

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics
University of Georgia
Fall 2016

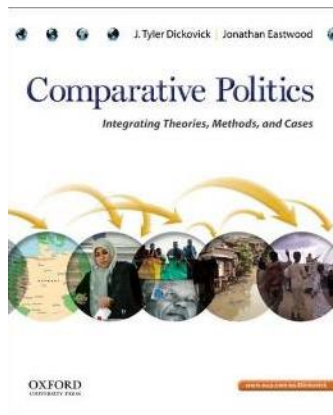
Instructor: Yuan Wang
Email: ywang87@uga.edu
Class Location: Park Hall 114
Class Time: MWF 10:10-11:00am
Office: MLC TBA
Office Hours: M&W 1-2pm OR By appointment

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

10% Attendance & Participation

20% Two Reading Tests

20% Three Short Analysis Papers

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

15% Case Study Presentation

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 (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.

Two Reading Tests (10% each, 20% total)

There will be two tests (in addition to mid-term and final exam) over the course of the term, and these make it possible to keep the students concentrating on our course. These are **NON-accumulative** tests composed of multiple choice, filling blanks and/or short answers that cover the assigned readings for a certain period. Tests will NOT be made-up if you are absent.

Short Analysis Paper (5% for each of the first two, 10% for the third) Each student will turn in Three 4-5 pages (double space, Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1 inch margins) analysis of comparative politics issues or critical reflections. This assignment will require you to use all of the analytical tools that you will learn over the course of the semester. More information will be

provided in class. Due date will be:

Sep 16 First Paper

Sep 30 Second Paper

Oct 28 Third Paper

Case Study Project (15%) Students will form groups of several members and conduct a collective project to apply what we learn in the course to analyze a real political issue. You will select your own topics with the instructor's guidance. 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. The project shall be a presentation, and all group members share the same grade. The presentation shall be organized in a normal research paper shape with (1) introduction and research question, (2) methods, data sources, and research design, (3) analysis, and (4) conclusion.

Mid-term (15%) and Final Exam (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, student-led lectures, 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 12

Welcome and Introduction

Week 2 Aug 15-19

Comparative Methods

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1-2

Week 3 Aug 22-26

The Modern State and Social Welfare **!Hunger Game!**

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.

Week 4 Aug 29 – Sep 2

Development and Political Economy **!First Reading Test!**

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 4

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

<<<<Sep 2nd First Reading Test >>>>

Week 5 Sep 5 – Sep 9

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.

No Class on Sep 5th

Week 6 Sep 12 - 16

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.

<<<<Sep 16 First Short Analysis Paper due>>>>

Week 7 Sep 19 – 23

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.

Week 8 Sep 26 – Sep 30

Legislatures and Electoral Systems I

!Second Analysis Paper due!

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.

<<<<Sep 30 Second Short Analysis Paper due>>>>

Week 9 Oct 3 – 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.

Y. N. Cho (2002). "From "rubber stamps" to "iron stamps": the emergence of Chinese local people's congresses as supervisory powerhouses." *The China Quarterly*, 171, 724-740.

Week 10 Oct 10 – 14

Mid Term Review, Exam & Movie

<<<<Oct 12th Midterm Exam>>>>

Week 11 Oct 17 – 21

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.

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

B. Rothstein and E. Uslaner. (2005). All for all: Equality and Social Trust. *Center for European Studies Working Paper* 117.

Week 12 Oct 24 – 28

!Third 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.

No Class Oct 28th, Fall Break

<<<<Oct 28 Third Short Analysis Paper due>>>>

Week 13 Oct 31 – Nov 4

!Second Reading Test!

National Identity, Ethnicity and Gender

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 12

S. P. Huntington (2004). *Who are We? The challenges to America's identity*. New York, Simon & Schuster. Chapter 1

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 13

<<<<Nov 4 Second Reading Test >>>>

Week 14 Nov 7 – 11

Political Culture and Globalization

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 14-15

Blais, André. 2006. What Affects Voter Turnout? *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:111-125.

The Effect of the Internet on Political Participation & Weekly Wrap-up

S. Kruikemeier, G. van Noort & R. Vliegenthart (2012). *Politics Online: the Effect of Political Internet Use on Citizens' Political Involvement*. Working Paper.

Clay Shirky (2011) "The Political Power of Social Media." *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2011, Vol. 90 Issue 1, p28-41

Week 15 Nov 14 -18

Final Presentations

Week 16 Nov 21 – 25

No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Week 17 Nov 28 – Dec 2

Final Presentations Continued TBA

Final Exam Review TBA

Week 18 Dec 5th

Last day of class, reserved for Q & A

Final Exam: Mon., Dec. 12 8:00 - 11:00 am

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