

INTA- 3203  
MW 11-12:15

Spring 2021  
Instr Center 109  
(Covid Capacity 29)

Comparative Politics  
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**Syllabus as of 1/13/2021-Subject to change**

Comparative politics is as old of a practice as we have in political science. It can be traced back to ancient Greece and through the Enlightenment. Its modern form reemerged in the 1950s and has developed into a full field of study today. At its core is the cross-national study of “institutions”, but what that really entails is a source of great debate. For some that means the so-called “rules of the game”, for others less formalized institutions such as nations or culture, and others it means the governments themselves. Although there may be disagreement as to what should be the focus, the commonality that unites them is the comparative method itself. In this class we will begin by understanding that methodology, then examine the various institutions that comparative politics tends to focus on, as well as apply this knowledge to specific countries in both the developed and developing world. Finally, looking at various topics and issues comparativists study.

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A COUPLE OF POINTS ON THE SEMESTER

I should note that the nature of the semester and current environment influenced the creation of this class. My original intent was to teach a more individual readings based course. However, with the nature of Covid being a real issue for all of us, the strange nature of hybrid course delivery, the fact that people are ultimately dealing with unusual stresses not normal to their standard academic lives, I ultimately decided to go against that idea. Thus, I am going to attempt to restrict readings to one “reader” that I have assigned as mandatory. However, I am certain I will add readings during the course of the semester, but promise they will be short and accessible in nature.

In addition, I want this to be as much your class as it is mine. In other words, this will serve as our outline for what we hope to accomplish this semester. But we are not confined to this schedule and I am certain there will be ebbs and flows with how we as a class want to explore these and other issues further. In each topic area there is of course baseline knowledge that we have to know, however, the real beauty of Comparative Politics is in its questions. Why one phenomenon occurs in one place vs. another? When do we might expect to see various political behaviors? Or just simply answer WTF explains that? This is the fun part and I want this to be fun. So plan on discussions. Plan on asking questions and as a class trying to figure out potential answers. Finally, plan on discovering how seemingly small differences might have profound consequences. And most of all plan on going where the class takes us and not the syllabus!

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## COURSE OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- \*Understand the comparative methodology and be able to apply it
  - \*Comprehend the difference between the state and nation as well as what the relationship is between the two
  - \*Analyze and critique various forms of political and economic organization
  - \*Synthesize the differences between the advanced developed world and the developing world, both in generalities and in regards to specific countries
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## COURSE MATERIALS

1) Dickovick and Eastwood, *Current Debates in Comparative Politics*. Second Edition, Oxford University Press. **Mandatory. Referred to as CDCP in syllabus**

2) Dickovick and Eastwood, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. Third Edition, Oxford University Press. **This book is 100% optional**

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas. All readings are subject to change with emailed notification and I do anticipate the addition of readings through the course of the semester.

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## SPRING 2021 SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- The Spring semester could become a bit crazy due to Covid. I will be following the University protocols for Covid-19

### Expectations and Guidelines

Each of us has a responsibility to ourselves and our fellow Yellow Jackets to be mindful of our shared commitment.

We are all required to wear a face covering while inside any campus facilities/buildings, including during in-person classes, and to adhere to social distancing of at least 6 feet. If an individual forgets to bring a face covering to class or into any indoor space, there will be a clearly marked supply of these in each building. If a student fails to follow Georgia Tech's policies on social distancing and face coverings, they will initially be reminded of the policy and if necessary, asked to leave the class, meeting, or space. If they still fail to follow the policy, they may be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. [Information on the Institute's policy on face coverings.](#)

Students are expected to sit in assigned seats and to come to class only on days that are assigned to them.

Papers, projects, tests, homework, and other assignments will only be accepted in electronic form.

Instructor Illness or Exposure to Covid-19 During the Spring 2021 semester, I may be required to quarantine due to exposure or isolate due to a Covid-19 diagnosis. Some

disruption to classes or services is inevitable, but Georgia Tech is making every effort to ensure continuity of operations. As is the case in any semester, I may cancel a class if I have an illness or emergency situation. If I need to cancel a class, I will notify students as early as possible.

