

Comparative Political Systems

GOVT 040, Summer 2018, Second Session

Professor: Daniel Brumberg
Lectures: M-R 6:30-8:30

E-mail: brumberg@georgetown.edu

Overview

Please Note: This syllabus will be revised prior to the summer session, but the overall focus and thrust of the course will remain as set out below.

Why are some countries more democratic or prosperous than others? Why do civil wars break out, and how do they end? Why do publics support their leaders or rebel against them? This course addresses such questions, and introduces students to key concepts and methods in comparative politics.

The course is divided into three sections. (1) The first part of the course will introduce students to what comparative politics is and give them a basic understanding of how social scientists approach the study of politics. We will also discuss core concepts in comparative politics, such as the state, nationalism, and ethnic identity. (2) The next segment of the course will introduce students to political institutions, regime types, and the dynamics of regime change. (3) The final section of the course will introduce students to a range of special topics in comparative politics, including electoral systems, political violence, revolutions, and globalization.

Requirements

Midterm examination	30%
Presentation	30%
Final examination	30%
Participation/discussion leader	10%

Final letter grades will be determined based on the following system:

A 95 and above	B- 80-82.9	D+ 67-69.9
A- 90-94.9	C+ 77-79.9	D 63-66.9
B+ 87-89.9	C 73-76.9	D- 60-62.9
B 83-86.9	C- 70-72.9	F Below 60

The **midterm** covers the material from the first and second parts of the course and consists of several short questions and one long essay question. The **final examination** covers the material from the third portion of the course, and consists of several short questions and a long essay question. For the **presentation** (10 minutes), students choose a country and apply the concepts learned in class to describe and analyze it. Additionally, active participation is an essential part of the course. In addition to regularly participating in class discussions, each student is required to serve as the **discussion leader** for one session. The discussion leaders will be responsible for summarizing that day's recommended reading as well as playing a leading role in the conversation. All deadlines are found in the course schedule and are not negotiable.

Attendance to the lectures is mandatory. Students are expected to come fully prepared for class, ready to discuss all assigned readings.

*** Students must abide by the code of academic conduct as outlined in the Georgetown Honor System ***

Texts

The following required text is for sale at the Georgetown bookstore and is on reserve at the library. All other required and recommended readings will be available on the course's Blackboard site (Bb).

- O'Neil, Patrick, and Ronald Rogowski. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. 4th ed. New York: Norton, 2010. (ONR)

This companion textbook is also available at the bookstore. While not required, it clearly outlines most of the major themes that we will be covering in the course. Students may find it useful as an additional resource.

- O'Neil, Patrick. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, fifth edition. New York: Norton, 2015.

In addition to the assigned and recommended readings, students should be aware of and prepared to discuss current events. Good sites to keep track of domestic and international news include *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *NPR*, *BBC*, and *The Economist*.

Course Schedule

Part I: Concepts and Themes in Comparative Politics

Monday, July 11 – What is Comparative Politics? How Do Political Scientists Think?

- King, “How to Think” [Bb]
- Lichbach & Zuckerman, “Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics” in ONR, 3-7
- King, Keohane, & Verba, “The *Science* in Social Science” in ONR, 7-13
- Bartels, “Some Unfulfilled Promises of Quantitative Imperialism” in ONR, 13-17
- Rogowski, “How Inference in the Social (But Not the Physical) Sciences Neglects Theoretical Anomaly” in ONR, 17-23

Tuesday, July 12 – The State

- Weber, “Politics as a Vocation” in ONR 39-45
- Herbst, “War and the State in Africa” in ONR, 45-60
- Rotberg, “The New Nature of Nation-State Failure” in ONR, 60-67
- Krasner, “Sovereignty” in ONR, 68-74
- Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*, 1-33, **Recommended** [Bb]

Wednesday, July 13 – Nationalism

- Hobsbawm, “Nationalism” in ONR, 77-85
- Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-7 [Bb]
- Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” [Bb]
- Wedeen, “Beyond the Crusades,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Thursday, July 14 – Ethnicity

