

**International Affairs 3300**  
**Introduction to Comparative Politics**  
Spring, 2008  
University of Georgia

Instructor: Dwight Wilson  
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Class Meeting: MWF 10:10-11:00, SLC 253  
Office Hours: TBA, Baldwin 101C

**Objectives**

The purpose of this class is to give students an introduction into the major conceptual and methodological issues in the subdiscipline of comparative politics.

**Required Texts**

- Patrick O'Neil. *Essentials of Comparative Politics* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (ECP). ISBN 0-393-92876-4
- Patrick O'Neil & Ronald Rogowski, eds. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Reader). ISBN 0-393-92950-7
- O'Neil et al. *Cases in Comparative Politics* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Cases). ISBN 0-393-92943-4
- Periodic readings on WebCT.

Note that readings are supplemental; their purpose is to give insight into a variety of perspectives, and class discussions will not always repeat what they say. Students are, however, responsible for the concepts and themes contained in them.

**Evaluation**

Students will be assigned final grades on the following basis:

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| ➤ 2 Exams (25% each)         | 50% |
| ➤ Reading Quizzes            | 10% |
| ➤ Writing Assignment         | 20% |
| ➤ Attendance & Participation | 20% |

Makeup exams will only be administered with a documented excuse at the end of the semester. There are no exceptions to this requirement. The average of all quizzes will substitute for excused quizzes.

Note that attendance and participation are a formal chunk of the grade. Note further that shambling in late, working crosswords, sleeping, and staring at the internet (among other stuff) will seriously and adversely affect this chunk.

Detailed guidelines for papers will be posted on WebCT. Papers are due at the hour specified; those received after that hour are considered late.

### Odds & Ends

Announcements will sometimes be made through email. Students are responsible for regularly checking UGA accounts.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Pay particular attention to the bits about plagiarism. In accordance with university policies, any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be immediately referred to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction for further action.

### Tentative Course Outline

As usual, this schedule is subject to changes announced to the class according to our progress or the whim of the instructor.

#### Jan. 7—11: Introduction

#### Readings

Day 1: Course Overview

This syllabus; there’s a quiz!

Day 2: Comparative Politics

ECP Ch. 1  
Reader Ch. 1, Lichbach & Zuckerman

Day 3: Comparative Method

Reader Ch. 1, Lave & March

Day 4: Cont.

WebCT, Perestroika

#### Jan. 14—16: The State

Day 1: Formation & Legitimacy

ECP Ch. 2  
Reader Ch. 2, Weber  
Reader Ch. 2, Herbst

Day 2: Constitutions & Institutions

Reader Ch. 2, Rotberg

#### Jan. 18—28: Nations & Ideas

Day 1: Ideologies

ECP Ch. 3  
Reader Ch.3, Hobsbawm

### January 21: MLK Day

Day 2: Ideologies Cont.

Day 3: Political Culture

WebCT, Bates  
WebCT, Chalmers

**Jan. 30—Feb. 1: Political Economy**

Day 1: Markets & Property

ECP Ch. 4  
Reader Ch. 4, Smith  
Reader Ch. 4, Ricardo

Day 2: Political Economic Systems

Reader Ch. 4, Alesina et al.

**Feb. 4—11: Authoritarianism & Totalitarianism**

Day 1: Definitions

ECP, Ch. 5  
Reader Ch. 5, Linz & Stepan

Day 2: Transitions to Democracy

Reader Ch. 5, Diamond

Day 3: Case Study Mexico

Cases Ch. 10

Day 4: Mexico Cont.

**Feb. 13—20: Democracy**

Day 1: Defining Democracy

ECP: Ch. 6  
Reader Ch. 6, Zakaria  
Reader Ch. 7, Tocqueville

Day 2: Liberal Democracy

Reader Ch. 6, Schmitter & Karl

Day 3: Case Study Britain

Cases Ch. 2

Day 4: Britain, Cont.

**Feb. 22—27: Advanced Democracies**

Day 1: Definitions

ECP: Ch. 7

Day 2: Social Capital

Reader Ch. 7, Putnam

Day 3: Civil Society

Reader Ch. 7, Berman

**February 29: Midterm**

**March 3—7: Representation**

Day 1: Electoral Systems

Reader Ch. 7, Huber & Powell

**March 4: Withdrawal Deadline**

Day 2: Party Systems

Reader Ch. 7, Duverger

Day 3: Interest Representation

**March 10—14: Spring Break**

**March 17—21: Communism**

Day 1: Communist Ideology

ECP: Ch. 8  
Reader Ch. 8, Marx & Engels

Day 2: Communism in Practice

Day 3: Communist Countries

Reader Ch. 8, Przeworski

**March 24—28: Postcommunism & Russia**

Day 1: Postcommunist Studies

Reader Ch. 8, Bunce

Day 2: Case Study Russia

Cases Ch. 6

Day 3: Russia, Cont.

**March 31: Test 2**

**April 2—4: China**

Day 1: Maoism & Postmaoism

Cases Ch. 7

Day 2: Case Study China

Reader Ch. 8, Pye  
Reader Ch. 8, Buruma

**April 7—14: Developing Political Systems**

Day 1: Modernization

ECP Ch. 9  
Reader Ch. 7, Lipset  
Reader Ch. 9, Collier & Gunning

Day 2: Democracy and Development

Reader Ch. 9, Barro  
Reader Ch. 9, Przeworski

Day 3: Case Study India

Cases Ch. 8

Day 4: India Cont.

**April 16—21: Globalism & The End of Isms**

Day 1: Globalization

ECP Ch. 10

Day 2: Endism

Reader Ch. 10, Fukuyama  
WebCT, Huntington

Day 3: Clashes

Reader Ch. 3, Huntington  
Reader Ch. 3, Sen

**April 23—28: Political Violence**

Day 1: Revolutions

ECP Ch. 11  
Reader Ch. 11, Skocpol

Day 2: Terrorism

Reader Ch. 11, Crenshaw  
Reader Ch. 11, Margalit & Buruma

Day 3: The Last Day

**April 28: Literature Review Due, 11 AM**  
**April 30: Test 2, 8AM**