



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

### **Draft Syllabus**

## Comparative Political Systems (GOVT\_ 040) July 6<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Meeting Times:	3:15- 5:15 PM; MTWR
Meeting Location:	ICC 119
Instructor:	A. Farid Tookhy ( <a href="mailto:at449@georgetown.edu">at449@georgetown.edu</a> )
Office Hours:	TBD

### **Course Description**

As an introduction to comparative politics, the course will focus on helping students get familiar with the basic themes, concepts and methods in the comparative study of political systems. The course is themed around transformations in the organization of power, particularly the rise of modern territorial state, dynamics of state-society relations and challenges to the territorial state. With this in mind, the course will generally cover the following topics: Approaches and Methods in Comparative Politics; States and Nations; Democratic and Non-Democratic Regimes; Political Violence; Political Economy; Globalization; Conclusion: Political Order and Political Decay.

Each class meeting will be organized in such a way as to strike the right balance between proper communication of key concepts, theories and debates and active engagement of students with course materials. In order to achieve this objective, each meeting will include an hour of lecture followed by a fifty-minute seminar/discussion session, which will allow students to participate in a structured focused discussion of the topic being covered. Two full sessions will be allocated to each of the seven topics identified above, which allows a decent amount of time for both lecture and student participation on each topic, with the remaining two sessions reserved for mid-term and final exams.

### **Course Objectives**

The general objective of the course is to help students get familiar with major approaches, concepts and substantive issues in the comparative study of political systems. The emphasis

will be on enhancing students' comprehension of key theoretical perspectives and debates in the comparative politics by situating these debates in their proper historical context. Lectures, readings, and participation in class discussions will help students acquire the ability to understand and critically analyze the following debates in comparative politics: transformations of the state; the role of violence in political processes and modern state formation; the impacts of ideas, religion, and culture on political development; the relationship between capitalism and democracy; the natures of different types of regimes; the role of political parties and civil society play in democratic development; and the challenges of globalization for the territorial state.

## Requirements

Course assignments have been selected with the intention of ensuring adequate breadth and depth in covering each topic. The required text for the course is *Essentials of Comparative Politics* by Patrick H. O'Neil (Third Edition). Supplementary readings, including articles and book chapters, will be assigned to ensure a deeper understanding of each topic and to help generate class discussion.

Class attendance is mandatory and students are expected to come to class having read all assigned materials. Full preparation for each class meeting is crucial given the fact that the course is condensed into five weeks, as opposed to a normal semester.

Final grade components include: classroom participation (20%), a mid-term exam (40%) and a final exam (40%).

### July 6: Introduction: The Organization of Power

- O'Neil, Chapter 1: Introduction, pp. 1-20;
- Francis Fukuyama, *The Origins of Political Order*, Chapters 2-6 (pp. 26-96) (posted on Blackboard)

### July 7: The Rise of Modern State

- O'Neil, Chapter 2: State, pp. 21-46;
- Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States, A.D. 990-1990* (Oxford, U.K.: Wiley-Blackwell, 1990), pp. 16-33;

### July 8: Nations and Nationalism

- O'Neil, Chapter 3: Nations and Society, pp. 47-57;
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (London and New York: Verso, 1991), pp. 1-46;
- Eric Hobsbawm, "Nationalism" in Patrick O Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (New York: Norton, 2006), pp. 70-79.

### July 9: The State during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Max Weber, “Bureaucracy” in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (eds.) *From Max Weber* (New York: Oxford University Press 1976) pp. 96-204 and 232-244.
- T. H. Marshall, “Citizenship and Social Class” in Gershon Shafir (ed.), *The Citizenship Debates: A Reader* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1998) pp. 93- 110.
- James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Introduction and Chapters 3 and 6

### July 13: Political Ideologies

- Terence Ball and Richard Dagger (eds.) *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* (New York: Longman, 2011), pp. 4-10, 11-13, 63-65, 137-138, 189-190, 215-216, 287-288, 327- 329, 405-407.
- O’Neil, Chapter 3: Nations and Society, pp. 58-76;
- Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in Patrick O Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (New York: Norton, 2006), pp. 353-366.

