

INTL 3300E Introduction to Comparative Politics

Summer Short Session II: July 6 to July 31, 2026

Location: Online

Class Time/Mode: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Jangai Jap

Office Hours: Friday 10-11 am ET on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/4465843236>

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Course Description

Comparative political themes in political science. The transition from feudalism to capitalism, state building, democracy, and interaction between political institutions and cultures in various politics. Examples will be drawn from developed, communist/post-communist and developing political systems.

Course Overview

This is an introductory course to the subfield of comparative politics. Students will learn about some of the major concepts used in the study of comparative politics and will be introduced to the politics in a select group of countries. The course covers a range of topics, including state formation, democratization, authoritarianism, political institutions, and economic development.

Part I of the course will provide an overview of some of the foundational themes in comparative politics: states, regimes, political economy, and contentious politics. Part II will examine democratization and varieties of democracy, focusing on democratic institutions, electoral systems and political parties. Part III will delve into democratic erosion and varieties of autocracy, focusing on autocratic elections and authoritarian durability. Finally, Part IV will explore several special topics in comparative politics, including colonial legacies, political violence, migration and immigration, and comparative public opinion.

By the end of the course, students will be better equipped to think critically about some of the most important questions in comparative politics: Why are some countries democratic while others are authoritarian? Why do some countries achieve sustained economic development while others remain poor? Why do some societies experience civil war while others remain peaceful? More broadly, the course will provide students with analytical tools to understand political and social outcomes across countries and to engage with the major debates that shape our understanding of the world.

Prerequisite

POLS 1101 or POLS 1101E or POLS 1101H or POLS 1101S or INTL 1100 or INTL 1100E or INTL 1100H

Course Format

This is an online asynchronous course. This means you can work on the materials on your own schedule throughout the week. As long as each module assignment is completed before the weekly deadline, you can work whenever and wherever works for you best!

The course consists of four modules, one module– each with four to five topics– for every week of the four-week course. Modules will adhere to a specific schedule, opening every Friday at midnight (Saturday, 12:00 am) and closing on the following Friday at midnight (Friday, 11:59 pm ET once all related topics are covered. Please consult the Course Schedule for details on module availability and due dates.

For each topic, students are required to watch short lecture video(s) and complete the reading(s). Each module will conclude with a module discussion and a module quiz. Once you complete both the module discussion and module quiz, the next module will become available even if it is before the module is scheduled to be available. Students are also required to complete two reflection papers.

Course Requirements

Readings

We will use the following textbook and a number of freely accessible articles. The textbook is available via the Main Library.

- Bozonelos, Dino, Julia Wendt, and Charlotte Lee. *Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics*. Open Textbook Library, 2022.

Your course grade is composed of the following:

1. Discussion Posts - 40%
2. Reflection Paper - 10%
3. Module Quizzes - 50%

Discussion Posts – 40%

For each module, students will choose one of two prompts and respond to it in a discussion post. The post should be at least 400 words in length. Students are also required to respond to a peer's post which should be at least 100 words in length.

Students must complete both their discussion posts and peer responses by 11:59 p.m. ET on the Thursday of each module week. Incomplete assignment will receive a zero.

Module Quiz – 50%

To assess your comprehension of the material covered in each module, each module will conclude with a module quiz (4 quizzes in total). Each quiz consists of multiple choice and true/false questions (10 in total) as well as a few short answer questions. The quizzes are open note and open book, and you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz.

Each module quiz allows for one attempt only. Note that if you open a quiz and exit without answering any questions, it will count as an attempt and be recorded as a zero.

Quizzes must be completed by 11:59 p.m. ET on the Friday of each module week.

Reflection Paper - 10%

Students are required to write two reflection papers— one before the end of Week 2 and one before the end of Week 4. Students should reflect on what they learned, how the material affirmed or challenged their prior assumptions, and how the modules covered shaped their thinking about the topic.

Each paper should be 400–500 words in length. The papers should not simply summarize the module content. Instead, they should engage critically and thoughtfully with the material by offering original reflections, insights, and connections that go beyond the course readings and lectures.

Papers will be graded primarily on completion, as long as they demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the course material and insightful reflection. Students are expected to write clearly, organize their ideas effectively, and minimize grammatical errors.

Reflection paper #1 must be submitted by 9:00 p.m. ET on the Friday of Week 2 and reflection paper #2 by 9:00 p.m. ET on the Friday of Week 4.

*** The following scale will be used to determine your overall grade in the course:

A: >94%, A-: 90-93.9%, B+: 87-89.9%, B: 84-86.9%, B-: 80-83.9%, C+: 77-79.9%, C: 74-76.9%; C-: 70-73.9%; D+: 67-69.9%; D: 64-66.9%; D-: 60-63.9%; F: <60%.

Course Policies & Statements

Emails and Office Hours

For administrative questions and clarifications, the best way to contact me is via email. I aim to answer emails within 24 hours during the week. If you have not received a response in 24 hours, email me again. For substantive issues related to course materials, stop by during my drop-in office hours. If you are unable to stop by at the regular time, email me so that we can find a time that works for you.

