

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Spring 2018

Dr. Shane P. Singh
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Course Webpage: <http://www.shanepsingh.com/teaching.html>

Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45PM

Class Location: 219A Peabody Hall

Goal of the Course: This course is designed to introduce the comparative study of politics and government. By the end of the course, students should understand why comparing domestic political institutions and processes across countries is useful. In addition, they should understand how researchers study politics and government across countries. This course is also intended to provide an overview of domestic political structures around the world. Thus, students should become familiar with the basic varieties of political institutions and processes.

Required Readings:

Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Jonathan Eastwood. 2015. Second Edition. *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Some journal articles, which are freely available to you online or in the library.

Student Responsibilities:

Readings: Students are required to do the readings for each class period. I expect everyone to finish the readings for each class ahead of time.

Comparative Election Report: There will be a research report in which students will compare and contrast recent national elections in two countries. More details will be provided in a handout.

Exams: There will be two required in-class exams (a midterm and a final). The format of each exam will be announced ahead of time. The final exam is non-cumulative.

Participation/Quizzes: I expect students to be attentive and to contribute when appropriate. There will also be a small number of short, unannounced quizzes that will cover recent readings and course material. Your completion of/performance on these will help me assess your participation grade. I also strongly encourage students to read articles from national and international news sources that are pertinent to

class material. Though I will not take attendance, being present is important; you have to be in class to participate and to take the quizzes!

Grades:

Participation/Quizzes:	10%
Exams:	70% (35% each)
Comparative Election Report:	20%

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

Policy on Laptops and Smartphones: The use of smartphones during class is prohibited, but students may use their laptops to take notes or to refer to the readings. Students may not, however, browse the web or check their email. Students caught doing so will lose participation points.

Late/Missed Assignments: Missed assignments will result in a zero without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Students will be penalized for late assignments; 20% of the grade for each day late without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Make-up exams can be arranged with the instructor with a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency.

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Readings and Course Schedule: *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

WEEK 1

1/4: No Class, Away at Conference

WEEK 2

1/9: Introduction and Overview of Comparative Politics

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 2

1/11: The State

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 3

WEEK 3

1/16: Democracies

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 6, pages 119-129

1/18: Nondemocratic States

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 7

WEEK 4

1/23: The Determinants and Promotion of Democracy

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 6, pages 129-143

1/25: Legislatures

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 9, 198-205 and 211-222

WEEK 5

1/30: Governments in Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 10

2/1: Constitutions and Judicial Power

Handout on Comparative Election Report

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 8, pages 171-180 and 190-196

WEEK 6

2/6: Electoral Systems

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 9, pages 205-211

2/8: Federalism

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 8, pages 180-190

WEEK 7

2/13: Nationalism and Regionalism

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 13

2/15: Political Parties

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 11, pages 257-258

WEEK 8

2/20: Party Systems

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 11, pages 259-264 and 267-272

2/22: Case Study: Australia

Kernell, Georgia. 2014. "The 2013 Parliamentary Election in Australia." *Electoral Studies* 34 (1): 357-61.

WEEK 9

2/27: Case Study: Argentina

Singer, Matthew M. 2014. "The 2013 Congressional Elections in Argentina." *Electoral Studies* 35 (1): 370-73.

3/1: Case Study: India

Diwakar, Rekha. 2015. "The 16th General Election in India, April-May 2014." *Electoral Studies* 37 (1): 120-25.

Dickovick and Eastwood, pages 455-467

WEEK 10

3/6: Midterm Review

3/8: Midterm Exam

WEEK 11



Spring Break

WEEK 12

3/20: Political Participation and Voter Turnout

Stockemer, Daniel. 2017. "What Affects Voter Turnout? A Review Article/Meta-Analysis of Aggregate Research." *Government and Opposition* 52 (4): 698-722.

3/22: Social Movements and Revolutions

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 12

WEEK 13

3/27: Political Economy and the Welfare State

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 4

3/29: Development

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 5

WEEK 14

4/3: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 14

4/5: No Class, Away at Conference

WEEK 15

4/10: Political Culture

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 15

4/12: Globalization

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 16, pages 376-390

WEEK 16

4/17: Case Study: Ecuador

Bowen, James D. 2010. "Ecuador's 2009 Presidential and Legislative Elections." *Electoral Studies* 29 (1): 186-89.

4/19: Case Study: The European Union

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 16, pages 373-375

WEEK 17

4/24: Final Exam Review

Comparative Election Report Due

FINALS WEEK

5/3: Final Exam, 12:00-3:00PM