

**Syllabus**  
**INTA 3203: Comparative Politics**  
**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**  
**Fall 2014: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:05-1:25 PM, IC 113**

**Dr. Tahseen Kazi**

*Office:* IAC G16A

*Email:* [tahseen.kazi@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:tahseen.kazi@inta.gatech.edu)

*Office Hours:* By appointment

**Course Description:**

This course provides the analytical knowledge and practical skills to understand comparative politics worldwide. You will be provided with the knowledge to develop familiarity with the major issues in comparative politics and the practical skills to analyze countries and their formation around the globe. In the age of globalization, cross-national insights into politics are invaluable for a wide range of potential careers, from multinational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, to state governments.

The broad themes students will explore include the sources of political authority, the genesis of the modern state, the rise and functions of government and political economy, modern conceptions of democracy and democratization, the unequal global distribution of wealth, the influence of imperialism on politics today, and present-day efforts to effect political change.

**Course Requirements**

The final grade will be distributed as follows:

Class participation:	35%
Take-home exams:	30%
Team research:	35%

**Class participation**

Credit for participation will be given in three categories: Attendance, Daily Reflections, and Class Discussion.

*Attendance (10%):* One point will be given for each class that you attend out of 28 class meetings after the first week. A= 26-28, B = 23-25, C = 21-24, D = 18-20, F = 0-17

*Daily Reflections (15%):* For each of 25 reflections that you submit (8/21 through 11/18), you will be given one point for submission or two points for high quality. In order to earn the one point for submission, each reflection question must be answered in a manner that demonstrates that you did the reading. In order to earn two points for high quality, each reflection question must be answered in a manner that demonstrates a very thorough and critical reading of the assignment. By the second week of class, examples of essays that earned two points will be posted on TSquare. Each reflection essay should be about 100-300 words and must be submitted at the start of class each day. Grades for this category will be calculated out of 50 total points, as follows: A = 45-50, B = 40-44, C = 35-39, D = 30-34, F = 0-29.

*Class Discussion (10%):* Your grade for class discussion will be based on the quality and consistency of contributions you make to class discussion and in class group activities. You must demonstrate orally that you have thought critically about each reading assignment, and about the comments made by your peers

and instructor. Comments which stimulate engaging and respectful debate among your peers are particularly appreciated, as are contributions which help your peers better understand the material. This part of your grade will be awarded subjectively, at the instructor's discretion. Grades for this category will be calculated out of 100 points, as follows: A= 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 0-59

### **Take-home exams**

For two essay exams, worth 15% each, I will post the questions on the date shown in the schedule below, and you will have 48 hours to complete your essay. For each exam, I will post two essay question choices on TSquare, and you will be expected to respond with one of the choices on TSquare by the 48-hour deadline. Your exams should be about 1,900 to 2,100 words in length.

### **Team research**

Each team will consist of 3-4 students involved in a three-part project that spans the course of the semester. Each team will choose one of the following three research questions: Is nationalism strengthening or eroding with globalization? Does the distinction between conventional and protest politics still make sense? Are short-term media campaigns increasingly significant drivers of voting behavior? In other words, the three questions are about the relation between: 1) globalization and nationalism; 2) protest and conventional politics; and 3) short-term media campaigns and voting behavior.

In the first part of your research, you will write one report as a team, focusing on how your chosen topic plays out in one state in which the topic is particularly salient. In the second part, you will write a second report for another state. Choose your states carefully, referring to Mill's methods to defend your choices.

Each report, worth 10%, should be about 2,000 words and include the following components:

1. An executive summary of the plan of your report and the major conclusions
2. A summary of your how your topic plays out in your focus country
3. A review of your country-focused research literature organized thematically
4. Your conclusions and implications
5. A technical appendix (including any used long tables, large graphs/figures, definitions of indicators)
6. Endnotes: comprehensive list of literature and references used in the report

For 15%, in the third part of your team research you will present a poster with a 15 minute presentation in class comparing your topic in the two countries studied. You will provide arguments about what may explain differences and similarities between the two countries with respect to your topic. You should also include a thesis on how the two terms in your chosen topic relate. Your response need not be a simple up or down vote on your question. A response that demonstrates how the relation varies would indicate the depth of your research.

