

Political Science 349
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Tuesday and Thursday 8:10-9:25 a.m.
JHB 414
Fall 2012

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Introduction

Welcome to Introduction to Comparative Politics. This course is designed familiarize students with the major topics of concern in the subfield of comparative politics and how these fit within the overall discipline of Political Science. Comparative politics involves the use of the comparative method as a means of drawing conclusions about political phenomena. It also focuses on the approaches to studying several commonly studied areas of political science: political culture and socialization, interest articulation, institutions, government structure, and public policies. By the end of this course, you should have familiarity with the basic foundations of studying political systems all over the world and the underlying logic behind examining countries using the comparative method. You should also have gained a significant amount of insight into the various examples of political systems we will study, and you should be able to exhibit understanding of how to apply these methods in new contexts. Overall, my desire is that you carry away new information and a new way of analyzing the world around you.

Course Structure

This course is divided into three sections. In the first section of the course, I introduce the science and logic behind comparative political science and address the major foundations of research used in comparative political studies. In the second portion of the course, we examine various applications of these basic categories of study more closely by applying them to individual countries. In the third section of the course, we will explore several special topics of research in comparative politics, including religion and politics, gender and politics, and race, ethnicity and politics.

Course Requirements

There are five major requirements for this course. The first is your attendance and participation, which will be evaluated through several in-class simulations and small group assignments; these will often be announced in class before the intended simulation to give you time to prepare and do additional research. These assignments CANNOT BE MADE UP. The second requirement is an extensive country journal that will consist of several assignments throughout the semester and will require you to research two countries of your choosing (outside of the United States). The details of the journal requirements will be posted on Blackboard and will be due the last class meeting. The fourth requirement consists of two separate in-class film viewing sheets that you

must complete and hand in around the time of the film viewing. There will be a mid-term exam at the end of the 1st section. Finally, you will have a final exam after the second section. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at 8 a.m.

Grades

In-class participation:	15%
Country Report/Journal	7%
In-Class Film Viewing Sheets	8% (2 at 4%)
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

Grading Scale

A	94+	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	74-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-73
B	84-86	D	60-69
B-	80-83	F	0-59

In-Class Grading

You will be required to complete several in-class group assignments throughout this semester. In the first week of the course, you will be assigned to a group with which you will work on group assignments. The small presentations, simulations, and turned-in assignments will be graded on a group basis. These assignments CANNOT be made up, so it is important that you attend class and are aware of the course schedule.

Country Journal

For the purposes of understanding how to conduct research using the comparative method, you will keep a journal throughout the semester that reports various answers to research questions posted on Blackboard, along with other details of the assignment. There will be four basic assignments that require you to compile and discuss data on two different countries and make standard comparisons between them. These assignments will be about 1-2 typed, single-spaced pages.

Film Viewing Sheets:

You will view two films during this course and complete viewing sheets that ask specific questions from the film. These will be due the class following the viewing of the film in class.

Exams

There are two exams for this course. The mid-term exam will cover Chapters 1-9. Your final exam is not comprehensive and will cover Chapters 10-19

Readings

There is one text to buy, available from the UT Bookstore.

Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Jr. Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strom. *Comparative Politics Today*. Pearson, 2010

**Additional Readings for the course are posted on Blackboard under Course Materials.

Course Policies

Disabilities: Students with disabilities should feel welcome in this course. Students who have a disability that requires accommodation should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (974-6087 or ods@utk.edu) as soon as possible to discuss their specific needs. Information is also available on the web at <http://ods.utk.edu/> ODS will be able to provide you with the help you need and will provide you with documentation regarding the accommodations that I need to make in order to provide appropriate assistance.

Tutoring: The **Writing Center** provides individual assistance to any student needing help with writing. The Writing Center is located at 212 HSS and the Hodges Library Commons. They can be reached at 974-2611 or on the web at <http://web.utk.edu/~english/writing/writing.shtml> or via email at writingcenter@utk.edu

Educational Advancement Program is designed for students with demonstrated academic need who are also first-generation college students, from low income families, or who have physical or learning disabilities. Contact the Educational Advancement Program, 900 Volunteer Blvd., 974-7900.

The **Student Success Center** designs and implements programs that support undergraduate success and provides a comprehensive service for students who need a place to turn for academic assistance. The center provides programs that focus on student success and serves as a single source of support to help students sort through the many campus resources and programs available, connecting students with those that will best meet their needs and academic goals. The Student Success Center website is available at (<http://studentsuccess.tennessee.edu>). The Student Success Center is housed in two convenient locations, 1817 Melrose Avenue and 812 Volunteer Blvd. Phone 946-HELP (4357) or 974-6641, e-mail studentsuccess@utk.edu, hours are 8 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a serious issue and will be treated as such. As a student in this course you agree to abide by the university honor statement:

“An essential feature of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

Any violations of this honor statement will be dealt with as authorized under university policy.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. The University of Tennessee's policies regarding plagiarism state:

“Students shall not plagiarize. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University.

