be assigned online on WebCT.

Thursday 7/23:

Robert Ross and Anita Chan: From North-South to South – South **(Kesselman)**

Joseph Stiglitz: Globalism's Discontents. **(Kesselman)**

Theories of change in Latin America, India, East Asia and Africa. Is there is global or an indigenous model of development. – Readings to be assigned online on WebCT.

Friday 7/24: Quiz

Group Country Presentation 6

Week 4: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas

Monday 7/27:

Chapter 7: Political Institutions: Participation and Representation **(D&S)**

Adam Przeworski and M. Wallerstein: Democratic Capitalism at the Crossroads. **(Kesselman)**

Sidney Tarrow: A Movement Society. **(Kesselman)**

Robert Putnam: Bowling Alone – America’s Declining Social Capital.

Tuesday 7/28:

Group Country Presentation 7

Fareed Zakaria: The Future of Freedom – Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad.
(Kesselman)

Bill McKibben: An Alternative to Progress. **(Kesselman)**

Jeffrey Sachs: Common Wealth – Economics for a Crowded Planet. **(Kesselman)**

Wednesday 7/29: Conclusion

Thursday 7/30: Last Day of Classes (Review Session)

Policy Papers due

Friday 7/6: Final Exams