If I need to cancel a class repeatedly due to Covid-19 symptoms, a backup will be supplied in the form of a temporary substitute instructor or asynchronous work. No course will be canceled after the first class has occurred.

*Student Illness or Exposure to Covid-19* During the semester, you may be required to quarantine or self-isolate to avoid the risk of infection to others. Quarantine is the separation of those who have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 but who are not ill; isolation is the separation of those who have tested positive for Covid-19 or been diagnosed with Covid-19 by symptoms.

If you have not tested positive but are ill or have been exposed to someone who is ill, please follow the [Covid-19 Exposure Decision Tree](#) for reporting your illness.

During the quarantine or isolation period you may feel completely well, ill but able to work as usual, or too ill to work until you recover.

*Remote class sessions during hybrid courses.* Unless you are too ill to work, you should be able to complete your remote work while in quarantine or isolation.

*In-person class sessions during hybrid courses.* When in isolation or quarantine you will be unable to attend in-person course sessions but your instructor may require you either to participate in the course remotely, complete some complementary work that parallels what you are missing in class, or make up some class work when you return.

If you are ill and unable to do course work this will be treated similarly to any student illness. The Dean of Students will have been contacted when you report your positive test or are told that it is necessary to quarantine and will notify me that you may be unable to attend class events or finish your work as the result of a health issue. I will not be told the reason. I will be lenient and understanding when setting work deadlines or expecting students to finish work, and so you should be able to catch up with any work that you miss while in quarantine or isolation. I will make available any video recordings of classes that have been used while you are absent, and I may prepare some complementary asynchronous assignments that compensate for your inability to participate in discussion sessions.

*CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center-*

These uncertain times can be difficult, and many students may need help in dealing with stress and mental health. The **CARE Center** and the **Counseling Center**, and **Stamps Health Services** will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Face-to-face appointments will require wearing a face covering and social distancing, with exceptions for medical examinations. Student Center services and operations are available on the **Student Center** website. For more information on these and other student services, contact the Vice President and Dean of Students or the **Division of Student Life**.

Accommodations for Students at Higher Risk for Severe Illness with Covid-19-Students may request an accommodation through the Office of Disability Services (ODS) due to 1) presence of a condition as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or 2) identification as an individual of higher risk for Covid-19, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Registering with ODS is a 3-step process that includes completing an application, uploading documentation related to the accommodation request, and scheduling an appointment for an “intake meeting” (either in person or via phone or video conference) with a disability coordinator. If you have been approved by ODS for an accommodation, I will work closely with you to understand your needs and make a good faith effort to investigate whether or not requested accommodations are possible for this course. If the accommodation request results in a fundamental alteration of the stated learning outcome of this course, ODS, academic advisors, and the school offering the course will work with you to find a suitable alternative that as far as possible preserves your progress toward graduation.

Course Homeworks/Assignments/Papers- All course assignments will be submitted electronically via Canvas.

Final remarks- With everything being recorded and likely students participating in those recordings, it is absolutely imperative that class materials are not disseminated in any way. Lectures should only be viewed by individuals currently registered to this class and all students taking this class are bound by the honor code to not distribute materials in any way.

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## UNIVERSITY and COURSE POLICIES

Statement of Inclusion: The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology’s commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Request for Modification - If you are a learner that requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

Academic Integrity - By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). Any student who is

suspected of violations of this honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations.

Attendance and Participation – Attendance is expected for this class whether it is an in person class or remote. **The various class formats are address below and the expectations for each.** Attendance will be recorded for every “in person class” session for potential contact tracing purposes. All lectures will be recorded and available online, however, there is value to being in class when possible and attending synchronous discussions online when scheduled.

