

Political Science 210
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2012

Meeting Times: MW 5:30pm – 6:45 **Office:** 1606 Patterson Office Tower

Location: Chemistry-Physics Bldg-Rm.222

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Instructor: Ralph Schoellhammer

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Course Objectives

How can countries with warring ethnic groups hope to achieve peace? Is there a “recipe” for economic development, and can it be applied to all countries, everywhere? Is it possible to build democracy in places like Afghanistan, Russia, and Iraq—or is democracy inappropriate, or impossible, within some cultural contexts? These are some of the fundamental questions for Comparativists, and we will be wrestling with these issues in this course. Within Political Science, the subfield of Comparative Politics is concerned with comparing political systems between countries. This course is designed to give you an introduction to processes of political and economic development both within and across countries around the world. In the process, the issues raised will challenge us to think, analyze, and write with creativity and rigor.¹

Main Goals of the Course

1. Introduce you to some of the major findings from comparative political science research, as well as the main unresolved debates in the field.
2. Enable you to understand and remember key concepts and terms in comparative politics.
3. Use this information to critically and systematically examine political dynamics in countries outside of the United States.
4. Argue for a position clearly and persuasively, both orally and in writing.

Course Requirements

Your course grade is based on class participation, quizzes, two exams and a final paper. This course is not a history class! Even though we will cover some history to create a backdrop for our political analysis, the main focus of the course lies with the political development of different political entities. This means that the exams will not only focus on specific events but the broader implications of it (e.g. what is Charles Tilly’s argument for the formation of nation states? Can you outline Barrington Moore’s idea of economic development?)

¹ I have to thank Wendy Sinek for this parsimonious idea of an introduction to Comparative Politics

Class Attendance and Participation (20%)

Each class period will involve a discussion of the readings assigned for that week. Readings are assigned per week and not for a specific day, but I expect you to have done all the readings for the week by Wednesday of each week. The reading amount in this course is substantial, and if you do not keep up with your assignments during the week, you will have a hard time participating in class-discussions or to prepare for potential quizzes. In regards to attendance, I expect you to come to every session to get full participation points. I will pass around an attendance sheet which you'll have to sign. You will lose 20% of your attendance grade for each unexcused absence (i.e. after 5 absences, the best you can do in this course is an 80%). Just to attend class, however, will also not assure you to get full participation points – you will also need to actively participate during class discussions. If I should have the impression that participation and attendance is dropping under an acceptable minimum, I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes during class. There is, however, the chance to make up for missed classes with outstanding participation reflected in a good grasp of the week's reading.

Midterm Exam (Wednesday, October 3rd) – 35%

The midterm exam will be covering the readings, lectures, and class discussions, through Week 6. The format will be Identification Questions and short essays. There will be no multiple choice questions, so make sure you understand the material we are covering. Make up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. You should make every reasonable effort to contact me before the exam or you will receive zero credit.

Final paper – 10%

The paper you have to write for this course is a short 6 page analytical paper in which you compare two different political systems focusing on a specific field (economics, culture, etc...). The idea of this paper is that you can show your understanding of how different elements can influence political development or political decay. The format is double spaced with 1 inch margins, and you should include a separate "Works Cited" page – I expect everyone to use at least 3 original sources (Books, Peer-Reviewed Journal articles) from outside the course. The final paper is due on November 28.

Final Exam (Monday, December 10 at 5:30) – 35%

The final exam will have the same format as the midterm exam and will be cover everything from (including) week seven to the last day of class.

Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

- A 100% - 90%
- B 89.9% - 80%
- C 79.9% - 70%
- D 69.9% - 60%
- E 59.9% - 0%

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, ALL COURSE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED. Any student who does not complete the Research Paper, or take both the midterm and the final exam, will receive an automatic grade of E. A student wishing to appeal any grade given in this class must make their request in writing prior to meeting with the instructor. The written appeal must be typed and clearly state the reason(s) the student feels the grade they received is incorrect. Appeals that just ask for more points will not be considered by the instructor. The Instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire exam or assignment once an appeal is made, this may result in an increase or decrease in the score a student receives.

