INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2018
T-Th 2:00-3:15pm
115 Candler Hall

Dr. Mollie J. Cohen
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Course Description:

"A patient pursuit of facts, and cautious combination and comparison of them, is the drudgery to which man is subjected by his Maker, if he wishes to attain sure knowledge."

- Thomas Jefferson
Notes on Virginia Q.VI, 1782. ME 2:97

As Thomas Jefferson so aptly noted, the pursuit of knowledge in all scientific fields is based in comparison. This course will give students a broad overview both of classic debates in the study of comparative politics and of questions the field is grappling with in the present day. Some of the topics addressed in this class include weak states, transitions to and from democracy, economic development, and the effects of institutional design on political outcomes. The term "comparative politics" often refers to the politics of countries outside of the United States, therefore most examples in this class will be drawn from developed and developing political systems around the world.

By the end of the semester, students who successfully complete this course will be able to: explain the role of controlled comparison in the scientific study of politics; understand the different analytical strategies used by comparativists to answer research questions; discuss key debates in the study of comparative politics; and synthesize this knowledge in the production of memos and in-class presentations.

Required Readings:

O'Neil, Patrick, and Ronald Rogowski. 2018. *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics, 5th Edition.*

Articles from academic journals, which are available to you for free online or through the university library, and occasional book excerpts, which will be made available online.

Course Requirements:

Reading: This is a small class, and we will regularly discuss course material at length. You are responsible for reading all assigned material for each class period. Some of the

academic articles we will read are dense. You are not expected to understand all of the technical aspects of these articles. However, you are expected to make a good faith effort to identify the argument, evidence, and conclusions presented by the authors. In rare cases, readings may be adjusted during the semester.

Activities: There will be two in-class activities. You are expected to complete all associated assignments before class and to actively participate in class.

Exams: This class will have two non-cumulative midterm exams and a cumulative final.

Quizzes: There will be six announced quizzes throughout the semester that will be held at the beginning of class. If you will regularly be unable to arrive on time, please discuss this with me as soon as possible so we can find an accommodation. Without prior notification of illness or a prior accommodation, you will not be allowed to take quizzes if you arrive late.

Participation: Both the quantity and quality of your participation in class discussion and activities will be considered. Your participation in class is not just an important part of your grade, but also a sign of respect to the instructor and your peers. The academic enterprise is founded on the open exchange of ideas; to that end, we will hold regular in-class discussions. You may hold strong opinions about the topics we read about and discuss in this class. I expect you to follow the golden rule during in-class discussions and treat your classmates and their ideas with the same respect you would like to receive.

Attendance: I will not enforce a strict attendance policy in this class; do note, however, that in-class participation and quizzes account for 20% of your final grade and you can neither participate nor take quizzes if you are absent.

Grades:

Midterm Exams: 40% (20% each)
Final exam: 30%
In-class activities: 10% (5% each)
Quizzes: 10% (2% each, worst grade dropped)
Participation: 10%

Grade Scale:

>=93%:	A
90-92.9%:	A-
87-89.9%:	B+
83-86.9%:	B
80-82.9%:	B-
77-79.9%:	C+
73-76.9%:	C

70-72.9%: C-
60-69.9%: D
<60%: F

Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones:

Laptops, tablets, and smart phones put the world at our fingertips. While technology can be incredibly useful, it is often distracting during class. Because of this tendency to distract from rather than aid learning, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices are not allowed in this course without instructor permission. If permission is granted, you may use the equipment for the sole purpose of taking notes. All requests regarding technology must be made in person, and non-compliance with the policy will result in a failing participation grade.

Late or Missed Assignments:

The two non-reading assignments assigned for this course will inform in-class activities and must therefore be completed on time. If you do not complete the assignments, you will receive a zero for the activity unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy:

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: https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/. *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.*

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic and Assigned Reading
Week 1	August 14 August 16	Course Introduction – no reading On Science, Causes, and Making Inferences Reading: 1. Arthur Conan Doyle. 1892. "The Adventure of Silver Blaze".
Week 2	August 21 August 23	Data: what it is and how we analyze it No reading Studying Comparative Politics Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 1-26) 2. Letter from Mr. Perestroika
Week 3	August 28	Conducting Ethical Research Reading: 1. The Belmont Report