For all assignments, I will only offer make-up exams or extended deadlines in cases of an event I see as an emergency or with an official excuse from the University. I expect all students to abide by the Georgia Tech academic code of conduct. See <http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/code-conduct>.

### **School of International Affairs Learning Outcomes**

Students completing this course should be able to:

Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

Use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern. Includes knowledge of key issues, familiarity with methods to assess solutions, data-gathering research skills through which to put different methods into place.

Become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world. Demonstrate understanding of key issues with respect for a range of different variables.

Effective communication skills: Express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations.

Teamworking skills: Work in small groups in a way that demonstrates respect for their colleagues and efficiency in working collaboratively towards projects and goals.

### **Georgia Tech General Education Learning Outcomes**

Students completing this course should be able to:

Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.

Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

### **Honor Code Statement**

Please refer to <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/> for the Georgia Tech honor code. Students in this course will be writing essays and conducting teamwork as part of their graded assignments.

In particular, students should note the following:

Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own use (another's production) without crediting the source."

If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

Unless specifically identified as group work, quizzes, tests, take-home-tests, homework, etc. are to be completed alone.

Cheating off of another person's test or quiz is unethical and unacceptable. Cheating off of anyone else's work is a direct violation of the GT Academic Honor Code, and will be dealt with accordingly.

### **ADAPTS Information**

All students requiring accommodation should the Office of Disability Services at <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>.

### **Readings**

The following required texts are available at both bookstores and online:

Daniele Caramani, ed., *Comparative Politics, Third Edition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014)

Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman, *Development, Democracy, and Welfare States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008)

All other readings will be available on TSquare.

## Schedule of Readings

<b>Part I: History, Theories, and Methods</b>			
Aug. 19	Introduction		
Aug. 21	What is comparative politics?	Caramani Ch. 1	
Aug. 26	Approaches to comparative politics	Caramani Ch. 2 Geddes "Cases"	
Aug. 28	Comparative methods	Caramani Ch. 3	
<b>Part II: Regimes and Institutions</b>			
Sep. 2	The nation-state	Caramani Ch. 4 Anderson, pp. 1-7 "Introduction"	
Sep. 4	Democracies	Caramani Ch. 5 <a href="#">Polity IV Project</a>	
Sep. 9	Autocracies	Caramani Ch. 6	
Sep. 11	Constitutions	Caramani Ch. 9	First team report due
Sep. 16	Elections	Caramani Ch. 10	
Sep. 18	Bureaucracies	Caramani Ch. 8	
Sep. 23	Legislatures	Caramani Ch. 7	
Sep. 25	Federal and local governments	Caramani Ch. 11	
<b>Part III: Actors and Processes</b>			
Sep. 30	Political parties	Caramani Ch. 12 <a href="#">Election resources</a>	First take-home exam
Oct. 2	Party systems	Caramani Ch. 13	Take-home exam due
Oct. 7	Interest groups and social movements	Caramani Ch. 14	
Oct. 9	Social Movements	Caramani Ch. 16 Tarrow "Transnational"	
Oct. 16	Political culture	Caramani Ch. 17	
Oct. 21	Political participation	Caramani Ch. 18	
Oct. 23	Political communication	Caramani Ch. 19 <a href="#">Norris "Public Sentinel"</a>	
<b>Part IV: Public Policies</b>			
Oct. 28	Policy-making	Caramani Ch. 20	Second team report due
Oct. 30	The welfare state	Caramani Ch. 21	
Nov. 4	The impact of public policies	Caramani Ch. 22	
<b>Part V: Regulatory Regimes and Welfare States</b>			
Nov. 6	The EU as a political system	Caramani Ch. 23	
Nov. 11	Non-Western welfare regimes	H&K pp. 1-78	Second take-home exam
Nov. 13	Welfarism in Latin America	H&K Chs. 2, 7	Take-home exam due
Nov. 18	Welfarism in Asia	H&K Chs. 3, 6	
<b>Part VI: Student Presentations</b>			
Nov. 20	Poster presentations		
Nov. 25	Poster presentations		
Dec. 2	Poster presentations		
Dec. 4	Poster presentations and wrap-up		