

Introduction to Comparative Politics INTA 3203

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Spring 2011
MWF 9:05 – 9:55
Instructional Center 115

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Why do some states develop while others lag behind? Why are some governments democratic and others authoritarian? Why are there such differences between democracies? Why do some states have multiple political parties while others have only two? This class attempts to answer these questions and more. As an introduction to comparative politics we will begin with a basic overview of what is comparative politics and how to evaluate arguments. Then we discuss key concepts in the field such as regime types. Next the course will evaluate the major themes within the field – democratization and economic development. Then we will discuss mobilization as an outcome, such as the role of political parties, civil society, and identity politics. We will discuss issues like can different religions and ethnic groups live together in a democracy? What explains the rise of ethnic and religious parties?

This class is theoretically based, meaning that we will discuss different theoretical approaches for the various phenomenon we observe. Case studies will be utilized as examples underpinning the theoretical arguments made. Specific countries will also be addressed during student presentations to provide further cases on which our theoretical discussions can occur.

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Your informed and thought-provoking questions and comments will make the class more engaging. Absences for religious holidays and other university accepted reasons are excused but you will be responsible for the material discussed in class. Your grade will be based on an exam, a group project, the final exam, and participation. The breakdown of your grade is as follows:

Participation:	15%	90-100	A
First Test:	30%	80-89	B
Group Project	25%	70-79	C
Final:	30%	60-69	D
		59-0	F

Class Policies: Cell phones, pagers, etc. should be turned off when you are in class. All students are expected to follow the honor code. Any student not adhering to the honor code WILL be brought to the dean of students' office of academic integrity. All materials will be available online through tsquare expect for the textbook which I recommend you purchase:

O'Neil, Patrick. Essentials of Comparative Politics. Third Edition. WW Norton & Company: 2007

Introduction (August 22 & 24)

Review course requirements, expectations, and handout syllabus. Discussion of “what is comparative politics”. Discussion of how to evaluate arguments in Comparative Politics research.

Part I: Variation in Institutions and Regimes

What is the State and State Formation? (August 26)

Discussion of the modern state – how it emerged, what it means. What is state strength? Why are some states strong while others are weak?

Tilly, Charles Coercion, Capital, and European States AD 990-1992 Chapter 1
“Cities and States in World History” p. 1- 28

Effects of Post-Colonial State Formation (August 29)

Herbst, Jeffery “War and the State in Africa” *International Security*, Vol. 14 No.4 (Spring 1990): 117-139

What is a Democracy? (August 31)

What does government “of and by the people” mean in theory and practice? **
How is democracy understood?

O'Neil. Essentials of Comparative Politics Chapter 6

Przeworski, Adam. Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America Cambridge UP: 1991 p. 10-14

Classifications of Democracy (September 2)

How do you determine whether a democracy exists?

Diamond, Larry. “*Defining and Developing Democracy*” in Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation Johns Hopkins UP: 1999 p. 1-23

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. “*Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Politics*”. World Politics 49.3(1997): 430-451

****No Class September 5****

Are All Democracies Alike? Parliamentary v. Presidential Systems (September 7)

What are the varying types of representation within democratic governments?
What is the distinction between Parliamentary and Presidential democracies?

Cheibub, Jose and Fernando Limongi. *"Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Revisited"*. Annual Review of Political Science (2002) 5: 151-179

Are All Democracies Alike? Representation v. Effectiveness (September 9 & 12)

How are representatives chosen? Are PR systems more representative than majoritarian systems? Are PR systems less effective than majoritarian systems? What effect do coalitions have on governments and how are they formed?

Lijphart, Arendt. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies" Journal of Democracy (1991) 2: 72-84

**Group Presentation (September 14)
FRANCE**

What are Authoritarian Regimes and Dictatorships? (September 16 & 19)

How do non-democratic regimes rule? What distinguishes them from democracies? Why do these regimes endure?

O'Neil, Patrick. Essentials of Comparative Politics. Chapter 5

Posusney, Marsha Pripstein. "Multi-Party Elections in the Arab World: Institutional Engineering and Oppositional Strategies". Studies in Comparative International Development Winter 2002 Vol. 36, No. 4 p. 34-62

**Group Presentation (September 21)
IRAN**

****IN CLASS EXAM September 23****

Part II: Variation in Development

Institutional Features Needed for Development (September 26)

Which features promote economic growth? How are these institutions established in a state?

Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship and Development" American Political Science Review 87.3 (Sept. 1993): 567-576

North, Douglas and Barry Weingast. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England" The Journal of Economic History Vol XLIX Dec 1989 No.4: 803-832

**** No Class September 30****

State Involvement in Development (September 28 & October 3)

What affect does regime type have on economic development? What role does the state play in facilitating economic growth?

Fukuyama, Francis. "The Imperative of State Building". Journal of Democracy 15.2 (April 2004): 17-31

Evans, Peter. Embedded Autonomy Chapter 1 p.10-20 and Chapter 3 p. 43-73

Structural Conditions and Development? (October 5 & 7)

What affect does a lack of natural resources or an abundance of natural resources have on efforts to advance economically? What effect does security threats have on development?

