

Comparative Political Systems

GOVT 040 Summer 2019

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Lectures:

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Course Description

This course offers a broad introduction to comparative politics, the subfield of political science concerned mainly with political ideas, institutions, and behavior within states. The course examines such themes as the origins and functions of states, formal institutions such as legislatures and executives, the variety and impact of electoral systems, the nature of democracy and autocracy, internal and external challenges to political order, and the impact of international and domestic factors on state performance. Discussions of theoretical and cross-regional issues will be accompanied by treatment of individual countries and contexts.

Requirements

Midterm examination	35%
Final examination	50%
Participation	15%

The **midterm** covers the material from the first part of the course and consists of one over-arching essay question. The **final examination** covers the material from the second and third portions of the course and consists of several calculations and a long essay question. Several practice problem sets will be posted to Blackboard in the weeks before the exam. For the **research paper** (12-15 pages), students choose a country and apply the concepts and formulas learned in class to describe and analyze it. Each paper will have three sections: an introduction with the relevant history; descriptive analysis where the calculations learned in class are applied; and prescriptive analysis in which a challenge is identified and a solution proposed. More details will be posted online. **Participation** will be assessed in conjunction with the teaching assistants and will be based primarily on students' performance in the discussion sections. All deadlines are found in the course schedule and are not negotiable.

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

Texts

The following required texts are for sale at the bookstore:

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

Course Schedule

PART I: CONCEPTS AND THEMES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

1. **A Visit to a Town Called Balgat**

Daniel Lerner, *The Passing of Traditional Society*

2. **Introduction: Comparative Politics**

O'Neil Ch. 1. pp. 2-29;
ONR pp.4-15.
King, "How to Think" [Bb]

3. **The State**

O'Neill Ch. 2, pp. 30-61

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds., *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970 (1958). In ONR, pp. 28-34.

Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*, 1-33, [Bb]

Herbst, "War and the State in Africa" in ONR, 35-48.

4. **The Nation and Nationalism**

O'Neil, Ch. 3, pp. 62-95

Yael Tamir, "The Enigma of Nationalism" (Review Essay), *World Politics* 47, No. 3 (1995): 418-440.

Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-7 [Bb]

PART TWO: DEMOCRACY, AUTOCRACY AND IN BETWEEN

5 & 6. **Regime Types and Political Systems: Democracy**

O'Neil, Ch. 5, pp. 134-171.

Alexis de Tocqueville, "Author's Introduction," in ONR, pp 379-386.

Dahl, *Polyarchy*, 1-16, [Bb]

Schmitter & Karl, "What Democracy Is . . . and Is Not" in ONR, 203-212

7. **Electoral Systems in Democracies**

King, "Electoral Systems," 1-6 [Bb]

Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies" in ONR, 189-198.

Soudriette & Ellis, "Electoral Systems Today: A Global Snapshot" [Bb]

8. **Political Cleavages and Parties**

Maurice Duverger, "The Number of Parties," in ONR pp. 432-436.

Hanpeter Kriesi, "The transformation of cleavage politics: The 1997 Stein Rokkan lecture," *European Journal of Political Research* 33 (1998): 165–185.

9. **Presidential Versus Parliamentary Systems**

Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," 51-69, [Bb]

Donald Horowitz, Juan Linz, and S. M. Lipset, Debate, "Presidents vs. Parliaments," *Journal of Democracy* 1 (1990).

10. **Civil Society**

Michael Foley and Bob Edwards, "The Paradox of Civil Society," *Journal of Democracy* 7, no. 3 (1996): 38-52

Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6, no. 1 (1995): 65-78.

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994) 1-16, 163-185

11. **Regimes Types and Political Systems: Autocracy-Totalitarianism**

O'Neil, pp.172-199.

Linz & Stepan, "Modern Non-Democratic Regimes," in ONR, 267-278

Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," [Bb]

12. **Hybrid Regimes: Dynamics of Semi-Autocracy**

Larry Diamond, Hybrid Regimes, *Journal of Democracy*

Levitsky and Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism" in ONR, 303-313

Brumberg, "The Trap of Liberalized Autocracy," *Journal of Democracy*

III. TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

13. and 14. **Military Regimes, Coups and Revolutions**

Samuel Huntington, "Political Order in Changing Societies," *World Politics*

Barbara Geddes, Erica Frantz et al, "Military Rule," in ONR pp. 273-287.

Skocpol, "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions" in ONR, 310-327.

O'Neill, Communism: 266-302.

16. and 15. **Regimes Transitions**

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no. 2 (2009): 33-48.

Huntington, "The Third Wave,"

O'Neil: Focus on the latter half of Chapter 9 on Communism.

John Waterbury, "Democracy Without Democrats?"

17 and 18. **Globalization, Winners and Losers—and Populism**

O'Neil, pp. 338-363.

Francois Bourguignon, "Inequality and Globalization" in ONR, pp 564-566.

Niall Ferguson, "Populism as a Backlash Against Globalization" ONR 657-572.