\*Excused Absence policy – This course will follow the University’s policy for excused absences. Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the Office of Student Life. You can find an outline of the policy here <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/> This would apply to illness as well as personal emergencies. Please review this page if you are not familiar with it. In addition, all institute approved absences will honored, which would include university sanctioned function, athletics, etc. when accompanied by the appropriate documentation. **\*\*\*Please, if you are not feeling well, do not attend in person class. Consideration will be made based on our current unusual circumstances.**

Classroom Policies - Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times. The following behavior is not appropriate: ***use of cell phones, texting***, extraneous conversations, and disrespect toward other students or professor. In addition, all students will be assigned a seat and students will be expected to remain in those seats during the duration of the semester as that will be a critical component for social distancing procedures and if contact tracing needs to be done. In addition, ***no audio or video recording is allowed*** in class unless approved by the professor in accordance with an accommodation letter. Nor is the distribution of any content from this class available in class or online. Violations of these policies could result in dismissal from class or be referred to the Vice President of Student Life or Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.

#### Current USG Language for Cloth Face Coverings

Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia (USG) institutions will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. All members of the campus community will be provided reusable cloth face coverings.

Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Refusal to comply with the requirement may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff or students.

There are a few exemptions. Reasonable accommodations may also be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

For more information about face masks and coverings, review the [guidelines from Human Resources](#).

Correspondence - All course-related concerns/email will be addressed by me Monday through Friday, within 48 hours. **Please first email me through Canvas.** If you have not received a reply

within that time frame, please call or text me at 860-830-4915 making sure you clearly state who you are and what class you are in.

*All policies subject to review by the professor and are subject to change with written notice to the students ahead of time.*

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## COURSE STRUCTURE

Participation (10%)- Participation is extremely important. In fact, I changed the room assignment so that we could all meet in one place at the same time socially distanced. Participation will be measured in two ways:

- 1) In Class/Active participation. Obviously, if you are not attending it is rather difficult to participate. So it starts there. However, in each class I will expect some level of participation from each of you and could involve individual discussions, debates, etc. Thus, even if you are here every day but never say a word, then you have done nothing to earn this and it is a real possibility you won't get much credit. So please make sure you are present and ready to actively participate each class.
- 2) Online discussion posts. These will exist from time to time on Canvas and will be used to engage with the material.

Reading assignments (15%)- These will be assigned as a way to prepare for class discussion and engage with the material. Some may be based on readings, others on current news and or events, still others may involve some country analysis or brief comparisons to practice the comparative method.

Midterm (25%) and Final Exam (25%) - The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture and the text. Format will be discussed as we get closer to the exam.

Comparative policy analysis paper (25% total)- The paper itself calls for you to examine a single policy and determine what similarities and differences exist between multiple nation-states and provide an analysis/explanation as to why this is the case. Greater details will come as we get closer to the paper assignment.

\*\*\*No late assignments will be accepted unless you meet the University Excused absence policy or the delay has been pre-arranged with me.

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## GRADING PROCEDURES

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below. Mid-term grades or progress reports will be listed as S = Satisfactory, meaning 70 and above, or U = Unsatisfactory, indicating a grade below 70. ***If you are taking the class Pass/Fail, then the same mid-term grade standard will also be applied for a final grade of "S" = Satisfactory as well.***

***In addition, Canvas will be used only for posting grades and NOT GRADE CALCULATION. Thus, students should not use any calculation made by the system as being representative of their actual grade in the class.***

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## WEEKLY READINGS AND SCHEDULE

This is meant as a guide and students will be notified of any changes. Students should note that for each exam, they are accountable for all of the readings and lectures up until that point and if there are schedule changes those will not impact exam dates. Finally, additional readings may be added.

