

Political Science 100: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Jeremy Wallace
Autumn 2011

Time: MW 2:30 – 4:18pm Office Hours: T 9:30 – 11:30am
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What do they know of England who only England know? – Rudyard Kipling

Comparisons are central to understanding politics. The objectives of this course are: (1) to introduce the beginning student to differences in the government and politics of various countries of the world; (2) to examine politics comparatively, that is, in terms of what the experience of one can tell us about others; and (3) to apply this knowledge to current political developments.

Course Requirements

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Participation & Attendance | 10% |
| 2. Two Briefs (10% each) | 20% |
| 3. Midterm Exam | 25% |
| 4. Cumulative Final Exam | 45% |

Participation & Attendance – As stated in the Format section below, class sessions will combine lectures and discussions. In order for discussions to thrive, your active presence is required. Reading quizzes will be used if discussion betrays ignorance of the assignments.

Briefs – Relate academic work that we have read to a particular piece of news. Write a one page, single-spaced brief to a high government official (in the US or elsewhere) describing your thoughts on the event and how the work that we have studied illuminates it or should be discounted in light of the event. Attach the relevant news story to the brief.

Midterm Exam – This exam will cover all material from the lectures and readings that occurs prior to the exam.

Cumulative Final Exam – This exam will cover material from the entirety of the course, although the exam will be biased towards topics discussed after the Midterm Exam.

Grading

Grading will be based upon (a) accuracy of factual information; (b) ability to synthesize the appropriate evidence, both theoretical and empirical, from all parts of the course not just rehashing the texts; (c) judgment in separating the important from the trivial, keeping on the subject, critically evaluating all assumptions [including your own and mine]; and (d) effective expression—organization, choice of words, basic grammar, etc.

93-100	A	80-82.99	B-	67-69.99	D+
90-92.99	A-	77-79.99	C+	63-66.99	D
87-89.99	B+	73-76.99	C	60-62.99	D-
83-86.99	B	70-72.99	C-	Below 59.99	E

Format

The class format will be that of a combined lecture-seminar. Sessions will typically include extensive remarks by the instructor – remarks designed to orient the student and to provide a context within which the readings for that day can be understood. Sessions will also include periodic discussion – as a whole class and in smaller groups – of both points made in the lecture and of the readings assigned for that day. All students are encouraged to ask questions and raise points of interest during our sessions.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

GEC

2. Breadth. 2. Social Science

4. Diversity. 2. International Issues (western/non-western)

Schedule of Readings – Available on carmen.osu.edu

Week 01 – On Comparative Politics

Sep 26, 28

[1] Robert Bates. 1997. “Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy,” *PS: Political Science and Politics*. pp. 166-169.

[2] George Packer 2006. “The Megacity.” *The New Yorker*.

[3] Timur Kuran 2011. “West is Best?” *Foreign Affairs*. pp. 1-4.

[4] José Alemán & David Yang 2011. “A Duration Analysis of Democratic Transitions and Backslides.” *Comparative Political Studies*. pp. 1123–1151.

Week 02 – Nations, States, and State-Building

Oct 3, 5

- [1] Richard Bean 1973. “War and the Birth of the Nation State,” *Journal of Economic History*. pp. 203-221.
- [2] Ernst Haas 1986. “What is Nationalism and Why Should We Study It?” *International Organization*. pp. 707-744.
- [3] Doner, Ritchie, & Slater 2005. “Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective.” *International Organization*. pp. 327–361.

Week 03 – Regime Type I. On Democracy

Oct 10, 12

- [1] Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl 1991. “What Democracy Is....and Is Not,” *Journal of Democracy*. pp. 75-88.
- [2] Amartya Sen 1999. “Democracy as a Universal Value,” *Journal of Democracy*. pp. 3-17.
- [3] Donald L. Horowitz 2003. “Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision-Makers,” *Journal of Democracy*. pp. 115-127.

Week 04 – Regime Type II. Modernization Theory

Oct 17, 19

- [1] Mancur Olson 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy and Development,” *American Political Science Review*. pp. 567-576.
- [2] Adam Przeworski & Fernando Limongi 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts.” *World Politics*. pp. 155-183.
- [3] Larry Diamond 2003. “Can the Whole World Become Democratic?” pp. 1-36.

Week 05 – Regime Type III. Hybrid Regimes

Oct 24, 26

- [1] Barbara Geddes 1999. “What do we know about Democratization after 20 Years?” *Annual Review of Political Science*. pp. 115-144.
- [2] Tarek Masoud 2011. “The Road to and from Liberation Square.” *Journal of Democracy*. pp. 21-34.
- [3] Ross 2009. “Oil and Democracy Revisited.” *Manuscript*. pp. 1-50.

Week 06 – Midterm and Collective Action

Oct 31 – Midterm Examination

Week 06 – Midterm and Collective Action (cont)

Nov 2 – Collective Action & Participation

- [1] Mancur Olson 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Introduction & Chapter 1. pp. 1-52.

Week 07 – Violence

Nov 7, 9

Nov 9. First Brief Due.

- [1] Charles Tilly 2003. *The Politics of Collective Violence. Chapter 1: Varieties of Violence*. pp. 1–25.
- [2] James Fearon & David Laitin 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” *American Political Science Review*. pp. 75-90.
- [3] Stathis Kalyvas & Laia Balcells 2010. “International System and Technologies of Rebellion.” *American Political Science Review*. pp. 415-429.

Week 08 – USA

Nov 14, 16

- [1] Anthony Downs 1957. “An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy,” *Journal of Political Economy*. pp. 135-150.

To be announced later depending on current events

Week 09 – China

Nov 21, 23

- [1] Dali Yang 2006. “Economic Transformation and Its Political Discontents in China: Authoritarianism, Unequal Growth, and the Dilemmas of Political Development,” *Annual Review of Political Science*. pp. 143-64.
- [2] Susan Shirk 2007. *China: Fragile Superpower*. “China’s Weakness, America’s Danger,” pp. 255-70.

Week 10 – Conclusions

Nov 28, 30

Nov 30. Second Brief Due.

Final Examination

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 1:30 – 3:18pm

<http://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/AU11Finals.pdf>