Excused Absences

Students need to notify the instructor of absences prior to class when possible. S.R. 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Information regarding dates of major religious holidays may be obtained through the religious liaison, Mr. Jake Karnes (859-257-2754).

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused or unexcused) per university policy.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence.

Academic Integrity

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the university may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited. Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities

(available online <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the question of plagiarism involving their own work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or something similar to this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone. When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain (Section 6.3.1).

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Accommodations due to disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address: jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

Classroom Behavior Policies

I will tolerate no laptops except for note taking and I expect you to turn your cell phones on vibrate during class. Unless you are expecting an emergency call, you are not supposed to use your phone at any time. Disrespectful behavior towards your classmates or the instructor will be not be tolerated and can result in a lower participation grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All readings will be available on blackboard.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (August 22)

Introduction and course overview: What to expect and how to succeed.

WEEK 2 (August 27, 29) The Fundamental Question: Human Nature

Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man* (New York: Free Press, 2006). Chapters 1-9.

WEEK 3 (September 5) The Return of Comparative Politics: Evidence from Africa, Asia, and Latin America

L. Diamond, "Democratic Rollback-The Resurgence of the Predatory State," *Foreign Affairs* 87 (2008): 36.

L. Diamond, "The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Democracy" Presented to the SAIS-CGD Conference on "New Ideas in Development after the Financial Crisis", April 22, 2009.

WEEK 4 (September 10, 12) The Unique European Experience and the Rise of the West

Samuel P. Huntington, "The West Unique, Not Universal," *Foreign Affairs* 75, no. 6 (December 1996): 28-46.

Golo Mann, *The History of Germany Since 1789* (London: Penguin Books, 1985): Introduction.

WEEK 5 (September 17, 19) What is the state?

Charles Tilly, *The Formation of National States in Western Europe* (Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 1975): 601 – 638.

WEEK 6 (September 24, 26) Political order and political decay

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006); Foreword, preface and 32-93.

WEEK 7 (October 1, 3) Political Modernization: United States of America vs. Europe
OCTOBER 3 – MIDTERM EXAM

Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006); 93-140.

WEEK 8 (October 8, 10) Democracy and its consequences

Terry Karl and Philippe C. Schmitter, "What Democracy is...and is Not," *Journal of Democracy*, Summer 1991, 2(3): 75-86.

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971): 1-16.

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *National Interest* 16 (Summer 1989): 3-19.

WEEK 9 (October 15, 17) Democracy and its consequences - continued

Amartya Sen, "Democracy as a Universal Value," *Journal of Democracy* 10, 3 (1999), p. 3-17.

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1993): Chapter 7.

WEEK 10 (October 22, 24) The driving forces of history – Culture and Recognition

Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man* (New York: Free Press, 2006): 143-211.

WEEK 11 (October 29, 31) "Europe and the U.S."

Robert Kagan, *Power and Weakness*, Policy Review, No. 13, June 2002

Parag Khana, *The Metrosexual Superpower*, Foreign Policy, July/August 2004

WEEK 12 (November 5, 7) Different experiences and different outcomes

Rogers Brubaker, *Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1994): Pages 1- 50

WEEK 13 (November 12, 14) A unique case? European Integration

Martin Marcussen, Thomas Risse, Hans Joachim Knopf, *Constructing Europe ? The evolution of French , British and German Nation State Identities* Journal of European Public Policy (1999) Volume: 6, Issue: 4, Pages: 614-633.

Jack Citrin and John Sides, *More than Nationals: How Identity Choice Matters in the New Europe* In: *Transnational Identities: Becoming European in the EU* (London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004).

WEEK 14 (November 19, 21) Different regions, different systems

Charles Hill, *Trial of a Thousand Years: World Order and Islamism* (Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 2011); 89-162.

WEEK 15 (November 26, 28) Different regions, different systems - continued

Ikenberry, G. John. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs*; 1 Jan. 2008.

Nathan, Andrew J., and Andrew Scobell. "How China Sees America," *Foreign Affairs*; 16 Aug. 2012.

WEEK 16 (December 3, 5) What can we expect in the future?

Bruce Thornton, *Decline and Fall: Europe's Slow-Motion Suicide* (New York: Encounter Books, 2007). Chapters 1 & 4.

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 22-49.

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 10 at 5:30