

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics
University of Georgia
Spring 2017

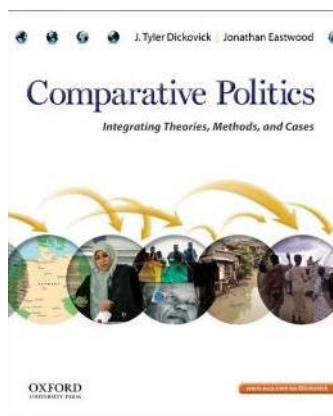
Instructor: Yuan Wang
Email: ywang87@uga.edu
Class Location: Peabody Hall 219A
Class Time: MWF 09:05-09:55am
Office: TBA
Office Hours: M 1-3pm OR By appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the subfield of comparative politics and prepares students for further study. Comparative politics is the systematic study and comparison of world's political systems. The substance of the subfield includes, but is not limited to, comparative methodology, democratization, political institutions, development and political culture. Throughout this course we will examine factors conducive to socioeconomic and political change, the differences and similarities among political systems across the world. By taking this course, you will be able to 1) compare the world politics with comparative methodological approach; 2) have a general idea of essential themes, basic concepts and important theories in the discipline of comparative politics. Overall, this course aims to provide you with a sound understanding of the theories and applications of comparative politics.

Required readings:

J. Tyler Dickovick and Jonathan Eastwood (2013) *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



Additional articles are available on web/elc or in the library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

15% Attendance & Participation

15% Student led lectures

35% Research Project (20% Two Short Analysis Papers+15% Final Presentation)

35% Exams (15% Midterm Exam+20% Final Exam)

Grade Scale:

>93%: A

90-92.99%: A-

87-89.99%: B+

83-86.99%: B

80-82.99%: B-

77-79.99%: C+

73-76.99%: C

70-72.99%: C-

60-69.99%: D

<60%: F

Attendance and Participation (15%)

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at every class. However, you are given 3 absences without excuse for the whole semester. Exceeding 4 absences, you must provide acceptable proof for your absence. Otherwise, 5 point will be taken off of your final grade for each exceeded but unexcused absence. 9 times of absence without excuses will lead to the automatic fail in this class (Course Withdrawal: please familiarize yourself with its terms as stated in the undergraduate bulletin). Acceptable proofs for absences include health problems, family emergencies, conference or important school activities etc with the appropriate documentation (you need to provide a documented excuse in writing on the following class meeting day). Your participation grade will be affected by the quantity and quality of engaging discussions, interacting with the instructor and classmates in lectures and group activities.

Student led lectures (15%)

There will be 6 (or more) student led lectures in this class. A group of 5 or 6 students will be led by one lecturer working on a specific topic. The lecturer should be familiar with the topic, introduce it to the class and design relevant activities. The discussants are supposed to raise questions and participate in the activities. While it is the responsibility of these students to lead the lecture, all students are expected to participate. More details will be given in class.

Research Project (35%): including **Two Short Analysis Papers (10% each)** and **One Final Presentation (15%)** Students will form groups of 2 members and conduct a collective project to apply what we learn in the course to analyze a real political issue. This assignment will require you to use all of the analytical tools that you will learn over the course of the semester. Each group

(2 students in a group) will turn in **Two 4-5 pages** (double space, Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1 inch margins) **analysis** of comparative politics issues. The first paper should be a research proposal including the topic introduction, literature review and your theory derived from the literature. The second paper includes methods, data sources, and research design. The topic must 1) involve two or more countries (however, it could be two or more cities within one country if the topic is interesting) and shall be comparative; propose an empirical research question and answer it with solid evidence, using comparative methods. Finally, your group will develop the analysis papers into one **presentation** organized in a normal research paper shape with (1) introduction and research question, (2) methods, data, and research design, (3) analysis, and (4) conclusion. More information will be provided in class

Paper Due date will be:

Feb 17th First Paper

Mar 29th Second Paper

Mid-term (15%) and Final Exam (cumulative, 20%) The exams will be based on the reading material, lectures and discussions. Detailed instructions will be announced before the exams. **No make-up exams will be administered except under the circumstances of serious illness or death of family member and only with proper documentation.** No other excuses will be accepted. Please contact the instructor in advance if you need some special assistance to take the exams.

**Extra credits will be offered in various manners: games, reflections, pop-quizzes, etc.

Code of Conduct on Electronic Devices

Use of cell phones, MP3s, and any other hand-held devices while class is in session are not allowed. Laptops are only permitted for note taking. If you plan on using a laptop for note taking, you will have to pledge to the instructor that you will only use the laptop for taking notes and not to surf the web or engage in other activities - surfing the web in class is not permitted. Your final grade will be lowered for the violation of this code.