*I have attempted to plan out the semester with a mix of class formats and have listed the anticipated format for each class below the topic for each day. It should be noted that this could all change for a number of reasons both within my control and outside of my control. The types of classes are as follows:*

- 1) IC Lecture - This class type will be held within the scheduled classroom and students are expected to attend in class.*
- 2) Remote-Synchronous- This class format is a 100% remote class and everyone is expected to attend live. I plan on using BlueJeans for these classes. All attendees must have their cameras on and failure to do so will be the equivalent of being absent.*
- 3) Remote-Asynchronous-This will be a recorded lecture done to set up material that will utilized within a future discussion or class. Viewing can be done on your own schedule, however, it will be posted on the day it appears on the schedule. I will either use BlueJeans or Kaltura to record these. This will be used only as a last resort and in the case of an emergency.*

January 20- Introduction-Syllabus and Course Outline  
*Remote-Synchronous*

January 25- Laying out Comparative methods and Concepts.  
*Remote-Synchronous*

January 27- Understanding Theories and Hypotheses.  
*Remote-Synchronous*  
Readings:  
Section 2 of *CDCP*

February 1- The Modern State  
*Remote-Synchronous*

February 3- The Modern State  
*IC Lecture*  
Readings:  
Section 3 of *CDCP*

February 8- Political Economy  
*Remote-Synchronous*

February 10- Political Economy  
*IC Lecture*  
Readings:  
Section 4 of *CDCP*

February 15- Development  
*Remote-Synchronous*

February 17- Development  
*IC Lecture*  
Readings:  
Section 5 of *CDCP*

February 22- Democracy and Democratization  
*Remote-Synchronous*

February 24- Democracy and Democratization  
*IC Lecture*  
Readings:  
Section 6 of *CDCP*

March 1- Authoritarian Regime and the Breakdown of Democracy  
*Remote-Synchronous*

March 3 – Authoritarian Regime and the Breakdown of Democracy  
*IC Lecture*  
Readings:  
Section 7 of *CDCP*

March 8- Open Class/Catchup/Topic TBD  
*Remote-Synchronous*

March 10- *Midterm exam- On Canvas*

March 15- Constitutions and Constitutional Design  
*Remote-Synchronous*  
Readings:  
Section 8 of *CDCP*

*Tuesday, March 16 mid-semester Break day*

March 17- Legislatures and elections  
*IC Lecture*  
Readings  
*TBD*

March 22- Legislatures and elections/Executives  
*Remote-Synchronous*  
Readings  
*TBD*

*No Class Wednesday March 24 mid-semester Break day*

March 29 – Executives/Parties and Interest Groups  
*Remote-Synchronous*

March 31- Parties and Interest Groups  
*Remote-Synchronous*  
Readings:  
Section 11 of *CDCP*

April 5- Catchup class or begin Revolutions  
*IC Lecture*

April 7- Revolutions  
*IC Lecture-*  
Readings:  
Section 12 of *CDCP*

April 12- Nationalism and Ethnonationalism  
*IC Lecture-*  
Readings:  
Section 13 of *CDCP*

April 14- Race, Ethnicity, Gender/Ideology  
*IC Lecture-*  
Readings:  
Section 14 of *CDCP*

April 19- Ideology and Religion in Modern politics  
*IC Lecture-*  
Readings:  
Section 15 of *CDCP*

April 20- Comparative Politics and International Relations  
*IC Lecture-*  
Readings:  
Section 16 of *CDCP*

April 26 – Comparative Foreign policy  
*IC Lecture*

**Final Exam Scheduled for Wednesday, May 5 11:20 AM-2:10 PM**

**January 22, 2021 Deadline for Registration/Schedule Changes | Spring 2021**  
*Last day to register, make schedule changes, and/or drop without a "W" grade for Spring Semester 2021 by 4:00pm Eastern Time. No changes to/from audit mode permitted after the registration deadline.*  
*Changed from Jan. 15.*

**March 17, 2021 Grade Mode Deadline | Spring 2021**

*Deadline to change grade mode from Letter/Grade to Pass/Fail (and vice versa). No changes to or from audit mode permitted after the last day of registration.*

**March 17, 2021 Withdrawal Deadline | Spring 2021**

*Last day to withdraw from individual courses with "W" grades or to withdraw from school with "W" grades in all courses for Spring Semester 2021 by 4:00 pm Eastern Time.*