- Fearon & Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War” in ONR, 86-96
- Laitin, “The Pandemonium of Nations” [Bb]
- Howard, “The Ethnocracy Trap,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Part II: Institutions, Regime Types, and Electoral Systems

Monday, July 18 – Introduction to Political Institutions/Political Regimes: Democracy

- North, “Institutions” in ONR, 143-155
- Fukuyama, “The Necessity of Politics” in ONR, 26-39
- Zakaria, “A Brief History of Human Liberty” in ONR, 188-203
- Schmitter & Karl, “What Democracy Is . . . and Is Not” in ONR, 203-212
- Dahl, *Polyarchy*, 1-16, **Recommended** [Bb]

Tuesday, July 19 – Political Regimes: Autocracy

- Linz & Stepan, “Modern Non-Democratic Regimes,” in ONR, 267-278
- Levitsky and Way, “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism” in ONR, 303-313
- Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,” [Bb]
- Brumberg, “The Trap of Liberalized Autocracy,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Wednesday, July 20 – Regime Transitions & Summary/Discussion

- Kitschelt, “Political Regime Change” [Bb]
- Carothers, “The End of the Transition Paradigm” [Bb]
- Huntington, “The Third Wave,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Thursday, July 21 – *MIDTERM EXAM*****

Part III: Special Topics in Comparative Politics

Monday, July 25 – Electoral Systems

- King, “Electoral Systems,” 1-6 [Bb]
- Lijphart, “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies” in ONR, 213-222.
- Duverger, “The Number of Parties” in ONR, 436-440
- Soudriette & Ellis, “Electoral Systems Today: A Global Snapshot” [Bb]
- Linz, “The Perils of Presidentialism,” 51-69, **Recommended** [Bb]

Tuesday, July 26 – Political Economy

- Smith, “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations” in ONR, 137-143
- Acemoglu, “Root Causes: A Historical Approach to Assessing the Role of Institutions in Economic Development” in ONR, 155-159
- Acemoglu, Johnson, Robertson, & Yared, “Income and Democracy” in ONR, 405-411
- Collier & Gunning, “Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?” in ONR, 553-571
- Acemoglu, Johnson, & Robinson, “Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution,” **Recommended** [Bb].

Wednesday, July 27 – Political Violence

- King, “The Micropolitics of Social Violence” [Bb]
- Brubaker & Laitin, “Ethnic and Nationalist Violence,” [Bb]
- King, “Can There Be a Political Science of the Holocaust?” **Recommended** [Bb]

Thursday, July 28 – Revolutions

- Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, 1-8 [Bb].
- Skocpol, “France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions” in ONR, 316-333
- Kuran, “Now out of Never” in ONR 349-365
- Skocpol, “Rentier State and Shi'a Islam in the Iranian Revolution,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Monday, August 1 – Globalization

- Fukuyama, “The End of History?” [Bb]
- Florida, “The World is Spiky” in ONR, 590-595
- Rodrik, “Is Global Governance Feasible?” in ONR, 595-609.
- Jiang, “Authoritarian Informationalism” in ONR, 613-627
- Sen, “Democracy as a Universal Value,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Tuesday, August 2 – The Postcommunist World

- Bunce and Wolchik, “Conclusions” in ONR, 481-502
- Krastev, “Paradoxes of the New Authoritarianism” in ONR, 502-509
- He and Warren, “Authoritarian Deliberation” in ONR, 509-538
- Howard, “The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Wednesday, August 3 – The European Union

- Malcolm, “The Case Against Europe” [Bb]
- Sbragia, “The EU and Its ‘Constitution’” [Bb]
- Selected articles on Brexit and other recent crises in the EU [Bb]

Thursday, August 4 – The Arab Uprisings

- Goldstone, “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011” in ONR, 366-372
- Anderson, “Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences Between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya” [Bb]

- Bellin, “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring,” **Recommended** [Bb]

Monday, August 8 – Student Presentations

Tuesday, August 9 – Student Presentations

Wednesday, August 10 – Student Presentations

Thursday, August 11 *FINAL EXAM*****