Disabilities & Health Related Issues

Any student with a disability or a health related issue who needs special class accommodation should make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

All students are responsible to inform themselves about the University's academic honesty policy. This policy known as "A Culture of Honesty" is accessible at http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm. All academic works must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty."

Class Schedule

Week 1 Jan 6

Welcome and Introduction

Week 2 Jan 9-13

Comparative Methods I

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1-2

Week 3 Jan 16-20

!No Class on Jan 16th!

Comparative Methods II

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1-2

Discussion: Possible errors we may commit

No Class on Jan 16th- Martin Luther King Day

Week 4 Jan 23-27

The Modern State and Social Welfare

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 3

Michael Bernhard, "The Leadership Secrets of Bismarck - Imperial Germany and Competitive Authoritarianism," *Foreign Affairs*, 90 (2011), pp. 150-154.

Mai Lu and Mingliang Feng, "Reforming the Welfare System in the People's Republic of China," *Asian Development Review*, 25: 1& 2 (2008), pp. 58-80.

Student led lecture 1): A case study of social welfare state

Week 5 Jan 30 – Feb 3

!Hunger Game!

Development and Political Economy

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 4

D. Acemoglu and J.A. Robinson (2012). *Why Nations Fail*. Crown Publishers, New York. Chapters 2-3.

Week 6 Feb 6 – Feb 10

Democracies and Modernization

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 5

Adam Przeworski and F. Limongi. (1997) "Modernization: Theories and facts." *World politics* 49.02: 155-183.

Week 7 Feb 13 - 17

Nondemocratic States

!First Analysis Paper due!

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 6

F. Zakaria (1997). "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." In: *Foreign Affairs* 76 (6), pp. 22-43.

Samuel P. Huntington (1991). "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy* 2(2): 12-34.

Student led lecture 2): Case study of a hybrid regime, democratic transition or democratic breakdown

<<<<Feb 17 First Short Analysis Paper due>>>>

Week 8 Feb 20 – 24

Constitutions and Constitutional Design, Analysis Paper Workshop (TBD)

Readings: Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 7

A. Stepan (1999). "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model." In: *Journal of Democracy* 10 (4), pp. 19-34.

Student led lecture 3): Case study of non-US federalism OR unitarism

Week 9 Feb 27 – Mar 3

Mid Term Review, Exam & Movie

<<<<Mar 1st Midterm Exam>>>>

Week 10 Mar 6 – 10

No Class – Spring Break

Week 11 Mar 13 – 17

Legislatures and Electoral Systems

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 8

N. C. Bormann & M. Golder (2013). Democratic Electoral Systems around the world, 1946–2011. *Electoral Studies*, 32(2), 360-369.

Greg Distelhorst. (2012) "Publicity-driven Official Accountability in China: Qualitative and Experimental Evidence." *MIT Political Science Department Research Paper Working Paper* 2012-24.

Student led lecture 4): Electoral system in the U.S.

Student led lecture 5): Electoral system in a non U.S. state

Week 12 Mar 20 – 24

Political Parties and Party Systems, A bit about Civil Society

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 10

R. Putnam. (1995). "Bowling alone: American's Declining Social Capital." *Journal of Democracy* 6, 1, pp. 65-78. Available here

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/assoc/bowling.html>

R. Putnam. (1993). *Making Democracy Work*. Chapter 1

Week 13 Mar 27 – 31

!Second Analysis Paper due!

Social Movements and Revolutions

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 11

Kevin O'Brien, "Rightful Resistance," *World Politics*, 49:1 (1996), pp. 31-55.

Student led lecture 6): Case study of movements and/or revolutions

<<<<**March 29th Second Short Analysis Paper due**>>>>

Week 14 Apr 3 – 7

!No Class on Apr 7!

Governments and Bureaucracies

Readings: Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 9

J. Linz (1990). "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1 (1), pp. 51-69.

D. Horowitz (1990). "Comparing Democratic Systems." *Journal of Democracy* 1 (1), pp.73-79.

No Class on Apr 7th, Yuan is out of town for MPSA (Apr 6th – 9th)

**Note: Yuan might need to leave Athens on 5th for the flight. That depends on flight time. Further notice will be given later.*

Week 15 Apr 10 – 14

Final Presentations I

Week 16 Apr 17 – 21

Final Presentations II

Week 17 Apr 24 – 26

Final Exam Review

Q & A TBA

Final Exam: Fri., April 28 8:00 - 11:00 am

**This is only a tentative schedule for this course. Content may change*