

University of Utah
Political Science Department
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLS 2200-01

Fall 2005

Tuesdays /Thursdays 9:10-10:30 AM BUC 106

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and by prior appointment

Purpose and Objectives

Comparative politics is both a subject and a method for understanding politics. As a subject, comparative politics is the study of different (usually national) political systems, and their major components---cultures, structures, and institutions. As a method, comparative politics is a way of trying to establish and test general claims about particular political phenomena, using different political units as data. Understanding comparative politics as both a subject and a method is complementary. Using political systems as “data” requires an appreciation of their similarities and differences. This course surveys major variations in domestic politics across the world, and reviews leading explanations for these differences. We will examine questions such as: why are some polities democratic and others authoritarian? Are there fixed conditions for democratization? Why are government agencies more powerful in some countries than others? Why do some states have extensive government intervention in the economy while others have less? How do we explain which citizens participate, when they participate and how? How does globalization impact economic growth, political representation, the spread of social movements, and shape politically relevant identities? We will study the role that government institutions, economic interests, political ideologies, and social identities play in shaping politics across countries. Whereas the first part of this course is organized thematically (concepts/theories), the later part will look at several country studies.

Course Requirements

I will lecture for a portion of most class periods, but a part of each class will be dedicated to discussion and debate among students. The purpose of this is to give you the opportunity to analyze, question, critique, and compare actively the material covered in the readings and in the lectures. Your primary responsibility, in addition to completing the required assignments, is to attend all classes and do all the readings before coming to class. You are required to participate actively in discussion and class exercises.

Grading and Evaluation

Grades in this course will be based on in-class participation (10%), 2 short writing assignments (20% each), a group presentation (15%), and a final examination (35%).

In-Class participation: Your participation grade will consist of participation in class discussion (thoughtful comments, answering questions posed by the instructor, raising critical questions). Attendance will affect your participation, and excessive absences will result in a lower grade. An excused absence means you have a medical excuse or documented emergency.

Short Writing assignment I: Media Review of a topic that is of world importance.

Compare and contrast the differences in bias and handling of the same incident or newsworthy story by different media outlets. Look up at least two different media outlets on the Internet. They have to be from different countries or continents. Find a big controversial story that is covered by both outlets. Print out those stories and read them carefully. You will be given several weeks to keep track of the stories as they are being published by the outlets you have chosen. Please consult with me before you start research on this assignment. I will need to know the basic story and media outlets you will be focusing on (submit a short paragraph in which you outline your topic---due in class on Thursday September 8th, 2005). Write a 3-4 page (double spaced) “compare and contrast essay” covering these points:

- What is the difference in the headlines?
- What is the tone of each article?
- What appears to be the bias of the author in each article? (Whose side is he on?) List examples of particular words that show the bias.
- How do the articles agree on basic facts? How do they disagree? State explicit examples.
- Rate each article's objectivity. Is it relatively unbiased, somewhat biased, or very biased.
- What might be the reasons behind the different coverage of the same story in different countries?
- An example of a newsworthy story would be: Iran and nuclear proliferation. How does a European newspaper cover this story as opposed to a US media outlet?
- Examples of Media outlets: International Herald Tribune, N.Y. Times, Al-Jazeera, The Australian, BBC News, The Gazette etc.
- This assignment is due in class Thursday, September 29th

Short Writing assignment II: Focus on the Constitutional Process in Iraq.

The provisional government in Iraq has been working on drawing up a democratic constitution for the new government. Obviously, they want representative institutions that will ensure democracy and stability. But they are also concerned with protecting the rights of various ethnic and religious minorities in the country.

Submit a 3-4 page paper (double spaced) in which you address the problems, issues and difficulties that have been plaguing the representatives who are in charge of putting together a constitution in Iraq. Did they finally succeed? Have they left certain issues unresolved? This assignment is due in class Tuesday November 1st.

Group Presentation: Country Expert and Group exercise.

For several of the country studies (Great Britain, Japan, Russia and Iran) I will ask you to form groups of five. You and your fellow students will get together and work on a Policy Brief that will deal either with political/economic issues (Group A) or with cultural/social issues (Group B) that one of the countries mentioned above has been having to deal with in the recent past. Your job will be to put together a 3-4 page outline (double spaced) of the most relevant issues that each of these countries has been facing and present your findings to class as well as provide the rest of the class with copies of the policy brief. Try to incorporate concepts and theories we have discussed in class, if possible/relevant. You can use web sources, information you might have gathered through an academic journal or book, or weekly political magazines. Make sure to provide me with at least 3 references that should be listed at the end of your policy brief. A sign up sheet with the said countries that you can choose from will be handed out at the beginning of the first week of class.

