

**INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics**  
**University of Georgia**  
**Spring 2018**

Instructor: Yuan Wang  
Email: ywang87@uga.edu  
Class Location: Park Hall 269  
Class Time: MWF 11:15am-12:05 pm  
Office: Candler B02  
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30pm 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:**

\*<sup>+</sup> 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. Moreover, 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.

<sup>+</sup>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 points 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 (15%)** There will be **11** student-led lectures (25 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 also be graded for the effectiveness and quantity of participation while others being presenting. More information will be provided in class

### **3/9 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](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 5**

#### **Introduction of class**

Reading:

Syllabus

### **Week 2 Jan 8-12**

#### **Comparative Methods I**

Reading:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 1

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

### **Week 3 Jan 15-19**

#### **Comparative Methods II**

Readings:

Dickovick and Eastwood, Chapter 2

*No class on Jan 15 -Martin Luther King Day*

### **Week 4 Jan 22-26**

#### **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 5 Jan 29-Feb 2**

#### **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 6 Feb 5-9**

### **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 7 Feb 12-16**

### **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 8 Feb 19-23**

### **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 9 Feb 26-Mar 2**

Midterm Review, Midterm, Movie

<<<*Feb 28 Midterm Exam*>>>

**Week 10 Mar 5-9**

**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*

<<<<*Mar 9 Paper Proposal Due*>>>>

**Week 11 Mar 12-16**

*No Class-Spring Break*

**Week 12 Mar 19-23**

**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 13 Mar 26-30**

## **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 14 Apr 2-6**

### **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*

***No class on Apr 6-out of town for MPSA***

## **Week 15 Apr 9-13**

Final Presentations I

## **Week 16 Apr 16-20**

Final Presentations II

## **Week 17 Apr 23**

Final exam review

### ***Final Exam***

***Fri., Apr. 27 12:00 - 3:00 pm***

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