

Introduction to Comparative Politics INTL 3300E
Maymester 2021 (On-line, asynchronous)
The University of Georgia
Department of International Affairs
Classes begin: May 19 and end: June 9
Contact hours via zoom: T and W: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and by appointment
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Comparative politics is the systematic comparison of differences and similarities across a set of selected countries. Explicit comparisons generate incisive questions and, hopefully, enlightening answers. For instance, why is it that in Sweden a speeding ticket could cost \$125,000 while this would be unthinkable in the United States? Such comparisons can thus be thought of as a method of gaining insights into different cultures, systems, institutions, structures, and other constraints that guide the politics of different countries. When appropriate, lectures will also take a comparative view as to how and why different countries deal differently with COVID-19.

Course outcomes:

- Appreciate HOW and WHY other countries, even though facing similar challenges as the United States, are finding quite different solutions
- You will understand that differences in institutions, cultures, political action, and structures yield very different outcomes.
- Be able to apply what you have learned in class to new topics from outside of class.
- Become a more discerning consumer of information of the political events around the world
- Appreciate the difficulties of why it is so hard to “learn” from other countries
- Finally, because of contrasting the US with other countries, you will develop, not only a better understanding of politics in other countries, but also, and perhaps paradoxically, a deeper knowledge of politics and society in the United States.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Teaching, learning, and staying safe in times of the coronavirus:

1. If you are unsure about this coronavirus thing, and need to find out more about it (such as the policy on face coverings, the dawg check, what to do if you have been exposed or have symptoms, how do you get a test, and what to do if you test positive) please visit this site: <https://coronavirus.uga.edu/>
2. This is a Maymester course that meets every day with a highly compressed schedule consisting of 16 class periods. All lectures will be held asynchronously which means I

record the lecture and then upload it to eLC for you to watch at your convenience. However, it is important that you DO watch the lectures as without watching them, it won't be possible to pass the course. I will upload the recording roughly by noon or early afternoon every day allowing you to view the lectures from remote locations.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- *If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.*
- *UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).*
- *If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.*
- *Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.*

Some ground rules:

1. Grade changes: if you feel that a test or assignment was graded incorrectly you must submit a type-written explanation of the problem along with the test or assignment in question **within two days** of my returning the paper/exam/quiz, etc. to you. I will re-evaluate your work and you will receive a “new” grade, whether that be the **same**, a **higher**, or **lower** grade. The only exception to this rule is for simple errors in calculation.
2. Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. 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”. 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.
3. Late papers are not acceptable. They are a burden for me and are unfair to your colleagues who do their work on time. Therefore, I will deduct a half a letter grade (5 points) for each day a paper is late. Extensions may be given but only if they are requested well in advance of the deadline, and if there is a compelling reason.
4. If you need to use outside reference works, please consult Joel Krieger, et. al., *Oxford Companion to Comparative Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2013. Do NOT use Webster's Dictionary for definitions of things such as “democracy”!
5. Disability arrangements: if you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodation under the Americans With Disabilities Act, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide the appropriate documentation well before exam accommodations are made. Once I have DRC's documentation all efforts will be made to accommodate any learning disabilities.

Course requirements:

- **Watch recording of the daily lecture.** The lectures will be recorded and posted before noon each day.
- There will be 14 very short, timed quizzes **DAILY** on eLC covering materials that are presented in the daily lectures. The first quiz will take place on May 20. Each quiz counts for 2 percent for a total of 28 percent of the overall grade.
- **Five one page summaries** of short articles/newspaper clips/reviews which should combine the knowledge gained by absorbing the readings as well as the lectures each counting for 5% for a total of 25% of the overall grade. While the weblinks are correct, you may want to sign in via your institution as some of the readings (such as from the *Economist*) may be behind pay walls. We'll be using the "Assignment" portal in the eLC for these exercises. I will be more specific as to the requirements for these short papers in the Assignment section of eLC.
- **Discussion forum participation:** I will post some questions for each section of the class. There are five sections: 1. The five crises of nation building; 2. Between Democracy and Authoritarianism; 3. Structuralist explanations, 4. Culturalist explanations, 5. Institutional explanations. You need to actively participate by **posting, reading** other students' posts, and **responding** to other students' posts. The more you post, read, and react to other students (in terms of not only quantity but also quality) the higher the grade. This discussion forum participation will count for 15% of your overall grade.
- **Final exam:** it is open book and will consist of a number of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks, and short answer questions covering the lectures as well as the readings and will count for 32% of the overall grade.

Grading structure:	≥93	A
	90-92	A-
	87-89	B+
	83-86	B
	80-82	B-
	77-79	C+
	73-76	C
	70-72	C-
	60-69	D
	<60	F

Reading assignments: This is a NO COST course in terms of expenses for buying books or other instructional materials. All readings are directly linked for your convenience. I made sure that all links are functional – however, if you run into problems, make sure that you log in via your institution. If all else fails, just google the title and author and you should be able to find the reading by logging in via your institution.

Reading assignments:

- Wed, May 19: Outline of course and: what is comparative politics?
- Thu, May 20: Nations, States, and conflicts between them
- For Th May 20 and Fri, May 21 read Auguste Renan’s “[What is a Nation](#)”? One page summary of this article is due on Monday, May 24, 5 pm.
- Fri, May 21: The Five Crisis of Nation Building: crisis of identity
- Mo, May 24: Crisis of Legitimacy and Penetration
- Tu, May 25: Crisis of Participation and Distribution
- For Tu May 25 and Wed. May 26 read “[The conditions for Emergence of National Identity: The Narrative of Eugen Weber’s “Peasants into Frenchmen”](#)”. One page summary of this article is due on Thursday, May 27, 5:00 pm.
- Wed, May 26 to Fri May 28 Between Democracy and Authoritarianism
- For Fri, May 28: applying what you have learned: Do you have an authoritarian personality? See where you stand on the F-scale: <https://www.anesi.com/fscale.htm> and provide a brief one page analysis of your own results. Due on Tuesday, June 1, 12:00 pm.
- Mo, May, 31 No recordings to watch: Memorial day!**
- Tu, June 1 to June 3: Thinking broadly: structuralist explanations
- For June 1 and 2: applying what you have learned: read this very short piece, [The Plow and the Now](#) (Economist, 2011) and place in the context of the central elements of a structuralist explanations. One page summary due on Thursday, June 3, at 5:00 p.m.
- Thu, June 4 to June 5: Thinking broadly: culturalist explanations
- Monday, June 7 to June 9: Thinking broadly: institutionalist explanations
- For June 7 to 9: applying what you have learned: read this short piece “[Dairy Board to Launch Quality Mark for Milk Products](#)” (Times of India, 2017) and place it in the context

of the central elements of an institutional explanation. (one page, due on Monday, June 9).

Thu, June 10:

FINAL EXAM