

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

Instructor: Yuan Wang
Email: ywang87@uga.edu
Class Location: Park Hall 136
Class Time: TR 11:00 am-12:15 pm
Office: Candler B02
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30pm 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:

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

*The second edition of this book is available in market, but you are NOT required to purchase the latest version. We will not go over every single case presented in this book. However, for a better understanding of the materials and make yourself familiar with major political entities in the world, you are responsible for reading country cases in the second part of this textbook.

+Additional articles are available on web/elc.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

5% Cultural story sharing OR Foreign language teaching

10% Attendance & Participation

15% Student-led Lectures

35% Research Project (15% Paper Proposal+15% Final Presentation+5% Peer Review Discussion)

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

Grade Scale:

>93%: A	77-79.99%: C+
90-92.99%: A-	73-76.99%: C
87-89.99%: B+	70-72.99%: C-
83-86.99%: B	60-69.99%: D
80-82.99%: B-	<60%: F

Attendance and Participation (10%)

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.

Cultural story sharing OR Foreign language teaching (5%) Comparative studies based a large quantity of its substances on people's understanding of a specific culture and its language. Exposure to foreign cultures and languages not only stimulates one's interest in learning politics but also lays foundations for applying comparative method. At the beginning of every class, there would be **One** or **Two** student sharing an interesting cultural story or teaching words/phrases of a foreign language (5 minutes in length). More details will be given in class.

Student led lectures (15%) There will be **12** student-led lectures (30 minutes in length) in this class. Three or four student lecturers work in one group and each group would be responsible for a case study pertaining to a particular topic and coordinate discussions of the class. The lecturers should be familiar with the topic, introduce it to the class and design relevant activities. While it is the responsibility of the lecturers to lead the lecture, all rest students are expected to participate. More details will be given in class.

Research Project (35%): in the format of a **Paper Proposal (15%)** and a **Final Presentation (15%)**, **additional 5% will be credited to your participation in peer review of the final presentation.** Students will work **collectively** (same coworkers of the student led lecture assignment) 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 will turn in **ONE paper proposal** (double space, Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1 inch margins, 4-5 pages) of comparative politics issues. This paper should be a research proposal including the introduction of the research question, the significance of this research question,

country cases selected, why the cases are chosen but not otherwise, description of variables and what you are expecting to find out through this paper. 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; 2) proposing an empirical research question and answer it with solid evidence and 3) using comparative methods. Finally, you will develop the introduction into **ONE presentation (appr. 18 minutes)** organized in a normal research paper format with (1) introduction and research question, (2) methods, data, and research design, (3) analysis, and (4) conclusion. Each student will be graded for the effectiveness and quantity of participation while others being presenting. More information will be provided in class

10/12 Paper proposal DUE

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 Aug 15/17

Introduction of class, Comparative Methods I

Readings:

Syllabus

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1

Week 2 Aug 22/24

Comparative Methods II

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 2

Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-693.

Discussion: Possible errors we may commit

Week 3 Aug 29/31

The State and Development

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 3 (pp. 47-58, pp. 60-68)

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 4

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

Student led lecture 1): Case study of the formation of a modern state

Week 4 Sep 5/7

The Welfare State

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 3 (pp. 58-60, pp. 68-74)

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 2): Case study of a social welfare state

Week 5 Sep 12/14

Democracies and Modernization

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 5

Schmitter, P. C., & Karl, T. L. (1991). "What democracy is... and is not". *Journal of Democracy*, 2(3), 75-88.

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

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

Student led lecture 3): Case study of a democracy (with focus on democratization)

Week 6 Sep 19/21

Nondemocratic States

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 6

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

Student led lecture 4): Case study of a non democratic state or a hybrid regime

Week 7 Sep 26/28

Constitutions and Constitutional Design

Readings: Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 7

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

Student led lecture 5): Case study of a non-US federalism OR unitarism

Week 8 Oct 3/5

Midterm Review, Midterm

<<<<Oct 5th Midterm Exam>>>>

Week 9 Oct 10/12

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 6): Case study of the electoral system in the U.S.

Student led lecture 7): Case study of the electoral system in a non U.S. state

<<<<Oct 12th Paper Proposal Due>>>>

Week 10 Oct 17/19

Executives

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.

Student led lecture 8) Case study of presidentialism in a non-U.S. state

Student led lecture 9) Case study of parliamentarism

Week 11 Oct 24/26

Political Parties and Party Systems

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 10

Student led lecture 10): Case study of the party system in a non U.S. state

Week 12 Oct 31/Nov 2

Civil Society, Social Movements and Revolutions

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 11

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>

Student led lecture 11): Case study of the movements and/or revolutions in one/multiple states

Week 13 Nov 7/9

Identity and Nationalism, Paper workshop (TBD)

Reading:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapters 12-13

Huntington, S. P. (2004). *Who are we?: The challenges to America's national identity*. Simon and Schuster. Chapter 1.

Student led lecture 12): Case study of nationalism in one/multiple states

Week 14 Nov 14/16

Final Presentations I

Week 15 Nov 20-24

No Class-Fall Break

Week 16 Nov 28/30

Final Presentations II

Week 17 (TBD)

Final exam review

Final Exam

Thur., Dec. 7 12:00 - 3:00 pm

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

