

## INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2019

Dr. Molly Ariotti

T TH : 11am-12:15pm

Location: Main Library, B02

**Office Hours:** By appointment (email to set up a time)

**Office Location:** 303 Candler Hall

**Email:** [mariotti@uga.edu](mailto:mariotti@uga.edu) (please do not use messaging/inbox on eLC)

**Teaching Assistant:** Blake Smith ([wbsmith@uga.edu](mailto:wbsmith@uga.edu))

**Office Hours:** 1:30-2:30pm, T/TH (GLOBIS Center, 113 Franklin House)

### Course Description:

The goal of this course is to give you a broad understanding of the topics and questions that scholars of comparative politics study. These include topics on both democratic and authoritarian regimes, as well as the role of economic and cultural factors in different regimes and how regimes transition. We will also discuss typologies in authoritarian regimes (military, personalistic, etc.) and types of democracy (presidential, parliamentary, semi-presidential). This course will also cover different types of electoral systems, and the consequences of democratic institutions. The aim is to present you with a broad picture of major topics in comparative politics, while also introducing you to different methods used by political scientists who study them. *Course Prerequisites: POLS 1101 or INTL 1100*

### Course Objectives:

1. Introduce foundational topics and concepts in comparative politics
2. Develop a familiarity with various methods used by comparative scholars
3. Learn about measurement and classification of concepts such as democracy and dictatorship
4. Use critical thinking to engage with contemporary comparative politics research

### Course Requirements:

Students are expected to (1) attend all lectures; (2) complete the required reading before the start of each class; (3) complete all assignments. In the event of an emergency, it is expected the student will contact me with appropriate documentation within 24 hours of a missed class or assignment deadline.

Your responsibilities will often force you to make choices about what you need to prioritize. I will not take attendance, but I expect you to attend classes regularly. Because I expect you to attend all lectures, **I will not post slides or notes online.** You should try to befriend some classmates early on so that you can make a copy of their notes in the event that you are absent. I will not make photocopies of my notes, nor will I hold a special make up class session during my office hours.

Note that while this course is introductory, that does not mean the topics we cover will be easy. The goal of any introductory course is to introduce key topics, questions, and methodologies that will be relevant in future advanced coursework.

**Accommodations:**

If you have any special accommodations, I expect that you will provide me with all necessary paperwork during the first week of class, and set up a time to meet with me to discuss what I expect from you.

**Assignments:**

I will discuss assignments in class, and information about the assignment and deadline may be posted to eLC. **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO CHECK eLC ON A REGULAR BASIS.** If you are absent, I encourage you to speak with a classmate or come to office hours in order to be clear about the expectations.

Homework will be made available during specific windows on eLC. These quiz assignments are designed to help you assess your understanding of the reading and class lectures. Each one is worth a relatively small proportion of your final grade – this is on purpose. I want you to know that it is OK to struggle with some weeks, and doing poorly on a week if you find the material challenging is not a deal breaker. It should, however, be a major indicator to you that you need to set up a time to see me and try to figure out where you missed points.

Homework assignments make up a little over half of your grade, so that you are rewarded for remaining engaged throughout the semester. You will also have a midterm and a final. The midterm is worth slightly less than the final exam, as the final will be cumulative and I expect you will improve once you are more familiar with the style of my exams.

**Grading and Scale:**

Homework assignments (11, worth 5% each): 55%

Midterm: 20%

Final exam: 25%

A (93-100)	C+ (77-79.9)
A- (90-92.9)	C (73-76.9)
B+ (87-89.9)	C- (70-72.9)
B (83-86.9)	D (60-69.9)
B- (80-82.9)	FAIL (0-59.9)

**Required Course Materials:**

There is one required textbook for this course, which is available at the campus bookstore as well as from various sources online. This edition was significantly revised, so you will want the third (blue) edition.

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics* (Third Edition). Washington D.C.: CQ Press/Sage.

Occasionally readings or chapters excerpted from books will be placed on eLC for you to access. Otherwise, readings are available through the library website (in order to access these readings you may either need to be on campus or logged into your Georgia library access account). Check the most recent syllabus regularly as it may be updated throughout the semester; it will always be available and up to date on eLC.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

Readings should be completed *prior to class* on the day they are listed.

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. While I might adjust the timing for topics if we are unable to cover them as planned, I will **not** move the exam dates.*

### **Week 1: August 14-16**

#### **Chapter 1 – What is Comparative Politics?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 1.

### **Week 2: August 19-23**

#### **Chapter 2 – What is Science?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 2.

### **Week 3: August 26-30**

#### **Chapter 3 – What is Politics?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 3.

*Thursday: NO CLASS (Conference)*

### **Week 4: September 2-6**

#### **Chapter 4 – What is the State?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 4.

### **Week 5: September 9-13**

#### **Chapter 5 – Democracy and Dictatorship: Measurement and Conceptualization**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 5.

### **Week 6: September 16-20**

#### **Chapter 6 – The Economic Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 6.

### **Week 7: September 23-27**

## **Chapter 7 – The Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 7.

## **Week 8: September 30- October 4**

### **Chapter 8 – Democratic Transitions**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 8.

*Thursday*: MIDTERM EXAM [in class]

## **Week 9: October 7-11**

### **Chapter 9 – Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it make a difference?**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 9.

## **Week 10: October 14-18**

### **Chapter 10 – Varieties of Dictatorship**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 10.

## **Week 11: October 21-25**

### **Chapter 12 – Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-presidential Democracies**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 12.

## **Week 12: October 28 – November 1**

### **Chapter 13 – Elections and Electoral Systems**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 13.

## **Week 13: November 4-8**

### **Chapter 14 – Social Cleavages and Party Systems**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 14.

## **Week 14 : November 11-15**

### **Chapter 16 – Consequences of Democratic Institutions pt1**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 16.

## **Week 15: November 19-23**

## **Chapter 16 – Consequences of Democratic Institutions pt2**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 16.

*Thursday: NO CLASS (Conference)*

## **Week 16: November 25-29**

### **Chapter 15 – Institutional Veto Players**

Clark, William, Matt Golder & Sona Golder. 2017. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Chapter 15 .

*Thursday: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)*

## **Week 17: December 3**

*Tuesday: Optional review session during normal class time!*

**FINAL EXAM: TBD**

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **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://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/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.