		2. Understand why we have the Belmont Report: a. Nuremberg, Tuskegee b. No, the problem didn't go away. Read about Guatemala
	August 30	Class does not meet – American Political Science Association annual meeting
Week 4	September 4	Defining the "State" (with a capital S) Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp.27-34; pp.57-63)
	September 6	Strong and Weak States; Nations Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 35-56) 2. Smith, Amy Erica. 2018. "Solo reveals the weakness of the Star Wars Galactic Empire."
Week 5	September 11	Strong State/ Weak State Activity
	September 13	Defining Democracy Reading: 1. Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. Chapter 1. 2. Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What democracy is... and is not." *Journal of democracy* 2(3): 75-88. (Excerpt in O'Neil and Rogowski, pp. 180-189).
Week 6	September 18	Measuring Democracy Reading: 1. Schumpeter 1942. Excerpt made available online. 2. Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, David Altman, Michael Bernhard, Steven Fish, Allen Hicken, Matthew Kroenig et al. 2011. "Conceptualizing and measuring democracy: A new approach." *Perspectives on Politics* 9(2): 247-267. 3. Freedom House methodology overview 4. Familiarize yourself with the Varieties of Democracy website
	September 20	Designing Democracies: constitutions and courts Reading: 1. Taylor, Steven L. and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 2016. *A Different Democracy: American Government in Comparative Perspective.* Chapter 3, "Constitutions," and 4 "Judicial Power"
Week 7	September 25	Parliamentary vs. Presidential Systems Reading:

		1. Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." Journal of Democracy, 1(1): 51-69. 2. Horowitz, Donald. L. 1990. "Comparing Democratic Systems" Journal of Democracy, 1(4): 73-79. 3. Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Virtues of Parliamentarism" Journal of Democracy, 1(4): 84-91.
	September 27	Majoritarianism vs. Proportionality Reading: 1. Lijphart, Arent. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Chapter 4.
Week 8	October 2	Parties and Party Systems Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp.432-436) 2. Lupu, Noam. 2015. "Political Parties and Party Systems." *Routledge Handbook.*
	October 5	**Midterm 1**
Week 9	October 9	Types of Authoritarian Regimes Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 241-287)
	October 11	Governance under Authoritarianism Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (288-308) 2. Gandhi, Jennifer, and Adam Przeworski. 2007. "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats." *Comparative Political Studies* 40(11): 1279-1301.
Week 10	October 16	Transitions to Democracy Reading: 1. Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. *The third wave: Democratization in the late twentieth century*. Vol. 4. University of Oklahoma press. Chapter 1. 2. Karl, Terry Lynn. 1990. "Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America." *Comparative Politics* 23(1): 1-21. 3. https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/06/18/a-users-guide-to-democratic-transitions/
	October 18	Transitions from Democracy Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 213-238; 477-496) 2. Bermeo, Nancy. 2016. "On Democratic Backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27(1): 5-19.
Week 11	October 23	Development and Democracy – Modernization Theory Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 387-418)

	October 25	Development – Historical explanations Reading: 1. Geography: Jared Diamond. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, Chapter 3 (available online) a. Optional: Chapters 4 and 5. 2. Institutions: Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Chapter 3 (available online)
Week 12	October 30 November 1	Development – Conflict and Resources Reading: 1. Collier, Paul. 2008. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Poor and What Can Be Done About It.* Chapters 2 and 3 (available online). **Midterm 2**
Week 13	November 6 November 8	Special Topics: Public Opinion Reading 1. Asher, Herbert. *Polling and the public: What Every Citizen Should Know.* Chapter 1. *2.* "How One 19-Year-Old Illinois Man is Distorting National Polling Averages." *The New York Times.* Special Topics: Vote Buying Reading: 1. Faughnan, Brian, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2011. "Vote Buying in the Americas." LAPOP *Insights* Report No. 57 Public Opinion Activity
Week 14	November 13 November 15	Special Topics: Migration and Refugees Reading: 1. Cornelius, Wayne A., and Marc R. Rosenblum. 2005. "Immigration and politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 8: 99-119. Special Topics: Populism Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 567-572)

November 20-25: No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15	November 27	Special Topics: Political violence Reading: 1. O'Neil and Rogowski (pp. 310-342)

	November 29	Special Topics: Corruption Reading: 1. Treisman, Daniel. 2007. What Have We Learned About the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Empirical Research? Annual Review of Polsci. 2. Nara Pavão. 2018. "Corruption As An Only Option: The Limits to Electoral Accountability." *Journal of Politics.*
Week 16	December 4	Unfinished Business & Final Exam Review

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11, 2:30-6:30pm