Late Assignments

This course is completely asynchronous, meaning that you can work at your own pace throughout each week. If you miss a due date for a quiz or discussion board, I will allow all students one

“freebie” or late submission request (where you will still have to complete the assignment late). Please simply email me. Because grades are due on August 3, students must make late submission requests by July 31.

Contested Grades

If you believe a grade you are given does not reflect your performance, you may dispute the grade by emailing me, explaining why you should receive a higher grade.

To do so, you must wait 24 hours but no later than 48 hours after the assignment/quiz has been graded. In the email, students must include the following: (1) an explanation of what the best possible response to the prompt/assignment would look like, and (2) an explanation of how their work compared to that best answer/response. I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade.

UGA Honor Code

You have agreed to the UGA Student Honor Code: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university's Academic Honesty Policy. Plagiarism includes reprinting the words of others without both the use of quotation marks and citation.

Generative AI Tools

To ensure you develop and master the foundational knowledge and skills in this course, the use of generative AI (GAI) tools is prohibited when completing written assignments for this course. This includes all stages of your work process, even the preliminary ones. This prohibition extends to AI-assisted writing tools like Grammarly and Wordtune, as well as GAI tools like ChatGPT. If you are uncertain about using a particular tool to support your work, please consult with me before using it.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>.

UGA Well-being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
- Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
- University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
- Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: drc.uga.edu

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

Disclaimer

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

Course Schedule

Module 1: Foundational Topics in Comparative Politics

Available Saturday, July 4 at 12:00 am to Friday, July 10 at 11:59pm

1. What is comparative politics?

- **Textbook** - Chapter 1: Why Study Comparative Politics?
- **Additional** - Pepinsky, Thomas, "Comparative Politics Needs Area Studies, and Area Studies Needs Comparative Politics"
<https://tompepinsky.com/2025/10/15/comparative-politics-needs-area-studies-and-area-studies-needs-comparative-politics/>

2. States and Regimes

- **Textbook** - Chapter 3: States and Regimes
- **Additional** - Byman, Daniel, and Charles King. 2012. "The Mystery of Phantom States." *The Washington Quarterly* 35 (3): 43–57. [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

3. Political Economy

- **Textbook** - Chapter 8: Political Economy
- **Additional** - Milanovic, B. (2020). The Clash of Capitalisms: The Real Fight for the Global Economy's Future. *Foreign Affairs*, 99(1), 10–21.

4. Contentious Politics

- **Textbook** - Chapter 9: Collective Action and Social Movements
- **Additional** - Stephan, Maria J., and Erica Chenoweth. "Why civil resistance works: The strategic logic of nonviolent conflict." *International security* 33, no. 1 (2008): 7-44.

Module 2: Varieties of Democracy

Available Saturday, July 11 at 12:00 pm to Friday, July 17 at 11:59pm

1. Democratization

- **Textbook** - Chapter 4: Democracies and Democratization (only 4.1, 4.4 and 4.5)
- **Additional** - Berman, Sheri. "How democracies emerge: Lessons from Europe." *Journal of Democracy* 18, no. 1 (2007): 28-41.

2. Democratic Institutions

- **Textbook** - Chapter 4: Democracies and Democratization (only 4.3)

3. Electoral Systems

- **Additional** - Proportional Representation

4. Political Parties

- **Additional** - Leidig, Eviane, and Cas Mudde. "Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) The overlooked populist radical right party." *Journal of Language and Politics* 22, no. 3 (2023): 360-377.

Module 3: Autocracies

Available Saturday, July 18 at 12:00 am to Friday, July 24 at 11:59pm

1. Democratic Backsliding

- **Textbook** - Chapter 5: Non-Democracies and Democratic Backsliding
- **Additional** - Bermeo, Nancy. "On democratic backsliding." *Journal of democracy* 27, no. 1 (2016): 5-19.

2. Varieties of Autocracies

- **Additional** - Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2013. "The Durability of Revolutionary Regimes." *Journal of Democracy*

3. Autocratic Elections

- **Additional** - Miller, Michael K. "Elections, information, and policy responsiveness in autocratic regimes." *Comparative Political Studies* 48, no. 6 (2015): 691-727.

4. Authoritarian Durability

- **Additional** - Magaloni, Beatriz. "Credible power-sharing and the longevity of authoritarian rule." *Comparative political studies* 41, no. 4-5 (2008): 715-741.

Module 4: Special Topics

Available Saturday, July 25 at 12:00 am to Friday, July 31 at 11:59pm

1. Colonial legacies

- **Additional** - Posner, Daniel N. 2003. "The colonial origins of ethnic cleavages: The case of linguistic divisions in Zambia." *Comparative Politics*, 127-146.

2. Political violence

- **Additional** - Political Violence

3. Migration and immigration

- **Additional** - Adida, Claire L., and Amanda Lea Robinson. "Why (some) immigrants resist assimilation: US racism and the African immigrant experience." *Quarterly journal of political science* 18, no. 3 (2023): 295-338.

4. Comparative Public Opinion

- **Textbook** - Chapter 10: Comparative Public Opinion
- **Additional** - Frye, Timothy, Scott Gehlbach, Kyle L. Marquardt, and Ora John Reuter. "Is Putin's popularity real?." *Post-soviet affairs* 33, no. 1 (2017): 1-15.