Specific examples of plagiarism are:

1. Using without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source;
2. Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
3. Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
4. Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor's approval;
5. Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).”

Grading: It is my desire that all students learn and perform well. As professor and student, we each share the responsibility for achieving this goal. I will present relevant and helpful material in class and in assigned readings; furthermore, exams and other assignments will be structured in such a way as to best ascertain your learning in this course. If you find any material unclear or confusing, please do not hesitate to ask questions in class, which will benefit your fellow students; or stop by my office hours so I can work with you in a more individualized way. The more you are willing to put into learning, the more you are likely to gain.

If you have any questions or concerns about a grade you receive in this course, do not hesitate to ask. However, be aware that when I re-grade, I look over the entire exam or assignment; therefore, re-grading may result in a grade that is higher OR lower than the original grade. Final grades in the course will be assigned according to the scale below.

Make-up Exam Policy: Students furnishing the professor in advance with a verifiable excuse (such as the death of a close relative or a university-sanctioned trip) for their absence from the exam will be permitted to take a make-up exam. Aside from students who have made such **prior** arrangements, **NO MAKEUPS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

Late Assignments: Assignments handed in late will be penalized by ten percentage points for each day (24 hours) that they are late. For instance, if a paper is due at 5 pm on Tuesday, a paper handed in by 5pm on Wednesday would be penalized by 10 percentage points; while a paper not handed in until Friday at 5 pm would be penalized 30 percentage points. In-class presentations may only be delivered on the scheduled date and time.

Blackboard/Online@UT: I will use Blackboard to distribute assignments, study aids, and other communications. It is very important that you check the Online@UT site regularly, as announcements will be posted there. The course site can be accessed at the following address: online.utk.edu

Also, I will communicate with you occasionally via email. If you do not access your UT email account regularly, please be sure to set up forwarding. If you have questions about this, please contact the OIT help desk.

Course Schedule

Section I

Week 1

August 23

Chapter 1, Introduction

Week 2

August 28

Chapter 2, Comparing Political Systems

August 30

Chapter 3, Political Culture and Socialization pp. 43-49

Week 3

September 4

Chapter 3, Political Culture and Socialization pp51-58

September 6

Chapter 4, Interest Articulation, pp. 60-69

Week 4

September 11

Chapter 4. Interest Articulation pp. 70-77

September 13

Chapter 5, Interest Aggregation and Political Parties pp. 79-88

Week 5

September 18

Chapter 5, Interest Aggregation and Political Parties pp. 89-99

September 20	In-Class Film <i>Zeitgeist: Moving Forward, 2011</i>
Week 6 September 25	Chapter 6, Government and Policymaking; pp. 110-124 Film Viewing Sheets Due
September 27	Chapter 7, Public Policy pp. 127-136
Week 7 October 2	Chapter 7, Public Policy pp. 137-150
October 4	Mid-Term Exam
	SECTION II
Week 8 October 9	Chapter 8, Politics in Britain
October 11	NO CLASS **FALL BREAK**
Week 9 October 16	Chapter 9, Politics in France
October 18	Chapter 10, Politics in Germany
Week 10 October 23	Chapter 11, Politics in Japan
October 25	Chapter 13, Politics in China
Week 11	
October 30	Chapter 12, Politics in Russia
November 1 Week 12	Chapter 14, Politics in Mexico
November 5	Chapter 15, Politics in Brazil
November 8	Chapter 16 Politics in Iran

Week 13

November 13 Chapter 17, Politics in India
*In-class film, "30 Days in India" (Morgan Spurlock, *30 Days*)

November 15 Chapter 18, Politics in Nigeria
("30 Days" Film Sheets Due)

Week 14

November 20 Chapter 19, Politics in the United States

November 22 Supplemental Lecture, Gender and Politics
Molyneux, Maxine, 1985. "Mobilization without Emancipation? Women's Interests, the State, and Revolution in Nicaragua." *Feminist Studies* 11(2): 227. (On Blackboard)
Latinamerica Press, "Special Report: Indigenous Women Take a Stand." June 2010. (On Blackboard)

Week 15

November 27 Supplemental Lecture, Race, Ethnicity and Politics
"The Politics of Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict", in Howard Handelman. 2011. *The Challenge of Third World Development*. Sixth Edition. New York: Longman. (On Blackboard)

November 29 Supplemental Lecture, Religion and Politics
Reading materials TBA

Week 16

December 4 Last Day of Class **Country Journals Due**

******Final Exam: Thursday, December 13, 2012 Tuesday, 8-10 a.m.******