

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2021

Dr. Ariotti

T TH : 12:45 – 2:00pm

Location: Candler 115 (202 Herty Dr.)

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

Office Location: 303 Candler Hall (202 Herty Dr.)

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

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.

Special 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.

Students who seek religious or cultural accommodations should address potential conflicts with me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to accommodate the religious observance. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the coursework required during the period of absence.

It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of cultural and religious holidays on which they plan to be absent.

Covid Caveats:

COVID has already killed over 600,000 Americans. Less than half of the adult population of Georgia has been fully vaccinated, and new cases in the state are surging. When classes begin on August 18th, the University of Georgia will not be mandating COVID vaccines for students or employees, nor will there be any mask or physical distancing requirements. However, UGA **strongly encourages** everyone to be fully vaccinated before returning to campus.

Public health is both a personal and collective responsibility. We must think carefully about the risks posed by the ongoing pandemic, and we must do what we can to minimize risks for ourselves and for each other.

I am happy to share that I am fully vaccinated. I **strongly urge** you to be fully vaccinated before the start of classes. Information on how to get vaccinated is available here: <https://coronavirus.uga.edu/>. You can get vaccinated at any of 15 USG campuses, at the University Health Center at UGA, or at other community vaccination sites near you. The vaccines are free, safe, and effective.

As we've seen since March 2020, it can be difficult to predict how the semester will play out. Please know that I am willing to work with you to meet any challenges you might be experiencing – but you have to reach out to me. You don't have to confide your personal situation to me, but I do need you to talk to me about your bandwidth so we can discuss a way forward together.

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 18 - 20

Chapter 1 – What is Comparative Politics?

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

Week 2: August 23 - 27
Chapter 2 – What is Science?

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

Week 3: August 30 – September 3
Chapter 3 – What is Politics?

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

Week 4: September 6 - 10
Chapter 4 – What is the State?

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

Week 5: September 13 - 17
Chapter 5 – Democracy and Dictatorship: Measurement and Conceptualization

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

Week 6: September 20 - 24
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 27 – October 1
Chapter 7 – The Cultural Determinants of Democracy and Dictatorship

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

Week 8: October 4 - October 8
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 11 - 15
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 18 – 22
Chapter 10 – Varieties of Dictatorship

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

Week 11: October 25 – 29
Chapter 12 – Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-presidential Democracies

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

Week 12: November 1 – 5
Chapter 13 – Elections and Electoral Systems

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

Week 13: November 8 – 12
Chapter 14 – Social Cleavages and Party Systems

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

Week 14 : November 15 – 19
Chapter 16 – Consequences of Democratic Institutions pt1

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

Week 15: November 22 – 26
Chapter 15 – Institutional Veto Players

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

Thursday: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week 16: November 29 – December 3
Chapter 16 – Consequences of Democratic Institutions pt2

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

Week 17: December 6 – 10

Tuesday is actually Friday so no class this week!

FINAL EXAM: TBD

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.

Student Resources

UGA has a vast array of resources to support students facing a variety of challenges. Please don't hesitate to come speak with me or contact these resources directly. Please be aware that UGA faculty and staff are obligated to report any knowledge of sexual assault/relationship violence to UGA's Equal Opportunity Office. UGA's Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (info below) can speak to students confidentially.

- **Office of Student Care & Outreach** (coordinate assistance for students experiencing hardship/unforeseen circumstances) – 706-542-7774 or by email sco@uga.edu
- **Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)** - 706-542-2273 (during regular business hours)
After Hour Mental Health Crisis: 706-542-2200 (UGA Police—ask to speak to the CAPS on-call clinician)
- **Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention** – 706-542-SAFE (The advocates at RSVP can provide student confidentiality).