Presentation days:

Thursday, November 10th: Great Britain (Group A and B)

Thursday, November 17th: Japan (Group A and B)

Thursday, December 1st: Russia (Group A and B)

Thursday, December 8th: Iran (Group A and B)

Final Exam: In-Class Exam that will be held during finals week and contain several short answer questions as well as a couple of essay questions that deals with issues and countries that we have discussed throughout the semester.

Late Assignments

If you cannot fulfill a requirement by the due date, I must be contacted within 24 hours of the due date and provided with a legitimate explanation (e.g., medical illness).

Assignments, which are allowed to be completed after the due date, will be expected to meet higher standards given the additional time granted. Permission for addition time to finish any of the said assignments will only be given in extreme cases and with proper documentation by the student.

Course Materials and Readings

Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, (W.W. Norton & Company) ISBN: 0-393-97654-8

This book is available for purchase at the University bookstore. A website is linked to this text and you will be asked to access it regularly. The text adopts a thematic approach to comparative politics, focusing on concepts, while the web site provides country case studies that will serve as a starting point for helping to understand how these concepts and themes play out in individual country settings. In order to view "Cases for Comparative Politics" log on to (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol/>) and register for the web site using your registration code that comes with your textbook. In addition, several articles, necessary for assignments, will be placed on electronic reserve at Marriott Library. It is the students' responsibility to get a copy of these articles. They are indicated with an asterisk (*) in the course outline.

Student Academic Conduct: The University of Utah's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be carefully observed and strictly enforced in this class. This policy appears on pages 11-13 of the 2000-2002 General Catalog and in the electronic Policy and Procedures Manual at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>

Any instance of plagiarism, or other forms of academic misconduct, will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may also result in a failing grade for the course. The University's definition of plagiarism is as follows:

"Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah, Department of Political Science seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, <http://disability.utah.edu/> 162 Olpin Union Bldg, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.

Class Schedule

Week 1: Thursday August 25th, 2005

Topic: Introduction to the Course

Week 2: Tuesday, August 30th-Thursday, September 1st, 2005

Topic: The Nature of the State and the Basis of Authority

O'Neil, Chapter 2 "States" and Chapter 4 "Political Economy" (pp.82-95)

William Zartman "Posing the Problem of State Collapse" and "Putting Things Back Together" in: Zartman ed., (1995) *Collapsed States* (Lynne Rienner), pp. 1-11 and 267-273

Jeffrey Herbst "War and the State in Africa" in: O'Neil & Rogowski (2004) *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (W.W. Norton Co.), pp.48-62*

Week 3: Tuesday, September 6th-Thursday, September 8th, 2005

Topic: What is Democracy?

O'Neil, Chapters 6 and 7 "Democracy" and "Advanced Democracy"

Philippe Schmitter and Terry Karl "What Democracy Is...and Is Not." *Journal of Democracy*, Vol.2, Issue 3, (1991), pp.75-88*

Susan J. Pharr, Robert D. Putnam and Russell Dalton "Trouble in the Advanced Democracies? A Quarter-Century of Declining Confidence" *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 11, No. 2 (April 2000), pp. 5-25*

Outline of Media Review due (Thursday, September 8th)

Week 4: Tuesday, September 13th-Thursday, September 15th, 2005

Topic: Authoritarian Regimes

O'Neil, Chapter 5 "Authoritarianism"

Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan "Modern Nondemocratic Regimes" in: O'Neil & Rogowski (2004) *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* (W.W. Norton Co.), pp.154-165*

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol.13, Issue 2, (2002), pp.51-65

Week 5: Tuesday, September 20th-Thursday, September 22nd, 2005

Topic: Democratic Transition and Consolidation

O'Neil, Chapter 8 "Communism and Postcommunism"

Samuel P. Huntington "Democracy's Third Wave," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol.2, Issue 2, (1991), pp12-34*

Thomas Carothers "The End of the Transition Paradigm," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol.13, Issue 1, (2002), pp.82-93*

Week 6: Tuesday, September 27th-Thursday, September 29th, 2005

Topic: The Political Economy of Development and Globalization

O'Neil, Chapter 4 (pp.96-118) "Political Economy", Chapter 9 "Less-Developed and Newly Industrialized Countries" and Chapter 10 "Globalization"

Michael J. Sodaro (2004) "The Politics of Development," in: Sodaro,

Comparative Politics. A Global Introduction. McGraw/Hill, pp.316-337*
Alvin Y. So (1994) Social Change and Development: Modernization, Dependency and World-System Theories. Sage Publication, Chapters 1 and 2*
Short Writing Assignment I: Media Review due (Thursday, September 29th)

Week 7: Tuesday, October 4th-Thursday, October 6th, 2005

Fall Break! No class!

THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON TUESDAY EITHER!!!

Week 8: Tuesday, October 11th-Thursday, October 13th, 2005

Topic: Political Culture as Explanatory Variable

O'Neil, Chapter 3 "Nations and Society"

Ronald Inglehart and Marita Carballo "Does Latin America Exist? (And Is There a Confucian Culture?): A Global Analysis of Cross-Cultural Differences," PS: Political Science and Politics, Vol.30, (1997), pp.34-46*

Robert Putnam "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," Journal of Democracy, Vol.6, Issue 1, (1995), pp.65-78*

Alfred C. Stepan and Graeme B. Robertson "An 'Arab' More Than a 'Muslim' Democracy Gap," Journal of Democracy, Vol.14, No.3, (2003), pp.30-44*

Week 9: Tuesday, October 18th-Thursday, October 20th, 2005

Topic: Political Participation in Comparative Perspective

Joan Nelson "Political Participation" (1987) in: Weiner and Huntington eds., Understanding Political Development. Brown Pub., 103-159

Francis Fox Piven and Richard A Cloward (1997) "Low Income People and the Political Process," in: Piven and Cloward, Breaking of the American Social Compact. The New Press, pp.271-286*

Sidney Verba, Norman Nie and Jae-on Kim (1978) Participation and Political Equality. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 5, pp.80-93.

Week 10: Tuesday, October 25th-Thursday, October 27th, 2005

Topic: Social Movements: Contentious Politics

John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory," American Journal of Sociology, Vol.82, No.6, (1977), pp.1212-1241*

Sidney Tarrow (1998) "Political Opportunities and Constraints," in: Tarrow, Power in Movement, Cambridge University Press, pp.71-90*

Manuel A. Garreton (2001) "Popular Mobilization and the Military Regime In Chile: The Complexities of the Invisible Transition" in: Eckstein, Power and Popular protest: Latin American social movements. University of California Press, pp.259-277*

COUNTRY STUDIES

Week 11: Tuesday, November 1st-Thursday, November 3rd, 2005

Topic: Will Iraq become a Democracy?

Charles Hauss (2005) "Iraq" in: Hauss, *Comparative Politics. Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*. 5th ed. Wadsworth, pp.401-431*

Larry Diamond "Building Democracy after Conflict. Lessons from Iraq" *Journal of Democracy*, Vol.16, no.1, (2005) pp. 9-23*

Supplementary Readings:

Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack "Democracy in Iraq?" *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol.26, No.3, (2003), pp.119-136*

Adeed Dawisha and Karen Dawisha "How to Build a Democratic Iraq" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.82, No.3, (2003), pp.*

Short Writing Assignment II due: Constitutional Process in Iraq (Tuesday, November 1st)

Week 12: Tuesday, November 8th-Thursday, November 10th, 2005

Industrialized Democracy: Great Britain

Charles Hauss (2005) "Great Britain" in: Hauss, *Comparative Politics. Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*. 5th ed. Wadsworth, pp. 69-103*

See Online Country Study in: Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, (W.W. Norton & Company) (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol/>)

Group Presentations A and B on Thursday, November 10th

Week 13: Tuesday, November 15th-Thursday, November 17th, 2005

Industrialized Democracy: Japan

Monte Palmer (2005) "Japan" in: Palmer, *Comparative Politics. Political Economy, Political Culture, and Political Independence*. Wadsworth, pp.219-262

See Online Country Study in: Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, (W.W. Norton & Company) (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol/>)

Group Presentations A and B on Thursday, November 17th

Week 14: Tuesday, November 22nd-Thursday, November 24th, 2005

Preview and Review for Final Exam on Tuesday!

Thanksgiving Break! No class on Thursday!

Week 15: Tuesday, November 29th-Thursday, December 1st, 2005

Post-Communist Country: Russia

Charles Hauss (2005) "Russia" in: Hauss, *Comparative Politics. Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*. 5th ed. Wadsworth, pp.227-263*

See Online Country Study in: Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, (W.W. Norton & Company) (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol/>)

Group Presentations A and B on Thursday, December 1st

Week 16: Tuesday, December 6th-Thursday, December 8th, 2005

Theocracy or Quasi-Democracy: Iran

Charles Hauss (2005) "Iran" in: Hauss, *Comparative Politics. Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*. 5th ed. Wadsworth, pp.371-399*

See Online Country Study in: Patrick O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, (W.W. Norton & Company) (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/compol/>)

Group Presentations A and B on Thursday, December 8th

Week 17: Finals Week! December 12th-December 16th

Time and Day of Final TBA