### July 14: Revolutions and Mass Politics

- O’Neil, Chapter 10: Political Violence, pp. 267-73;
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, Preface, pp. 1- 33 and pp. 161-173;

### July 15: Parties, Party Systems and Political Parties

- O’Neil, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, pp. 128-29;
- Giovanni Sartori, *Parties and Party Systems* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1976). pp. 119-130.
- Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, “Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction” in S. M. Lipset and S. Rokkan (eds.), *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives* (New York: The Free Press, 1967), pp.1-33.

### July 16: Democracy and Democratization

- O’Neil, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, pp. 109-118;
- Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1971), pp. 1-16.
- Seymour Martin Lipset, “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy,” *The American Political Science Review* vol. 53, pp. 69-105.
- Samuel Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990), pp. 1-33.

### **July 20: Midterm Exam**

### July 21: Non-Democratic Regimes

- O’Neil, Chapter 6: Nondemocratic Regimes, pp. 141-66;
- Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, “Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe” in Patrick O’Neill and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, pp. 168-181.
- Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism” *Journal of Democracy* vol. 13, no. 2 (April 2002), pp. 51-65.
- Thomas Carothers, “End of the Transition Paradigm,” *Journal of Democracy* (January 2002), pp. 21.

#### July 22: Civil Society and Democracy

- Robert D. Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Chapter 6: “Social Capital and Institutional Success”
- Robert Putnam, “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital” *Journal of Democracy* vol. 6, no. 1 (1995), pp. 65-78.
- Michael W. Foley and Robert Edwards, “The Paradox of Civil Society,” *Journal of Democracy* vol. 7, no. 3 (July 1996), pp. 38-52.
- Sheri Berman, “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic” *World Politics*, vol. 49, no. 3 (April 1997), pp. 401-429.

#### July 23: Electoral Systems

- O’Neil, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, pp. 129-139;
- Donald L. Horowitz, “Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers,” *Journal of Democracy* vol. 14, no. 4 (2003), pp. 115-127.

#### July 27: Parliamentary, Presidential and Semi-Presidential Systems

- O’Neil, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, pp. 118-128;
- Juan J. Linz, “The Perils of Presidentialism” in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner (eds.), *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 124-142.
- Juan J. Linz, “The Virtues of Parliamentarism” in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner (eds.), *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 154-161.

#### July 28: Centralism vs. Federalism

- *The Federalist Papers* (nos. 10, 39, and 51);
- Alfred Stepan, “Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model,” *Journal of Democracy* vol. 10, no. 4 (October 1999), pp. 19-33.

#### July 29: Political Economy: Advanced Economies

- O’Neil, Chapter 4: Political Economy, pp. 77-108;

- O’Neil, Chapter 7: Advanced Democracies, pp. 167-96;

#### July 30: Political Economy: Developing Countries

- O’Neil, Chapter 9: Less-Developed and Newly Industrializing Countries, pp. 230-60;
- Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: A Book of Essays*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962), pp. 5-30.

#### Aug. 3: Political Violence

- O’Neil, Chapter 10: Political Violence, pp. 261-90;
- Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2006), pp. 1-32;

#### Aug. 4: Religion and Politics

- Daniel Philpott, “Explaining the Political Ambivalence of Religion,” *The American Political Science Review* vol. 101, no. 3 (August 2007), pp. 505-525.
- Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage," *The Atlantic Monthly* vol. 266, no. 3 (September 1990), pp. 47-60.
- Daniel Brumberg, “Islam Is Not the Solution (or the Problem),” *The Washington Quarterly* vol. 29, no. 1 (Winter 2005-06), pp. 97-116.

#### Aug. 5: Globalization

- O’Neil, Chapter 11: Globalization, pp. 291-317;
- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, "Globalization: What's New? What's Not? (And So What?)," *Foreign Policy* no. 118 (Spring 2000), pp. 104-119.
- Stanley Hoffman, “Clash of Globalizations” in Patrick O’Neill and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, pp. 474-480.

#### Aug. 6: Conclusion: Political Order and Political Decay

- Francis Fukuyama, *Political and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy* (New York: 2014), selected chapters;
- Lester R. Brown, “Could Food Shortages Bring Down Civilization?” *Scientific American*, May 2009, pp. 50-57;
- John Rapley, “The New Middle Ages,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006

#### **Aug. 7: Final Exam**