Ross, Michael. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?"

Doner, Richard, Bryan Ritchie, and Dan Slater. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective" International Organization 59.2 (Spring 2005).

Group Presentation (October 10)

CHINA

Group Presentation (October 12)

LIBYA

****No Class October 14-18 Enjoy Fall Break****

Part III: Variation in Democratization

When Can Democracy Emerge? Part I: Cultural Explanations (October 19)

Under what conditions are transitions to democracy possible? What role, if any, do culture and religion play in explaining the emergence of democracy?

Lipset, Seymour Martin. "Some social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy". American Political Science Review 53.1 (March 1959): 69-105

Movie Screening: Egypt We Are Watching You (October 21)

Documentary portraying one grassroots organizations prior to the 2005 elections in Egypt.

When Can Democracy Emerge? Part II: Strategic Explanations (October 24)

Do actors' interests and strategic interaction provide a stronger explanation for transitions? Which actors play key roles in determining transitions to democracy?

Rustow, Dankwart. "Transitions to Democracy". Comparative Politics 2.3 (April 1970): 337-363

Types of Democratic Transitions (October 26)

Are all transitions alike? How do they vary? Do regime types determine the types of transitions that occur? How will existing regimes and transitions influence the types of democracies that arise?

Kaminiski, Marek. "How Communism Could Have Been Saved". Public Choice (1999) 98: 83-109

O'Neil, Patrick. Essentials of Comparative Politics "Communism and Post-Communism" section on Political Institutions in Transitions ONLY

Group Presentation (October 28) SOUTH AFRICA

Group Presentation (October 31) EGYPT

Stalled Transitions and Reversals (November 2)

Under what conditions are efforts to democratize halted? Why do some democracies revert back to authoritarians?

Hellman, Joel. "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions" World Politics 50.2 (1998): 203-234

Part IV: Mobilization Outcomes: Identity Politics, Political Parties, and Civil Society

What is Identity Politics? (November 4)

Do publics congregate around “identity” issues and what are they? Do they vary across cultures, regions, and economic standings?

Inglehart, Ronald and Wayne Baker, “*Modernization, Globalization and the Persistence of Tradition: Empirical Evidence from 65 Societies*,” American Sociological Review 65 (February 2000): 19-51

O’Neil, Patrick. Essentials of Comparative Politics Chapter 7 section on Social Change and Conflict ONLY

Nation or State: Can Divided Societies Endure as States? (November 7 & 9)

Are divided societies able to reconcile their differences? What is a nation and what is a state? Can different nations co-exist within the same state?

O’Neil, Patrick. Essentials of Comparative Politics Chapter 3

Lieberman, Evan. “National Political Community and the Politics of Income Taxation in Brazil and South Africa in the twentieth Century” Politics and Society Vol. 29 No. 4 December 2001 515-555

Can Democracy Exist in Divided Societies? (November 11)

Does democracy require a shared cultural, ethnic, linguistic, or religious society? Do societies with strong cleavages require a dictator to maintain stability? What is Federalism and does it help or hinder these societies?

Lijphart, Arendt. “*Consociational Democracy*” World Politics (1969) 21.2: 207-225

Group Presentation (November 14)

SYRIA

Group Presentation (November 16)

AFGHANISTAN

What is the Purpose of Political Parties in Democratic Systems? (November 18 & 21)

Are political parties necessary? What purpose do they serve? How do they facilitate government?

Aldrich, John. Why Parties? Chicago UP: 1995 p: 1-27

What is the Purpose of Political Parties in Authoritarian Systems? (November 23)

What purpose do political parties serve in non-democracies?

Kasza, Gregory. "Parties, Interest Groups, and Administered Mass Organizations". Comparative Political Studies 26.1 (April 1993): 81-110

**** No Class November 25 – Happy Thanksgiving****

What is Civil Society and Social Capital? (November 28 & 30)

This class will explore the components of civil society, social capital, and why they are important. It will address the issue of which groups comprise civil society.

Putnam, Robert. Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy Princeton UP: 1993 p: 163-181

Varshney, Ashutosh. "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond". World Politics 53 (April 2001): 362-98

Is Civil Society a Threat? (December 2)

This class examines cases where an active civil society brought down a democracy.

Berman, Sheri. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic" World Politics 49.3 (1997): 401-429

**Group Presentation (December 5)
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA**

What Explains the Rise in Ethnic and Religious Parties? (December 7)

Why do religious and ethnically based parties arise? Is it a "backlash" or do they relate to more strategic interests?

Kalyvas, Stathis. The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe. Cornell UP: 1996 p: 167-191

Overview of the Course (December 9)

Come prepared with questions! Your final exam is a take home exam. It is open book and open note but you **MAY NOT** use the internet. The exam is cumulative and must be taken no later than Wednesday, May 5 at 11:30 AM.

FINAL EXAM No Later Than Wednesday, December 14 8:00-10:50 Good Luck!