

POLITICAL SCIENCE 111

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Thompson 106

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This course provides an introduction to some important themes of comparative political analysis, one of the four broad subfields of political science. It is designed to help students understand the building blocks of government and explore the political, social and economic phenomena that effect countries around the world, including our own. We will cover three centuries and five continents in order to develop an understanding of how the world we live in – one characterized by the rise of industrial nation states – came to be. Through critical comparative analysis we will examine the challenges of economic development, social transformation, and nation building.

As part of the General Education program, this course aims to satisfy the global education requirement by introducing students to topics of broad political significance in the world today. We will focus on such questions as: Why are some countries democratic and others authoritarian? Why do revolutions happen? Why do ethnic groups fight? How do governments promote economic development? Are some cultures more prone to religious extremism than others? Can certain institutions help maintain a peaceful society? What are the legacies of colonialism in the Third World? Is world capitalism the answer or the problem? These and many other questions will be examined throughout the course. Theoretical discussions will be supplemented with close investigation of relevant case studies.

Course Requirements

The class will combine lectures with discussion sections. Class attendance and active, thoughtful participation in discussion sections is mandatory. All class members must complete the assigned readings prior to class. Grade assessment will be based on class participation, 10 quizzes, four response papers, two take-home exams, and an in-class final exam. The final grade will be determined in the following manner:

Class Participation*	10%	Ongoing
Quizzes (10)***	10%	Given in Discussion Sections
Response Papers (2)**	20%	Due: September 23; October 28
Part I Take Home Exam	20%	Due Tuesday, October 15
Part II Take Home Exam	20%	Due Monday, November 18th
Final Exam	20%	TBA

Students are expected to meet all class deadlines. Extensions will only be granted for documented, medical, or personal emergencies.

*Class participation grade will be assessed in discussion sections. It will be based on individual contributions to discussions.

** Response papers will be completed online.

*** Quizzes will be given on weeks 2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12, & 13. You may drop the two lowest quiz grades from your final average.

Comparative Politics Café

The Comparative Politics Café is a weekly gathering outside of class that gives students the opportunity to meet each other and their professor. Students are invited to sign up for the Café once during the semester. Participants will find an article in the newspaper about a topic related to the themes of the class and write a 1-2 paragraph (300 word limit) explanation of the connection. Students will be invited (but not required) to post their paper to the “Week in Comparative Politics” Section on Moodle. By participating in the Café, students can earn up to 2 points of extra credit towards their final average.

Course Readings

Most required readings for the course are available on Moodle. These can be read online, downloaded to your computer or printed out. All registered students will automatically have access to course documents on Moodle. Readings on Moodle are designated with an [E] throughout the syllabus.

There is one required text for the class: *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Special Edition*, Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, William A Joseph, eds. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008, which is available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings from the textbook are designated with a [T]

University Academic Honesty Policy

Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. The procedures outlined below are intended to provide an efficient and orderly process by which action may be taken if it appears that academic dishonesty has occurred and by which students may appeal such actions.

Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent.

http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/

Turnitin

As a condition of continued enrollment in this course, you agree to submit all assignments to the Turnitin for textual comparison or originality review for the detection of possible plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included in the UMass Amherst dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process and during this term and in the future. Students who do not submit their papers electronically to the service will be required to submit copies of the cover page and first cited page of each source listed in the bibliography with the final paper in order to receive a grade on the assignment.

Course Schedule

September 4

Week 1) Introduction to Comparative Politics

[T] “Introducing Comparative Politics” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics* pp. 8-29.

PART ONE EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN INDUSTRIAL NATION-STATE

September 9 & 11

Week 2) Building Blocks of the Modern World: The State and The Nation

[E] Weber, Max. “Politics as a Vocation”, from H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds., trans. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Galaxy, 1958) pp. 77-84.

[E] Tilly, Charles. “How War Made States, and Vice Versa” in *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990*. (Cambridge: Basil Blackwell, 1990), pp.67-95.

[E]Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. (London: Verso, 1983), pp. 5-7 & 37-46

Recommended:

[E] Gellner, Ernest. Chapters 1 & 2 in *Nations and Nationalism*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983), pp. 1-7; 19-38.

September 16 & 18

Week 3) Building Blocks of the Modern World: The Market (United Kingdom)

[E] Smith, Adam. *The Wealth of Nations*, excerpt from Patrick O’neil and Ronald Rogowski eds. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006) pp. 129-133.

[E] North, Douglas. “Institutions”, *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, (Winter, 1991), pp. 20-32.

[E] Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*, (New York: Rinehart, 1944.) pp. 33-42 and 77-85.

[T] Kreiger, Joel. “Britain: Critical Junctures” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 52-56.

