

**INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics**  
**University of Georgia**  
**Summer 2017**

Instructor: Yuan Wang  
Email: ywang87@uga.edu  
Class Location: Caldwell Hall 105  
Class Time: MTWRF 11:45 am-02:00 pm  
Office: Candler B02  
Office Hours: 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

30% Research Project (Topic Introduction+Final Presentation+Peer Review Discussion)

40% Exams (20% 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** 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 (20%)** There will be **10** student led lectures (30 minutes in length) in this class. Each student lecturer would be responsible for case study with regards to a particular topic and coordinate discussions of the class. The lecturer should be familiar with the topic, introduce it to the class and design relevant activities. While it is the responsibility of the lecturer to lead the lecture, all students are expected to participate. More details will be given in class.

**Research Project (30%):** in the format of a **Topic introduction paper (10%)** and a **Final Presentation (15%)**, **additional 5% will be credited to your participation in peer review in class.** Students will work individually 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 student will turn in **ONE 1-page paper** (single space, Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1 inch margins) 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, and why the cases are chosen but not otherwise 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) propose an empirical research question and answer it with solid evidence, using comparative methods. Finally, you will develop the introduction into **ONE presentation (appr. 15 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

### **7/13 Topic introduction paper DUE**

**Mid-term (20%) 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](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm). All academic works must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty."

## Class Schedule

### July 3 (Monday)

#### Introduction of class and Comparative Methods I

Readings:

Syllabus

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1

### July 4 (Tuesday)

*No Class-Independence Day*

### July 5-6 (Wednesday-Thursday)

#### Comparative Methods II

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1-2

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

*Discussion: Possible errors we may commit*

### July 7 (Friday),

#### 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*

### July 10 (Monday) 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*

### **July 11 (Tuesday)**

#### **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)*

### **July 12 (Wednesday)**

#### **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*

### **July 13 (Thursday)**

#### **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*

### **July 14 (Friday)**

Midterm Review

### **July 17 (Monday)**

Midterm-Caldwell 105, 11:45 am-02:00 pm

**July 18 (Tuesday)**

Workshop: How to write a research paper?

**July 19 (Wednesday)**

**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 a non U.S. state*

**July 20 (Thursday)**

**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 7) Case study of presidentialism in a non-U.S. state*

*Student led lecture 8) Case study of parliamentarism*

**July 21 (Friday)**

**Political Parties and Party Systems**

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 10

*Student led lecture 9): Case study of the party system in a non U.S. state*

**July 24 (Monday)**

**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 10): Case study of the movements and/or revolutions in one/multiple states*

**July 24 (Tuesday)**

Final Presentations I

**July 24 (Wednesday)**

Final Presentations II

**July 26 (Thursday)**

Final Presentations III

**July 27 (Friday)**

Final exam review

**July 31 (Monday)**

Final exam-Caldwell 105, 11:45am-2:00pm,

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