September 20-23 * First Response Paper *****

September 23 & 25

Week 4) Putting the Building Blocks Together: Economic Development (France and Germany)

[E] Gerschenkron, Alexander. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962), pp. 5-30.

[T] Kesselman, Mark. "France: Critical Junctures" in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 103-107.

[T] Allen, Christopher, "Germany: Critical Junctures" in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp 162-166

September 30 & October 2

Week 5). Putting the Building Blocks Together: Political Development (United States and Russia)

[E] Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy," *American Political Science Review* 53, no. 1 (March 1959): 69-85.

[E] Moore, Barrington. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World.* pp. 413-432.

[T] DeSipio, Louis. "United States: Critical Junctures" in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 317-215.

[T] DeBardleben, Joan. "Russia: Critical Junctures" in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 520-526.

Recommended:

Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America*, Volume I, Part II, Chs 5 and 7. (Cambridge: Hackett Publishing, 2000) pp. 210-219.

***** First Take Home Exam to be distributed on Wednesday October 2nd *****

PART TWO
SPREAD OF THE MODERN INDUSTRIAL NATION-STATE

October 7 & 9

Week 6) *Movie Screening – Battle of Algiers*

***** First Take Home Exam due before class on Tuesday October 15*****

October 15 & 16

Week 7) The Third World and the Impact of Colonial Rule (India and Algeria)

[E] Cammack, Paul, David Pool, and William Tordoff, “Heritage of the Past” in *Third World Politics*, pp. 15-54.

[T] Kohli, Atul and Amrita Basu. “India” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 368-386

October 21 & 23

Week 8) Third World Political Development: State and Nation Building. (Nigeria and Iran)

[E] Huntington, Samuel. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968), pp. 32-64.***

[E] Sil, Rudra. “Social Mobilization and Late-Industrialization: The Challenge of Building New Institutions and Nations,” (manuscript, 1997), pp. 1-15.

[T] Kew, Darren and Peter Lewis. “Nigeria” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 364-388.

[T] Abrahamian, Ervand. “Iran” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*. Pp. 582-597.

October 25-28 * Second Response Paper*****

October 28 & 30

Week 9) Neocolonialism and Development, Did Anything Really Change? (Brazil)

- [E] Frank, Andre Gunder, “The Development of Underdevelopment” in Charles Wilber, ed., *The Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment*, third edition (New York: Random House, 1984), pp. 99-108.
- [E] Myrdal, Gunnar. *Rich Lands and Poor: The Road to World Prosperity*. (New York: Harper and Row, 1957), pp. 3-14, 23-37.
- [T] Montero, Alfred P. “Brazil” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp. 417-440.

Recommended:

- [E] Rostow, W.W. Chapter 2 in *Stages of Economic Growth*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp.1-12.

November 4 & 6

Week 10) A New Synthesis or an Old Perversion? Models of Economic Development in the Third World. (Japan and Ireland)

- [E] Johnson, Chalmers. “Political Institutions and Economic Performance: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan” in Fredric Deyo, ed., *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987), pp. 136-164.
- [E] Evans, Peter. “Predatory, Developmental, and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State.” *Sociological Forum* v.4, pp. 561-587.
- [T] Fukai, Shigeko and Haruhiro Fukai. “Japan” in *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, pp.215-234

Recommended:

- [E] Hardiman, Niamh. “Politics and Markets in the Irish ‘Celtic Tiger,’” *The Political Quarterly*, 2005, 76, 1, Jan-Mar, 37-47.

*****Second Take-Home to be distributed Wednesday November 6*****

PART THREE
DEVELOPMENTAL PROSPECTS
Towards a Common Global Future?

No Class Monday November 11th – Veteran’s Day

November 13 & 18

Week 11) *Movie Screening – Our Brand is Crisis*

***** Second Take Home Exam due before class on Monday November 18*****

November 20 & 25

Week 12) Democratization and Democratic Stability

[E] Huntington, Samuel. “Democracy’s Third Wave,” *Journal of Democracy*. Vol 2. No.2. Spring 1991, pp. 12-34.

[E] Przeworski, Adam. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), 51-66.

[E] Lijphardt, Arend. “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies.” *Journal of Democracy*. Vol 2. No.1. Winter, 1991, pp. 72-84.

No Class November 27th

December 2 & 4

Week 13) Globalization and Economic Development

[E] Thomas Friedman, “The Lexus and the Olive Tree,” in Mark Kesselman, *The Politics of Globalization: A Reader* (NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2007), pp. 59-68

[E] Galbraith, James K. “A Perfect Crime: Inequality in the Age of Globalization” in *Daedalus* (Winter 2003), pp. 11-25.

[E] Barber, Benjamin. “Jihad vs. McWorld,” *Atlantic Monthly*, v.269, n.3 (March 1992), pp. 1-14.

Reading Period

Review Session - TBA